

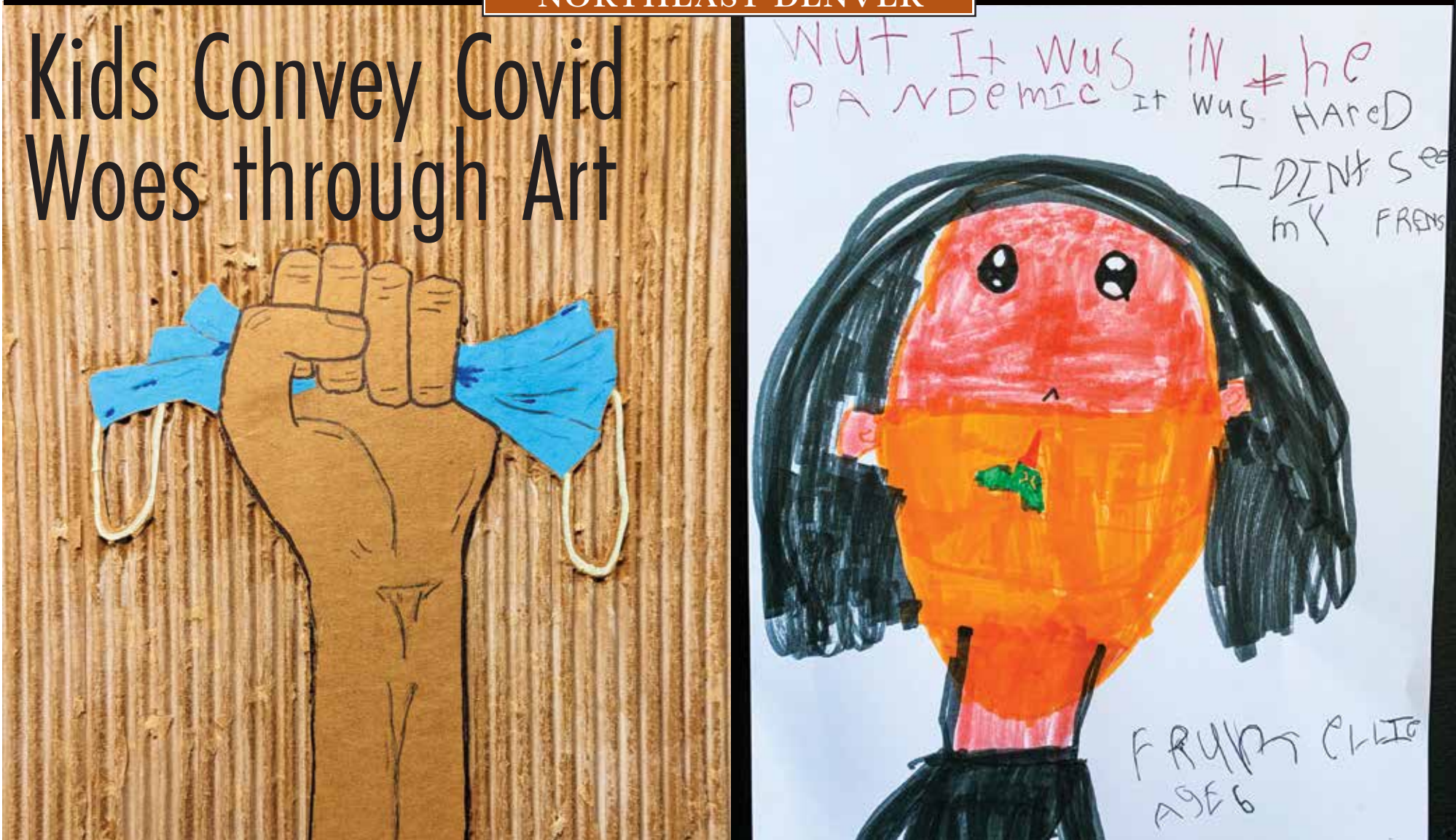
Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

FEBRUARY 2022



Left: *We're In This Together* by Cooper Barr, 8th grade, Denver Green School Northfield. "My piece is inspired by the Black Lives Matter protests and the Covid-19 pandemic." Right: *Pandemic Playmate* by Ellie Callahan, age 6, Palmer Elementary. Words read "What it was in the pandemic. It was hard. I didn't see my friends."

The pandemic has been hard. Kids thrive on consistency and structure, but ever-shifting safety guidelines have delivered them a world of cancellations and chaos. Between complex and nuanced feelings about masks, vaccines, quarantines, and shutdowns—there's a lot to process. *Front Porch* asked young people to depict their thoughts, feelings, opinions through art and/or written word. *More of what they had to say on page 4*

Black History Month

Films that Deserve Your Attention



Black History Month is a reminder that the achievements of African Americans span all aspects of our society—and recognition for these achievements and contributions has been an ongoing struggle for generations. Indie Prof suggests some of the movies that tell the stories of Black Americans' lives. Story on page 12.

Photo from the movie *Judas and the Black Messiah*

Front Porch 10th Annual

Summer Camp Guide



The holidays are behind us; it's time for summer camp planning. With 50+ choices, *Front Porch* makes it easy to find what your children will love. Guide starts on page 8.

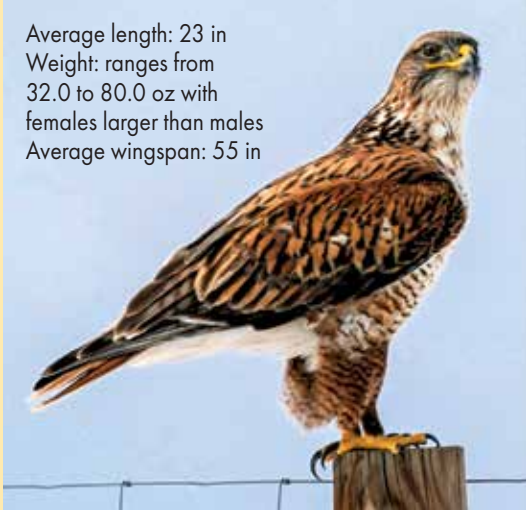
Photo from Galileo Camps Colorado

Front Porch Publishers Retire

We can hardly believe we printed the first issue 22 years ago—though looking around at all that has changed makes it believable. It was a great run, but it's time for the paper's smart and energetic staff to carry *Front Porch* into the future. Story by Steve Larson and Carol Roberts on page 14.

Bird Sightings

Average length: 23 in
Weight: ranges from
32.0 to 80.0 oz with
females larger than males
Average wingspan: 55 in



Ferruginous Hawk

The Ferruginous Hawk is a large, broad-winged hawk of the open, arid grasslands, prairies, deserts, and open range of the West.

Light morph birds are rusty brown on the upper parts and pale on the head, neck, and underparts with rust on the legs. A rarer dark-morph is red-dish-chocolate in color.

Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, and the Golden Eagle are the only American birds of prey to have feathered legs all the way down to the toes.

The Ferruginous Hawk primarily hunts small to medium-sized mammals but will also take birds, reptiles, and insects. Mammals comprise 80 to 90 percent of prey in their diet with birds being the next most common. This hawk is often found standing above prairie dog burrows to wait for prey to emerge.



Red-headed Woodpecker

Red-headed Woodpeckers are medium-sized woodpeckers with bright-red heads, white underparts, and black backs with large white patches in the wings, making the lower back appear all white when perched. Immatures have gray-brown heads, and the white wing patches show rows of black spots near the trailing edge.

They live in pine savannas, plantations in agricultural areas, and standing timber in wetlands. They breed in open country across southern Canada and the eastern-central United States.

They catch insects in the air or on the ground, forage on trees or gather and store nuts. They are omnivorous, eating insects, seeds, fruits, berries, nuts, and some small rodents and eggs of other birds.

Photos and information by George Ho



Length: 7.5–9.8 in
Weight: 2.0–3.2 oz
Average wingspan:
16.5 in



Bird Walks Feb. 5 and Mar. 5, 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. Search FrontPorchNE.com for “Bird Sightings” to see all the past bird stories and photos from George Ho. Also find links to two photojournalistic bird stories by George Ho. Don’t miss reading them to your kids!

