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MARCH 2022

Pickleball Fever...

...Fastest Growing Sport in The Country

Seventy-nine year old Ken Fox (foreground) plays pickleball several times a week, despite having Parkinson's disease. He says the sport makes him feel younger and more fit. Jan Devor (white shirt) volunteers twice a week at the Central Park Recreation Center, teaching new players the rules of the game.

A cross between tennis and ping pong, the game of pickleball is taking Denver by storm. Obsessed fans can't get enough court time, causing challenges for Denver Parks and Recreation officials who are trying to keep up with the burgeoning demand. So far, the city has built 28 outdoor courts and offers special hours of indoor play at 18 rec centers. *Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 8*

DPS Board Threatens Innovation Benefits

Ten NE Denver Schools Vulnerable



Denver Public Schools Board (left to right): Scott Baldermann, Michelle Quattlebaum, Xóchitl "Sochi" Gaytán, Supt. Alex Marrero, Tay Anderson, Scott Esserman, Carrie Olson, and Brad Laurvick.

Story by Tracy Wolfer Osborne on page 7. Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Schools Board

Local 6th Grade Girls' Lacrosse Team No. 1 in West, No. 7 in U.S.



The Urban Elites celebrating their win at the Santa Barbara Show-down. Team's coach says the tournament was a pivotal part of their team development. *Story by Tracy Wolfer Osborne on page 4.*

Photo courtesy of Urban Elites

Foundation for Sustainable Urban
Communities to Assume Stewardship
of *Front Porch* *Story on page 14.*



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Bird Sightings



Male: Length: 14.6-15.3 inches ; Weight: 7.8-14.5 ounces; Wingspan: 24.4-35.4 inches
Female: Length: 16.5-17.7 inches; Weight: 11.6-24.0 ounces; Wingspan: 29.5-35.4 inches

Cooper's Hawk

The Cooper's hawk display upright posture with a very long tail. Adults are steely blue-gray above with warm red-dish bars on the underparts and thick, dark bands on the tail. Juveniles are brown above and crisply streaked with brown on the upper breast.

They live in wooded habitats from deep forests to backyards. Their unique

anatomy and flying skills allow them to tear through dense, cluttered trees at high speed in pursuit of other birds.

Medium-sized birds are their main targets: European starlings, mourning doves, rock pigeons, along with American robins, some jays, northern flicker, as well as quail, pheasants, grouse, and chickens. Cooper's hawks sometimes eat mammals like chipmunks, hares, mice, squirrels