Front Porch

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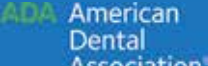

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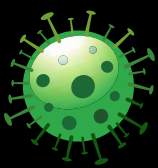


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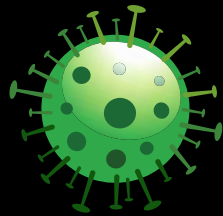


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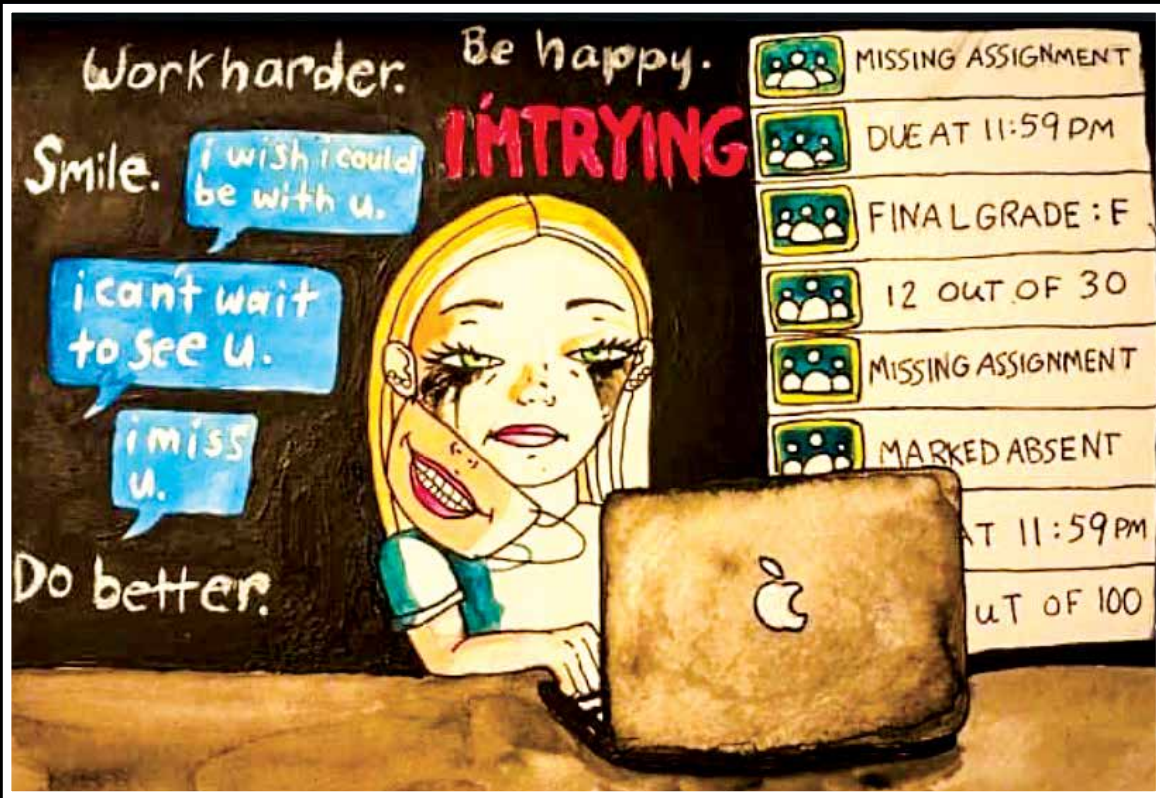


Kids Convey Covid Wo



Covid continues to take a toll on our youth. Here's what some talented young artists had to say (or illustrate) about

living through a pandemic. Additional responses are posted with this story at FrontPorchNE.com



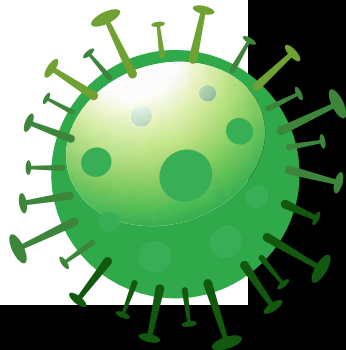
Hard to Breathe by Madison Schilling, Junior, Green Mountain High School.

When Will It End?

Song lyrics by Kylie Touma, 5th grade, Inspire School

They said it won't last
more than 2 weeks
My family was here
I was intrigued
I'm confused, lost in the world you see
PJ's and Zoom, all I ever knew
Waking up past noon
Nightmares in bed
About when this will end
About when this will end

Seeing the TV
And seeing my body
Seeing these germs
They are consuming me
Not seeing friends
Facetime til Ten
Doing Quarantine
When there's a world out there
When will this end



These businesses give you a community paper.

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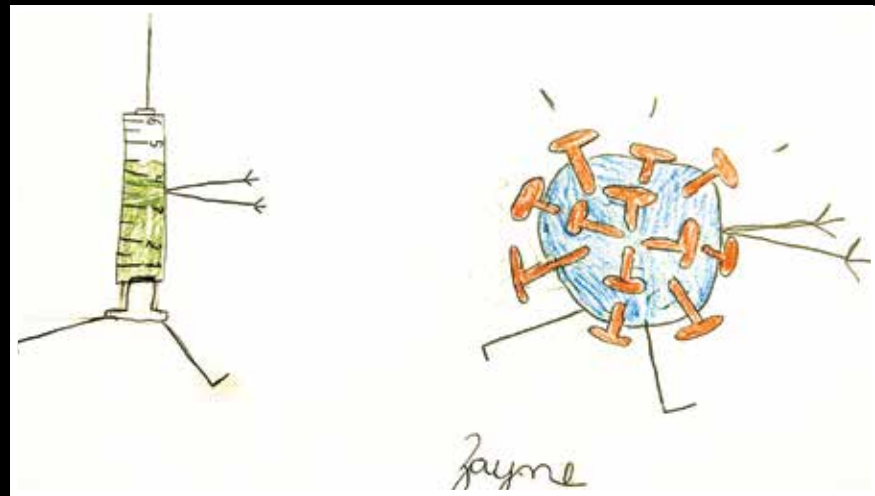
es through Art



The Weight of Covid by Oona Katalinas, 5th grade, Westerly Creek School.



Struggles of Covid by Emma Rainwater, 9th grade, Northfield High School.



Chasing Away Covid-19 by Zayne Hussain, age 9, Bill Roberts School.



Untitled by Gabriella Meurer, age 17, Northfield High School.



Can allergies be prevented in infants?

Researchers want to know if keeping a baby's skin healthy and hydrated with moisturizer will prevent the child from developing allergies such as food allergies.

- New parents and their newborns up to 12 weeks are needed for this important research study.
- Children in this study will be followed for three years to track whether or not the child develops allergies.
- Compensation provided.

Learn more at njhealth.org/SEALstudy or call 303.398.1409.



Why do babies develop food allergies and eczema?

Researchers are studying factors before birth and through age 3 that may influence the development of allergic conditions such as food allergies and eczema.

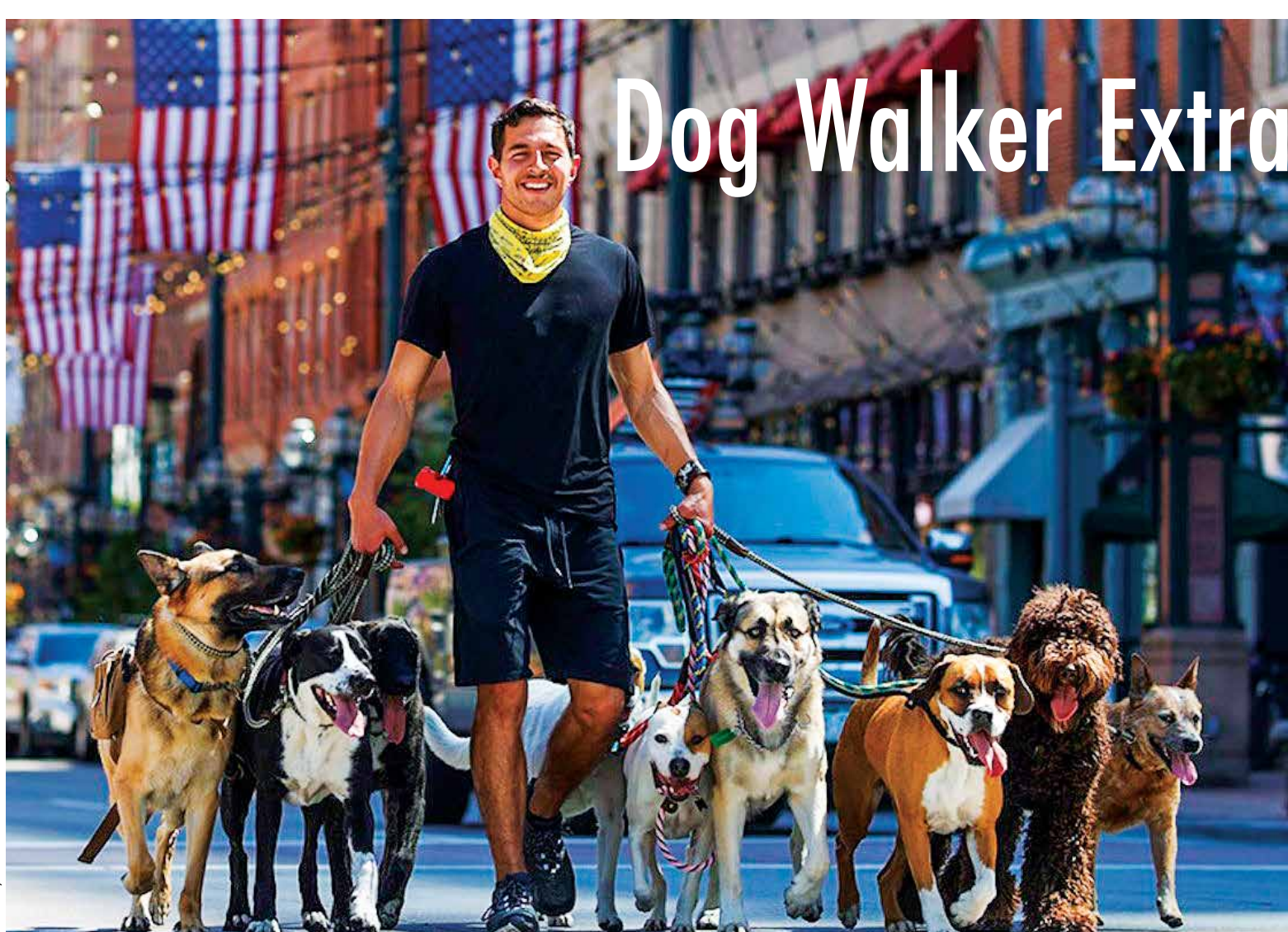
- Pregnant women who are delivering their baby at Saint Joseph Hospital are needed for this important study.
- Mom and baby (biological father optional) will be followed for up to three years.
- Compensation provided.

Learn more at njhealth.org/SUNBEAM or call 303.398.1409.



Dog Walker Extraordinaire

Photo by David Zalubowski of the Associated Press



Dog walker and trainer Felix Merino says he takes his charges on day-long walks throughout Denver to get them in sync with him and each other.

By Mary Jo Brooks

As a self-described “country boy,” Felix Merino didn’t set out to become an urban spectacle when he started his dog walking business two years ago, but that’s indeed what he has become. Sometimes shepherding up to 17 dogs at one time, Merino walks all over Denver—between 15 and 19 miles a day—providing dog training and daycare services. Along the way, bystanders often stare or snap photos. Sometimes they ask for advice about how they can better control their own dogs. Merino is always happy to share what he’s learned over the years. “You have to watch and listen to your dog and set clear boundaries. Assertive calm. Let them know you want peace, that you’re not going to tolerate aggressive behavior.”

Merino says his dog training career happened mostly by accident. Growing up on a ranch in Wyoming, he broke horses with his dad, but he didn’t realize that he had a unique ability to connect with

animals. After joining the Air Force, Merino was given a dog by his sergeant who had lost patience with the puppy for chewing everything in sight. Merino said that began his journey with dogs. “I didn’t know how to train a dog, but Django and I just had fun together. I’d get on my dirt bike and he’d run alongside me going 30 miles per hour and people would stare in amazement,” said Merino.

After moving to Denver, Merino got a job as an assistant at a veterinarian’s office, but he wasn’t happy with the way the animals were handled. “Everyone babied the animals. I thought I could do it better.” After getting fired from that job, Merino says he hit emotional bottom. “I was talking to my brother saying I feel like a pathetic loser, but I think I might have something when it comes to dogs—and he told me to give it a shot.”

Merino started by signing up to be a dog walker through Rover, the online pet sitting service. One day when he was walking Django and another dog, he

encountered a woman with two miniature schnauzers that were barking and pulling aggressively on their leashes. “I asked, ‘Can I help you?’ And she said ‘Yes, how do you get your dogs to behave so well?’ She became my first client and then my biggest advocate, spreading the word about my services when I didn’t know a thing about marketing,” Merino remembers with a laugh.

Merino says he’s done a lot of research since those early days and is still mastering his skills. “Mostly I just have a conversation with the dogs. They say something to me and I say something back. My ability to talk to dogs has flaws, but I learn from it every time.”

With a facility in the Park Hill neighborhood for drop-offs and pickups, Merino says he’s still “loyal to the streets” and tries to walk as much as possible,

carrying a backpack with water for

the dogs. “I want to make sure they feel good, but my job is also to get them tired. I try to find a healthy balance.”

Merino is also very candid about how working with dogs has helped him achieve more balance and stability in his own life. “Dog training is all about mental health. If I’m anxious, the dog knows that, so I have to focus on getting back to calm. Breathing. If you can be calm and be present, you’re going to influence a dog a lot more.” He says the whole goal is to be in sync with your dog, which is why he tells owners that they shouldn’t be on their cellphones when they are walking their dogs. “It means you’re not paying attention. You’re not connecting. And that’s not healthy. You need to be in tune with each other and have the same intention. If you can master that, it’s likely to make you better with your other relationships.”

For more information about Merino’s dog training services, visit his website at www.mk9consulting.com.

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Local Brewery Lands Iconic Control Tower

By Mary Jo Brooks

With strong ties to aviation, the three co-owners of FlyteCo Brewing said they jumped at the once-in-lifetime chance to expand their business and take over the commercial space in the former Stapleton International Airport air traffic control tower building. “The building itself is on-brand for us,” quipped Morgan O’Sullivan. The other two owners, Jason Slingsby and Eric Serani, are both pilots—hence the name of the company—and their original brew pub in the Berkeley neighborhood features a replica Boeing 737 fuselage and other aeronautic design elements. In addition, the company donates ten percent of its profits to aviation scholarships that benefit youth and veterans.

Serani said he hopes to take the aviation theme to the next level at the new Central Park location. “We want to show the history of aviation in Colorado, and we also want to show the history of the airport in this neighborhood. We want it to almost be a mini aviation museum,”

The iconic control tower building was formerly occupied by the restaurant and entertainment company Punch Bowl Social, which offered food, drinks, bowling, miniature golf, and arcade games. It closed its doors in 2020, a victim of the pandemic.

O’Sullivan says FlyteCo plans to keep most of those entertainment components and the basic layout of the restaurant while adding dramatic aviation decor. It will feature full bar and wine service in addition to beer. “We will be brewing onsite here, but it will be a smaller brew system so we can do more experimentation,” says O’Sullivan.

It will also feature a coffee bar and restaurant, which will be open for early morning rush hour. “We want to

lean into this neighborhood. We want families to use this as a community gathering place. We want people to use this as their daytime work space or for office happy hours or kids’ birthday parties. And we’d also love to be a gathering space for pilots, flight attendants, and anyone who shares a passion for aviation,” says O’Sullivan.

The 164-foot tower is not part of FlyteCo’s lease, as much as the brewers would love to utilize it. “We won’t give up the hope of using it, but as of now, there’s no real way because of accessibility,” says O’Sullivan.

The control tower building will be the second location for this relatively young business—and at 17,000 square feet, it will be three times the size of its original location. FlyteCo opened its Tennyson Street doors almost three years ago and gained attention last August for flying a plane (built by Serani) to the Western Slope to harvest hops and then fly them back to Denver to be freshly brewed. FlyteCo is also famous for serving its tasting flights of beer in a wooden holder shaped like an airplane.

Serani says the roots of the brewing company go back to 2008 when he and Slingsby were engineering students at CU Boulder and they bonded over their passion for flying. “Then I got a home brewing kit as a gift. Jason was a chemical engineer, so we became fascinated with the science of making beer.” Soon, they began dreaming of starting their own brewery and—with the support of friends and family—made that dream come true.



FlyteCo’s Central Park location will feature small-batch beers brewed on-site, as well as popular styles from its original location. Photo by Dustin Holestein



FlyteCo Brewing owners Jason Slingsby, Morgan O’Sullivan and Eric Serani plan to open a second brew pub in the former Stapleton International Airport control tower building.

Photo courtesy of FlyteCo

FlyteCo plans to open its Central Park location this summer, barring any supply chain issues or permitting delays.

In-Person Worship

Worship/Communion | 8 a.m. | Christ Chapel
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Livestreamed worship continues at 10:30 a.m.



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6/6 to 8/12—Summer Camp Fun at The Urban Farm. Horseback Riding, Farming & Gardening at The Urban Farm — Half-day & full-day camps for ages 4-16. Get outside and grow amongst the plants and animals! Scholarships available. theurbanfarm.org/summer-camp-tuf. 10200 Smith Rd.

6/6 to 8/18—Avid4 Adventure Summer Day Camps. Our experienced instructors empower your campers (PreK – 7th) at skill levels to bike, hike, rock climb, paddle, and more in awesome outdoor recreation areas. Camp locations across the CO Front Range. Learn more at Avid4.com

6/6 to 8/19—Bluff Lake Nature Center Summer Camp. Weekly camp themes for ages 5-6 or ages 7-12, and a Junior Counselor Program for ages 13-17. Nature exploration, hands-on science lessons, games, crafts, and unstructured free-play. blufflake.org/camp. 11255 E MLK Jr. Blvd. 414-839-1670.

6/6 to 8/19—SPREE Summer Camps. We have 10 unique weeks of camp, each week has a theme that ties to the South Platte River and our urban waterways. Hands-on activities, special guests, games, and crafts. Johnson Habitat Park, Denver. thegreenwayfoundation.org/summercamp.html

ARTS/MUSIC/THEATER/PERFORMANCE

6/1 to 8/19—Theatre & Acting Camps. Theatre, Film, and Theme Summer Camps explore acting on film, full length musicals and plays, playwrighting, puppets, stage makeup, stagecraft, Meow Wolf Inspired performance, visual arts, and technical theatre. Ages 5-Teen. Half and full day camps. factoryfivefive.com. Stanley Marketplace, 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora.

6/1 to 8/19—Fashion Design & Sewing Summer Camps. A host of summer camps for students to explore fashion design, sewing, dye, textiles, and painting. Learn to sew basic items like dog clothes, bedroom accessories to Hamilton patterns and streetwear! Ages 6-Teen. Half and full day camps. factoryfivefive.com. Stanley Marketplace, 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora.

6/6 to 7/26—Wolf Theatre Academy at the JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center. One of Denver's most acclaimed youth theatre programs returns full-time with opportunities to work alongside professional theatre artists and to be part of award-winning productions that are open to everyone. jccdenver.org/camps/wta. 350 S. Dahlia St.

Summer at Ricks Day Camp



6/6 to 8/5—

DCPA Summer Acting classes and camps. Theatre, movement, improv, and more for children ages 3 to high schoolers, beginner through advanced. denvercenter.org/education

6/6 to 8/5—Talk to the Camera Video & Moviemaking Camps. Award Winning video and moviemaking camps, theater and acting camps that spark imagination through STEAM-Based, hands-on curriculum. Ages 5-14. talktothecamera.com. Denver metro area.

6/6 to 8/5—School of Rock Themed Summer camps. Five different sessions: Best of the 90s, Pink Floyd, Green Day, Rock 101, and 21st Century Rock. Ages 8-18 from beginner to experienced. schoolofrock.com/music-camps/denver. 560 S Holly St.

6/6 to 8/12—Summer Maker Studios at MindCraft Makerspace. For the kid who loves creating, inventing, engineering, and building. A different theme every week. Ages 5-10+. mindcraftmakerspace.com/makerspace. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora.

6/6 to 8/19—Art Garage Camps. Offering arts-based programs that inspire, empower, and promote creative self-expression by people of all ages and backgrounds. Ages 3-12, half day (9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm) and full day options. 6100 E 23rd Ave. artgaragedenver.com

6/7 to 7/29—Ceramics in the City Summer Fired Art Camps. Ceramic painting, clay hand building, pottery wheel & glass fusing. Ages 7 & up. ceramicsinthecity.com. 5214 East Colfax Ave. 303-200-0461

6/13 to 7/15—CU Denver LYNX National Arts & Music Industry Camps. For high school students in filmmaking, music industry, animation, illustration, murals, and photography. Camps are one or two weeks long and take place on the CU Denver campus. Commuter and residential options. artsandmedia.ucdenver.edu/camps. 303-315-7487.

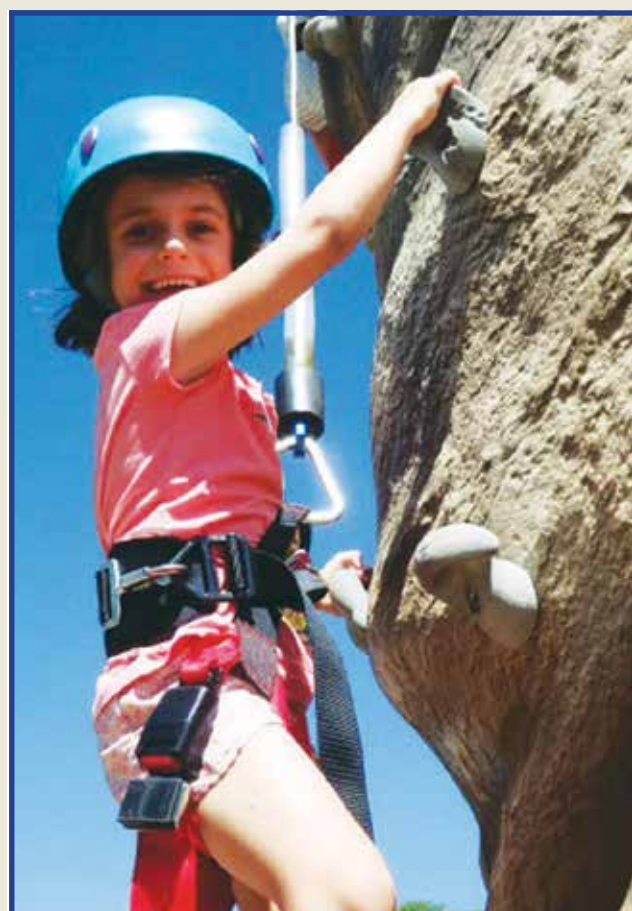
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www.dreambigdaycamp.com



Camp Guide



Bluff Lake Nature Center Summer Camp

6/13 to 7/22—Aurora Arts Education Theater Camps. Create and perform plays based on different themes (Beyond the Sea, The Red Dragon and the Green Knights, Dune, and Peter Pan.) Ages 7–18. Two week, half-day camps from 1–4pm. Central Library, 14949 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora and Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. cityofaurora.perfectmind.com

7/11 to 7/29—Girls Create Summer Camps: Writing, Comedy & Fashion Design. Athena Project's program ignites the passions and talents of 6th–10th grade girls in playwriting, comedy, and fashion design. 3 different camps from 9am–3pm, M–F. athenaprojectarts.org/summer-camps. Various Denver locations.

ATHLETICS/SPORTS

5/30 to 8/22—Aerial Dance Over Denver – Aerial Dance Summer Camp! Learn aerial silks, trapeze, lyra, and sling in our week long camps (morning or afternoon options). Ages 6–teen. Aerialcircqueoverdenver.com. 4605 Quebec St.

6/1 to 8/26—Shredder Ski and Snowboarding. Learn to ski and snowboard indoors at our summer camps for ages 3–10. Register at shredderski.com. 4890 Ironton St. 720-297-7359.

6/6 to 6/17—Altitude All Sports Tennis Camp. Introductory Tennis Camp, ages 5–10, focusing on the fundamentals. 9am–12pm at McAuliffe Middle School, 2540 Holly St. One or two week options. Altitudeallsports.com

6/6 to 6/17—Blazing Speed, Agility, and Quickness Camp. We will help your child develop the proper movement patterns to dramatically increase their power and explosiveness. Age 9+. 9am–12pm. Fred Thomas Park, 7413 E. 26th Ave. Week one: <https://forms.gle/zv5TWAhdiFejBYaG7>. Week two: <https://forms.gle/DEbbBw4Uuj5bTbro7>. 303-596-2811.

6/6 to 8/11—Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Camps. 11 different camps for all levels, ages 3 to college. Just starting out or hone your skills and get those touches! Metro Denver locations. rapidsyouthsoccer.org

6/6 to 8/19—Speed and Strength Summer Camps. Building confidence is our strength! Weekly, half-day camps to learn proper technique, boost speed and build strength in a non-competitive environment. Ages 8–16. MightyMovementAcademy.com. 2245 Kearney St. 720-955-3677

6/6 to 8/19—CampGrippen Indoor Rock Climbing Camp. Full day, week long indoor rock climbing camps. Six different camp themes to choose from. ugcimbing.com/denver/camps. 8610 E. 21st Ave. 720-592-0716

Starts 6/6—Soccer Electric Amplify. We're teaming up again with the Denver Film Society, Denver East High School and other local partners for our 8th annual camp. soccerelectric.com

6/6 to 8/4—Preschool Summer Adventure Camp. Gymnastics camp for kids ages 3 to 5½. Two 4-week sessions combining gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games and much more. dardanosgym.com/camp. Dardano's School of Gymnastics, 2250 Kearney St.

6/6 to 8/4—PGA Junior Golf Camps. Hands-on instruction led by certified PGA Professionals. Ages 6–16. Full and half day options. Several Denver metro locations. pgajuniorgolf-camps.com

6/6 to 8/12—Bounce Gymnastics Summer Camp. Each day students will be participating in a wide variety of gymnastics skills, obstacle courses, and fun games. Entering Kinder–8th grade. Morning

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SUMMER CAMP!

May 31-Aug 5

Youth Camp Venture: Ages 6-10

Mon-Fri • 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

\$135 per week

Adventure Trek: Ages 11-15

Mon-Thur • 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

\$135 per week

Leader In Training: Ages 14-15

Mon-Thur • 7 a.m – 6 p.m.

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State licensed and low child to staff ratios.

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Space is limited.

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PLAY • TEAM BUILDING • LEADERSHIP • FRIENDSHIP

or afternoon sessions. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. bouncegymnasticsco.com

6/13 to 6/24—AYU Ultimate Summer Camps. Quality Ultimate Frisbee camps for ages 7–16 in Central Park and throughout the Front Range. Co-ed and great for new and experienced players. altitudeyouthultimate.org/play/summer-camps

7/5 to 7/29—Altitude All Sports Multi-Sport Camp. Ages 4–11, 9am–12pm at Central Park in the Central Park neighborhood. Rotate through soccer, dodgeball, kickball, baseball/tee-ball and football. 1–4 week options. altitudeallsports.com

7/25 to 7/28—Nighthawks Soccer Camp. Youth camp 9am–12pm for rising 5–8th graders, boys and girls. High School camp 6–9pm for rising 9–12th graders, boys and girls. Register before 2/28 for a 25% discount. Nighthawksoccer.com. 5500 Central Park Blvd.

8/1 to 8/5—Altitude All Sports Flag Football Camp. Focusing on improving players footwork, game strategy, and understanding the importance of discipline in the game, while competing

in fun competitions. Ages 9–12, 9am–12pm. TBD Central Park location. altitudeallsports.com

DAY CAMPS

5/30 to 8/12—Aurora Summer Camps. Summertime isn't far off, and we have camps your kiddos are sure to enjoy! Every age group, from 18 months to 17-years old, is invited to join the fun. AuroraGov.org/DayCamps. 15151 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora.

5/31 to 8/24—Primrose Central Park Summer Adventure Club. Ages K–5th grade. Every week children explore new themes like sports, arts, robotics, and more through fun, hands-on activities that encourage learning and new ways of thinking. Central Park: primrosedenvercentralpark.com or Denver North: primrosedenvernorth.com.

6/6 to 7/29—Montessori Children's House of Denver.

Learning-centered, theme-based camps at our Central Park, Mayfair & Park Hill campuses for children ages 1–12. Our camps are built around extended outdoor play and hands-on, real-world experiences with a variety of schedule options. mchdenver.org. Central Park: 2211 Xanthia Way. Mayfair: 1467 Birch St. Park Hill: 2600 Leyden St. 303-322-8324.

6/6 to 7/29—Summer at Stanley. Offering child-centered, experiential, full-day weekly camps for students entering grades K–8. Our activities and environments allow campers to explore, create, discover, and problem solve. Before and after-care available. stanleybps.org. Stanley British Primary School, 350 Quebec St. 303-360-0803.

6/6 to 8/4—Commerce City Summer Camp. Youth Camp Venture: ages 6–10, M–F, 7am–6pm. Adventure Trek: ages 11–15, M–Th, 7am–6pm. Leader in Training: ages 14–15, M–Th, 7am–6pm. Enrichments available. State licensed, low child to staff ratios. Minutes away in Commerce City. c3gov.com/camp. 303-286-6830.

6/6 to 8/5—1-3-6-9 Week Private Traditional Day Camp. We encourage personal growth by providing an excellent program facilitated by highly trained staff. Day tripping adventures options for older campers. Counselor in training programs for high schoolers. Denver locations. Dreambigdaycamp.com. 303-377-1805.

6/6 to 8/12—Camp Shai at the Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center. Denver's premier Jewish Day Camp serving children entering grades K–6. Individuals of all backgrounds, faiths, and families are welcome. jccdenver.org/camps/camp-shai. 350 S. Dahlia St.

6/6 to 8/19—Bladium Kids at TOCA Denver. Activities include camp games, soccer, dodgeball, kickball, capture the flag, arts & crafts, kid's fitness classes, team building challenges, and more. Half or full days. 2400 Central Park Blvd. bladiumdenver.com/kids

(Continued on pg 10)

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We live for the moments when excited children discover passions that drive them and talents they never knew they had. During the summer, our theme-based, 2-week day camps use hands-on, real-world experiences, guided by highly trained Montessori educators, to give children ages 1-12 a chance to explore the world and their own unique gifts.

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MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF DENVER

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

2022 Camp Guide

(Continued from pg 9)

6/13 to 7/29—Galileo Camps Colorado. Kids engage in innovation-sparking art, science, and outdoor challenges that build creative confidence, nurture social development, and deliver the big summer fun they crave! galileo-camps.com/our-camps/summer-camp-galileo. Odyssey School of Denver, 6550 E 21st Ave.

6/13 to 8/12—Summer at Ricks. Blending fun summer activities with rich learning experiences all while enjoying the benefits of the University of Denver campus. du.edu/ricks. 2040 South York St. 303-871-4839.

MISC

6/6 to 7/8—Super Stars Summer Camp. Engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham intervention program intensive, high-quality reading instruction along with math and writing instruction to grow skills and self-confidence. Half-day and full-day options at 2 locations, Denver and Littleton/Lakewood. EveryChildReading.org

6/9 to 9/5—Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families. Offering 9 summer camps for families who have adopted internationally and domestically. The four-day camps provide authentic cultural activities and a supportive environment for the whole adoptive family. Heritagecamps.org. 2052 Elm St. 202-320-4234

6/13 to 6/17—Campin’ VBS by Arise Church Denver. A day camp adventure for kids 3yrs old to 5th grade (Fall 2022). Half-day, week long camp, time TBD. Sign-ups start March 1, \$20/kid, scholarships available. arisedenver.com/vbs. Arise Church Denver, 8700 E 21st Ave.

6/13 to 7/22—Summer Sacred Art. This five day camp explores world religions through music, dance, art-making, story, objects, and discussion. We emphasize building friendships as we learn about faith traditions in an atmosphere of creativity, celebration and fun! Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia St. montview.org/children. 970-231-3578

OVERNIGHT

6/5 to 8/12—Avid4 Adventure Resident and Expedition Camps. Resident Camps with 1-week options for 1st–2nd graders and 2-week options for 3rd–11th graders. Week long expedition camps for 5th–12th graders. Camp locations across CO and beyond. Learn more at Avid4.com

6/5 to 8/13—Camp Chief Ouray. Nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Camp Chief Ouray is the premier overnight camp and adventurous playground. With over 5,000 acres of mountains, valleys, streams, and meadows to explore, boredom is simply not an option. campchiefouray.org. 1101 County Road 53 Granby. 970-887-2648

6/5 to 8/13—Camp Timberline. Camp Timberline is a Christian Sports and Mountain Adventure camp located in Estes Park, Colorado and along the Front Range. We offer several different camps for kids aged 5-18. Join us this summer for a camp experience unlike any other! camptimberline.com. 1207 Longs Peak Rd, Estes Park. 970-484-8462

6/13 to 8/7—JCC Ranch Camp. JCC Denver’s overnight camp located on 380 acres of stunning private land in Elbert, Colorado in the Black Forest. ranchcamp.org/explore-ranch-camp

STEM

6/6 to 7/7—28th Annual Denver Rocky Mountain Chess Camp. June and July camp options. Full and half-day options, 9am–4pm. Participants will be taught scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament preparation, logical-thinking, and strategic planning for all phases of the game. coloradomasterchess.com. Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave.

6/13 to 7/22—Curious Jane Summer Camp. A girls Summer Camp that revolves around science + engineering + design. Themes we offer include Room Makeover, Mythical Creatures, Miniature World, Kitchen Chemistry, Spy Science and more. Ages K-2nd, 3rd-6th, CITs. Full and half day options. Graland School, 55 Clermont St. curiousjane.fun

Fashion Design & Sewing Camps at

Factory Fashion Stanley Marketplace



SCAN ME

Punk Rock and Graffiti
Streetwear • Recycled Fashion
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Summer Theatre and Film Camps

Factory Five Five

Disney Villains Showcase
Tween/Teen Intensives • Puppetry
Meow Wolf Inspired Tech and Performance
Outdoor Traveling Theatre & more!



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Summer at Ricks for Preschool–8th Grade


A blend of fun summer activities and rich learning experiences on the University of Denver campus.

Week long camps | June 13–Aug 12 | 8:30am–4:00pm*

Enjoy weekly themes and specialty camps ranging from Abiyoyo and the Little Monsters, Dr. Seuss is on the Loose, Mad Scientist Jr. Play-Well Lego® Engineering Camps, Invention Convention, Mission Possible and more!

*Extended day available. 2040 South York St, Denver, CO 80210
303-871-4839 | www.du.edu/ricks | email Margaret.wright@du.edu





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galileo-camps.com



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Sneak Peek Week
March 28th-April 1st

**Summer Adventure Club
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www.primrosedenvercentralpark.com

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Classes: 10 months to 10 years; Camps:- 3 to 10 years

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Feb. & Early Mar. Events

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.

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

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

Sundays & Mondays—Latin Dance Class with Carmen Dura. Sat. 10am, Mon. 7pm. \$6/class. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. Stanleymarketplace.com

2/4 Friday—Visions of Love 12th Annual Benefit for Anchor Center for Blind Children. Join us for wine and sweet and savory decadent delights. 6–9pm. Anchor Center, 2550 Roslyn St. anchorcenter.org/visionsoflove2022

2/5 Saturday—No Strings Attached Book Chat. 11am–12:30pm. Adults 18+. Share a recent read, an old favorite or anything in between. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/8 Tuesday—Lowry Speaker Series Presents “Navigating the Education System with an Exceptional Child”. Learn how one Lowry family advocated for their son's educational journey. 7pm, The Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. lowryfoundation.org/events

2/8 & 2/15—In-person Memory Café. 1:30–3pm. For people experiencing memory loss and their families/caregivers. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

Through 2/21/22—Winter Skate. Outdoor ice skating with holiday entertainment. 47th & Verbena St. at The Shops at Northfield. Shopsatnorthfield.com

2/23 Wednesday—Financial Wellness Counseling For Adults 55+. 11am–3:30pm, register for preferred meeting time. Free financial wellness counseling. Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave. denverlibrary.org

METRO EVENTS

2/4 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa. 5:30–9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

2/8 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Genetic Engineering. Free, 12:30–1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. Activeminds.com

2/8 to 2/9—Kure for Kelly Fundraiser. Two local teens, Megan Ho and Gabi de la Torre, are raising funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in honor of Gabi's mother, who passed away from stage 4 Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2013. To support their cause, eat at the Chipotle at 2760 S. Colorado Blvd on Feb. 8 from 5-9 and at the Chipotle at 6710 S. Cornerstar Way on Feb. 9 from 5-9. To learn more or to donate visit <https://events.ils.org/rm/denversoy22/tkureforke>

2/12 Friday—Winter Bike to Work Day. Enjoy fresh air/exercise while riding your bike to work. Check website for local events along your route. winterbiketoworkday.org

2/12 to 2/20—Colorado Garden & Home Show. The Rocky Mountain region's largest, oldest, and most prestigious garden and home show! coloradogardenfoundation.org. Colorado Convention Center

2/14 to 3/1—26th Annual Denver Jewish Film Festival. Festival includes 30+ films available in-person and virtually. jccdenver.org. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St.

Through 2/20/22—Downtown Denver Rink. Free admission, rentals available. Check out hours at downtowndenver.com

2/22 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: The Great Migration. Free, 5–6pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. Activeminds.com

2/26 Saturday—Bold Women. Change History. A gathering of scholars, researchers and those curious to explore how women's history is found in unexpected places. 8:30am–4pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. Tickets at H-co.org/BoldWomen

3/5 Saturday—Athena Project's 10th annual Cocktails & Comedy. The Maven Hotel (Windsor Ballroom) located inside the Dairy Block at 1850 Wazee St. Doors open at 7, event begins at 7:30. athenaprojectarts.org/event/2022cocktails-comedy

3/6 Sunday—Special Olympics Denver Polar Plunge & 5K. Polar plunge benefits Special Olympics. Wash. Park. specialolympicsco.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Tuesdays & Thursdays—All Ages Storytime at Sam Gary Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 0–5. Space is limited, registration is required. 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

Wednesdays—Toddler Storytime at Schlessman Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 18–36 months. Space is limited,. 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

Wednesdays—Baby Storytime at Sam Gary Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 0–18 months. Space is limited, registration is required. 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

Thursdays—Baby Storytime at Schlessman Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 0–18-months. Space is limited,. 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

Fridays—Preschool Storytime at Schlessman Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 3–5-years. Space is limited,. 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

2/2 Wednesday—Mornings at the Museum. Ages 3–6, 10:30–11:30am. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

2/20 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids. 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

MUSEUMS, ETC.

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. Snow Days through Feb 27. Wed–Sun, by reservation only at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 15. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 8. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens. SCFD Free Day Feb. 17. 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. SCFD Free Days Feb. 7 & 27. *Egypt: The Time of the Pharaohs* exhibit opens 2/25. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. Dmns.org

Denver Zoo. SCFD Free Day Feb. 6. Must reserve free tickets at denverzoo.org. 2900 E 23rd Ave.

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

Four Mile Historic Park. SCFD Free Day Feb. 11. 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. Penny admission 1st Sat. of the month. 1485 Delgany St. mcadenver.org

National Ballpark Museum. 1940 Blake St. Check for days/hours at ballparkmuseum.com

The Urban Farm. Currently under renovation, contact for possible tours/events. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

Wings Over the Rockies Museum. New exhibit: Skyward: Breakthroughs in Flight. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

PERFORMANCE/THEATRE/ EXHIBITS

2/3 to 2/27—Katie White and Member Show 02 Exhibit. Spark Gallery presents Wanderings, an exhibition of new paintings by Katie White, alongside Member Show 02. 900 Santa Fe Drive, sparkgallery.com (Continued on pg 13)

February 2022



For Black History Month, I have several recommendations I reviewed over the past months, and all can be retrieved online at frontporchne.com/category/indie-prof/: *Summer of Soul* (2021), *Judas and The Black Messiah* (2020), *Them* (Amazon), *Underground Railroad* (Netflix), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (2020) and *The Harder They Fall* (Netflix). All are wonderful, thoughtful, hard, and informative. We can often learn history through art, but it is the stories and the visceral nature of film that give weight to the form. These shows and films do just that, and I will continue to review such material whenever I come across it. They all deserve your attention.

Now on two Oscar contenders that portray other historical moments of tension, each in different ways.

Belfast (2021)

Early in the film, a priest gives a sermon to his dedicated flock; the sermon tells of a

choice between two roads: one is long and winding, and the other is straight and narrow. The protagonist, young Buddy (Jude Hill), ingests it with all of the appropriate bombast and takes it to heart.

He draws a picture of the two roads and obsesses over it throughout the film.

That binary choice given to him in Church lays down the oppositional grounding of the film, set in 1969 Belfast: there is Protestant and Catholic; there is Irish and English. Never any of them shall meet.

The predominantly black-and-white, nostalgic rendering of this short slice of life works well in most instances as we visit a block of Belfast in stitches, much as our memories work. We see neighbors in the street; Buddy's parents dancing; his grandmother and grandfather parrying;



and snippets of violence from his point of view. There are other instances where it seems overly simplified and narrow—a bit too clean and staged. Memory is rarely staged.

Hill is enjoyable as Buddy, Jamie Dornan is very good as his Pa, but the revelation here is Caitríona Balfe as his Ma. The *Outlander* star jumps out as the fierce and lithe mother who is protective and defensive. She is loath to leave Ireland, but when the violence lands in her lap, she sees the inevitable. History tells us that the inevitable was much worse. Veterans Judi Dench and Ciarán Hinds as the grandparents are wonderful, but the supporting cast is simply there. Still,

there are neat references throughout, both literal and metaphorical: the TV speaks of the Belfast violence as similar to that in America ("like Harlem in the U.S. where everyone has guns"), Buddy and brother watch American Westerns on TV, and the only views of the city are from long shot—as though the city is unreachable from a boy's view. The tonal changes, both in the story and the visuals, are uneven at points, but they are not enough to sour a beautiful film dotted with wonderful performances. I recommend it, but not as a first choice.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Persepolis*, *Boyhood*, and/or *In the Name of the Father*. Streaming on most outlets.

The Power of the Dog (2021)

This film will dot the Oscars in many categories. Director Jane Campion (*The Piano*) will certainly be nominated, Cinematographer Ari Wegner will be a rarely-seen woman in that category, and several of the



actors should certainly receive nominations as well. All will be well deserved for a film that lands squarely under my definition of "Best Picture": one that is close to best in all of the categories.

The story is set in 1925 Montana (with New Zealand as a brilliant stand-in!) and concerns an ensemble of characters who intersect while managing to keep their own space/lives/worlds at the same time. We are never quite sure what to make of them, right up until the end, and that suits the material and the frame just fine. Broadly, a domineering rancher's brother marries a local widow who then moves into the house with her wispy, contemplative son. That's about it for story, although there is considerable depth beyond the surface.

If the direction and cinematography set the stage, the wonderful performances traversing that stage make it go: Benedict Cumberbatch, here as a grizzled cowboy; Kirsten Dunst as a quirky and enigmatic protective mother/drink; Plemons as the reserved brother; and Kodi Smit-McPhee in a shining performance that continually surprises until it finally shocks.

There are elements of the classic Western, but this is not *Stagecoach*. There are elements of Hitchcock, but this is not *Vertigo*. There are elements of *Film Noir*, but this is not *Double Indemnity*. It might be a little of all those films/movements, but this is a Campion film—one that takes classic Hollywood masculinity, and well, you'll see. Therein lies the fun.

You will like this if you enjoyed *The Piano*, *Brokeback Mountain*, and/or *3:10 To Yuma*.

Now available on Netflix.

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

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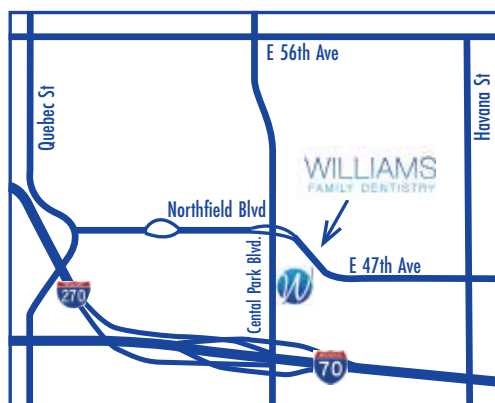


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Feb. & Early Mar. Events (continued from pg 11)

2/4 & 2/5—Disney’s Fantasia in Concert with the Colorado Symphony. Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall. Tickets at coloradosymphony.org

2/4 to 2/13—Colorado Ballet Presents Romeo and Juliet. Featuring live music. Ellie Caulkins Opera House (14th & Curtis) coloradoballet.org

2/9 Wednesday—National Geographic Live. Nizar Ibrahim, Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous. 7:30pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

2/11 Friday—Swallow Hill Music Free Concert: Miguel Avina & Verena. Local, Mexican singer/songwriters. 7pm, all ages. Quinlan Cafe, 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

2/11 to 3/20—Shakespeare in Love. Antics and drama as a young Will Shakespeare desperately tries to cure his writer’s block. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. Vintagetheatre.org

Through 2/12—Fireflies. A romantic comedy. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. Vintagetheatre.org

Through 2/12—The Sound Inside. An intimate drama. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org

2/16 Wednesday—Pianist Inon Barnatan and the Viano String Quartet. Presenting *The Time Traveler’s Suite*. friends of chamber music.com. Gates Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 E. Iliff Ave.

2/19 Saturday—Grant & Friends and Mountain Rose support CBDB. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are \$12. 2635 Welton St. cervantesmasterpiece.com

2/19 & 2/20—The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra With Wynton Marsalis. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

2/20 Sunday—The Denver Young Artists Orchestra. An afternoon of music, 2:30pm. Tickets \$20. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.org

Through 2/20—Dontrell, Who Kissed The Sea. A hero’s quest exploring what we must go to in order to right history’s wrongs. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 2/20—Wake Up Mr. Flowers. Solo exhibition of new work by Lio Bumbakini. 1460 Leyden St. artgymdenver.com/gallery

Through 2/26—Midnight Mass: Secret Late Night Comedy in the Basement of a Church. Line-ups so good we have to keep them secret! Denver Comedy Underground, 1400 N Williams St. eventvesta.com/events/10810/t/tickets

2/26 to 3/26—Towards Zero. A juicy Agatha Christie mystery. Early bird ticket pricing before 2/26. The John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. firehousetheatercompany.com

3/4 & 3/5—The Music of Queen with your Colorado Symphony. Featuring Brody Dolyniuk and his rock band. 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$15. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.org

Through 3/6—Edward Albee’s Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? A hilarious, endearing and hummable musical. Garner Galleria Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

Through 5/1—The Other Josh Cohen. Recommended for ages 16+. Singleton Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Denver Public Schools - Volunteer Services. Check out what services are needed at local DPS schools at equity.dpsk12.org/get-involved/volunteer-services/

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 students. 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 partnersinliteracy.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 Aurora & Denver. villageexchangecenter.org

Volunteers of America Colorado Branch For volunteer opportunities go to voacolorado.org/volunteer-opportunities/

...NE News Updates



By Mary Jo Brooks and Tracy Wolfer Osborne

1 Union, King Soopers Reach Tentative Deal

King Soopers/City Market’s contract with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 (UFCW), a union that represents grocery workers in the Denver Metro area and beyond, officially expired on Jan. 8. In a letter, on Jan. 11, King Soopers proposed what they called their last, best, and final offer to UFCW. UFCW rejected the offer, and a strike began on Jan. 12. Picketing continued for 10 days. At the time this issue went to print, King Soopers and UFCW had reached a tentative deal. According to a statement on UFCW’s website, details of the deal were to be revealed at a meeting on Jan. 24 where employees would be invited to vote on ratifying the agreement.

2 Submit Your Ideas for Renaming Johnson & Wales

Members of the east Denver community are invited to assist in the renaming of the former Johnson and Wales campus in Park Hill. The deadline to submit your ideas is



The historic Founder’s Hall building at Johnson & Wales will now be redeveloped into low-income housing for seniors and families. Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

February 28. After Johnson and Wales University announced it was closing its Denver location, the 25-acre campus was purchased by the Urban Land Conservancy, Denver Housing Authority, and Denver Public Schools in a unique partnership. Those entities, along with St. Elizabeth’s School, the Kitchen Network, and Archway Communities are redeveloping the campus to expand the Denver School of the Arts and other education opportunities, provide low-income housing to seniors and families, and provide culinary training and facilities for small business owners. The groups have formed a 13-member task force with alumni of the campus and several nearby neighborhood organizations to lead a community-informed process to rename the campus. Members of the public can submit their ideas using this link: <https://forms.gle/5mEghBcYWCgrqi3k8>.

3 Construction on Protected Bike Lanes Begins in Central Park

Construction of protected bike lanes on Central Park Blvd. is underway and is expected to be completed in early February. The project—stretching from Montview Blvd. to 36th Ave.—places parking lanes next to traffic so that bicyclists can travel safely in a dedicated lane between the parked cars and the curb. “These protected lanes are crit-



Union members picket for better working conditions at the King Soopers on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

ical for the safety of school kids riding their bikes, but also for adults who frequent the businesses along this vital corridor, whether it’s Mici’s Pizza or Sprouts Market,” said Brad Revare, co-chair of the Central Park United Neighbors Safe Streets Committee. He pointed to a University of Colorado study that showed protected bike lanes reduce fatalities for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. The protected lanes are part of Denver’s “Vision Zero” initiative that aims to end traffic deaths by the year 2030. While Revare is thrilled about the new Central Park bike lanes, he says there’s more to be done. “I’d like to see protected bike lanes installed along Syracuse Street, past the Town Center and Swigert School. And my ultimate dream is for the city to build a network of protected bike lanes to connect East Denver with downtown.” Revare is planning a group bike ride for families to celebrate the newly protected lanes as soon as they are completed.

4 Denver City Council Begins Once-a-Decade Redistricting Process

Every 10 years following the release of the U.S. Census data, Denver City Council is required to redraw its city council boundaries. Accurate zoning ensures everyone has a voice in electing local representatives. Denver has a mayor and 13 council members. The mayor and two at-large council members are elected by Denver residents. The other 11 council members are elected by residents of their council district. The Denver City Council Redistricting Committee will meet weekly through the end of March to discuss redistricting. Community meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7pm at Montbello High School on Feb. 9 and Manual HS on Feb. 23. To learn more or to get involved visit <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Denver-City-Council/Redistricting-Denver-2022>.

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Front Porch Publishers Retire

By Steve Larson & Carol Roberts, Editors/Publishers of *Front Porch* April 2000 – January 2022

We've called *Front Porch* "The paper that's on your coffee table, not in the recycling bin." It's what readers have told us. For the past 22 years we've strived every month to make the paper visually appealing and filled with local stories that readers would think about, and hopefully talk to neighbors about, contributing to a better informed and more connected community. We've hoped providing a free online and print platform for events each month would both support local organizations and bring neighbors together. And for the businesses that have made the paper possible and put their trust in us, our goal has been to bring the eyes of the community to their messages. Not all advertising is welcomed into people's lives, but readers tell us they look at *Front Porch* ads as local business news. A successful community paper is a partnership between three active participants: the paper, local businesses, and readers. We're honored to have been *Front Porch* publishers in that partnership for all these years.

How did we end up here? After Forest City was selected as master developer of the old airport, they and their communications firm (CRL Associates) decided to start a newspaper to keep neighborhoods in NE Denver informed about the big public/private partnership the City had engaged in to redevelop the airport land. We, Steve and Carol, had produced other publications for CRL, and they asked us to produce this one. Initially Forest City provided the content and we provided photography, layout and production. But in 2005, as new businesses were requesting ads, Forest City turned the paper over to us to publish it independently—and let their staff focus on selling homes. Now, twenty-two years after the paper started, our smart and energetic staff will carry the paper forward as we retire.

Front Porch arrived at a time when Steve, with his deep commitment to journalism, was ready to throw his energy into a new venture. With his background as head of photography and graphics departments at a national news magazine and *The Denver Post*, he has focused on the idea that many community issues are also national issues playing out at a local level—and our job, as a monthly paper, is to help our readers reflect on these issues and understand, "Why is

this happening?" Carol, with a background in desktop publishing (writing, editing, layout, production), focused on the implementation of those ideas so that when the printer's deadline came each month, we had a paper ready to go.

In every community, when plans for schools, parks, residences and business developments arise, change, or are delayed, residents' lives are impacted. In a new community being built from the ground, questions and concerns about those issues seemed to arise every day. In meetings about upcoming development, we reported on residents' concerns before any of those things actually existed—and we wrote about the issues that arose in all those areas after projects were built. For those interested in a look back over the past 22 years, our website, FrontPorchNE.com, posts PDFs of every issue since the first one in April 2000 [under the News link].

We still hear, "I read everything else digitally, but I like reading *Front Porch* in print." Surveys show that's true in many communities, though sadly, lots of local papers have ceased to exist. According to a Nov. 21, 2021 article in *The Washington Post*, 2,200 local newspapers across the country have closed since 2005. The Master Community Association in Central Park told us that respondents in a recent survey said *Front Porch* is their primary source of community information—striking in such a digitally connected community. To keep *Front Porch* in NE Denver, we've donated

the business to a local non-profit that will be announced on our website and Facebook Page on Feb. 8; that organization will be the publisher starting with the March issue. We are confident that going forward, *Front Porch* will successfully navigate the challenges community papers are facing.

As we join readers in looking forward to the arrival of *Front Porch* each month, we are also looking forward to more time with friends and family in Denver, long overdue summer camping trips and road trips in the Southwest, and enjoying warm weather and outdoor activities in Isla Mujeres, Mexico during winter months.



This lake near Buena Vista is one of many Colorado mountain destinations former publishers Steve Larson and Carol Roberts look forward to visiting in their retirement. Photos courtesy of Carol Roberts & Steve Larson

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NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY 2022



2022 MCA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Participating in a MCA sponsorship is a great way to get your business noticed in the community! The MCA offers several different event sponsorship opportunities as well as aquatic sponsorships. Find out which one is right for your business by visiting the MCA website, www.mca80238.com.

If you have any questions regarding sponsorships, please contact Diane Deeter at ddeeter@mca80238.com.

BECOME A 2022 EVENT VENDOR

The MCA hosts a variety of summer events which include concerts, movies and more! If you own a food truck and are interested in showcasing your delicious treats sign up today for one of our events! Applications can be found on our website www.mca80238.com and are due by February 28th.



MCA NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP

This non-profit partnership with the MCA provides your organization with a free 10x10 booth space at one of our 2022 outdoor events. Applications can be found on our website www.mca80238.com and are due by February 28th.

THE MCA IS HIRING!

The MCA is looking for a hardworking, reliable individual to join our events team! The MCA is now accepting resumes for the Event Coordinator position. The Event Coordinator's primary responsibility is to support the planning, organizing, preparation and execution of all community events. For a full list of duties and responsibilities, please visit bit.ly/mcacrew

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

The MCA will be offering a variety of educational virtual presentations. For dates and details on how to attend please visit the MCA website, www.mca80238.com.

ACTIVE MINDS: JOHN F. KENNEDY

Thursday, February 10th, 1–2pm. Online

Join Active Minds for a look at John F Kennedy's life and legacy. Kennedy's brief presidency coincided with some of the most dramatic foreign policy events of his time including the construction of the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the escalation of the Vietnam War. In this program, we will cover these milestones, and also seek to go beyond them toward a deeper understanding of the man behind the public image.

ACTIVE MINDS: THE GREAT MIGRATION

Thursday, February 24th, 6:30–7:30pm, Online

In the first half of the twentieth century, the United States experienced one of the largest internal migrations in history, as millions of Black Americans moved from the rural south to urban areas in the north and west. Join Active Minds as we explore what drove The Great Migration, what the experience was like for those who undertook it and how it fundamentally changed American society.

Join in the Active Minds webinars by visiting https://www.activeminds.com/events_denver.html



SAVE THE DATE

Swim season is just around the corner! Save these important aquatic dates in your calendar.

April 6th | Wednesday

Swim Team Registration Opens

April 13th | Wednesday

Group Lesson Registration Opens

April 15th | Friday

New Hire Applications Open

June 1st | Wednesday

Private Lesson Requests Open

Jennifer Olsen
Communications Manager
Jolsen@mca80238.com



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MCA

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Northeast Denver Community News

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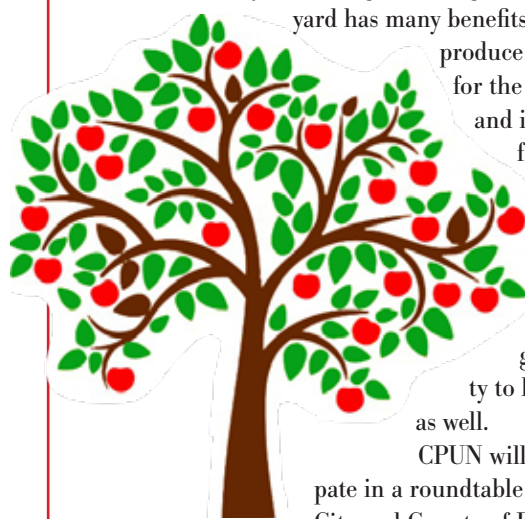
FEBRUARY CPUN SPOT

Central Park United Neighbors (CPUN) is the registered neighborhood organization for the Central Park community. Our mission is to work for the betterment of Central Park by providing a forum for residents to discuss and resolve issues, a network of communication, and a means of acting on matters of importance to the community as a whole. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. CPUN is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization led by an all-volunteer board of directors, elected to serve by our neighbors. Learn more at www.centralparkunitedneighbors.com

GROWING THE CENTRAL PARK FRUIT HARVEST PROJECT

This Fall, CPUN's Sustainability Committee, in partnership with the FAST Lab at the University of Colorado-Denver, launched the Central Park Fruit Harvest Project. Having a fruiting tree or bush in your yard has many benefits: it lowers your produce bill, it's good for the environment, and it's fun! Many fruiting trees & bushes produce more fruit than one family can consume, so they create a great opportunity to be neighborly, as well. CPUN will next participate in a roundtable hosted by the City and County of Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency on Wednesday, February 23rd that will explore the possibility of expanding our Fruit Harvest Project to other neighborhoods across Denver!

Interested in adding a fruiting tree to your yard this planting season? Check out the Denver Digs Trees program from The Park People, which offers free and low cost trees to residents of Denver. Interested in learning more about how to participate in the Fruit Harvest Project? Contact us at centralparkunitedneighbors@gmail.com



CPUN HAS SIX WORKING COMMITTEES - JOIN US!

Did you know that you don't have to be on CPUN's Board to join one of our committees? In fact, our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is chaired by someone who isn't a board member. So, if you don't think you have the time to commit to the board or if you are just passionate about a single topic, a committee can be a great way to get involved in your community. Our six working committees are:

- Communications and Outreach
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Education
- Health and Safety
- Safe Streets
- Sustainability

Please visit www.centralparkunitedneighbors.com/committees to learn more.

CPUN BOARD ELECTIONS COMING IN MAY

The expansion of our board from to a maximum of nineteen board members immediately creates four open seats on our board. If you are interested in learning more about CPUN or applying for an open board seat, please contact us at centralparkunitedneighbors@gmail.com.

JOIN THE CPUN EMAIL LIST FOR COMMUNITY NEWS AND DEALS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

CPUN issues a twice-monthly email that features news and information about opportunities to get involved in your community. Our emails also include deals offered by restaurants and other local businesses. Sign up to take advantage at www.centralparkunitedneighbors.com/join.



BIRDERS WANTED ON SAND CREEK!

Join SCRGP and bird experts from Denver Audubon as we explore the Sand Creek Greenway looking for birds and collecting data. Open to birders of all levels!

February 19, 10-11:30am

Meet at Sand Creek Park, 2700 N. Peoria St. Aurora (furthest west parking lot)

Email Elena Smith to register: esmith@sandcreekgreenway.org



WE ARE KEEPING BUSY IN 2022

We worked with Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership to help people access the Greenway more easily, including a potential new eBike Library.

We assisted Northfield High School with information on RTD route 65 that serves their campus at 56th Ave. and Central Park Blvd.

We set up a Schoolpool program at Denver Discovery School to get kids to school safely. We'd love to get more schools signed up for this amazing program.

NETC is recruiting participants and community partners for Winter Bike to Work Day (2/11/22) and Bike to Work Day (6/22/22).

Contact EHerbst@NEtransportation.org for more information on any of these programs.



SPRING BREAK PLANS?

Looking for activities for your child during their Spring Break? Sign up your child for Bluff

Lake Nature Center's Spring Break mini-camps! Enjoy nature-themed activities, games, crafts and more with Bluff Lake's environmental educators.

Session 1: March 18, 12-3pm (APS Spring Break) Price: \$50

Session 2: March 31 and April 1, 12-2pm (DPS Spring Break) Price: \$100

Scholarships are available.

Register at www.blufflake.org/mini-camps/ or contact Lauren at lauren@blufflake.org with any questions.



Central Park Business Association

The CPBA is a nonprofit association whose mission it is to foster relationships within our community. The CPBA meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Visit centralparkbusiness.com for details and other upcoming events. Contact us at info@centralparkbusiness.com for further information or questions.



Awards & Community Celebration

The 12th Annual be well Awards and Community Celebration coming this Spring.

Thriving in a Pandemic

Join us for a virtual night of live music, food, special guests, and giveaways as we honor unsung heroes in our communities who have gone above and beyond to ensure all people's health and well-being through the COVID 19 pandemic and racial reckoning. Stay tuned for more details.

Nominations

Nominations for unsung heroes are still being accepted through Monday, March 28, 2022. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3FQeUCeBeWellAwards2022> to nominate your unsung hero who has made a difference in the be well Zone neighborhoods of Park Hill, East Colfax, Northwest Aurora, Montbello, and Central Park.



Coming this Spring!

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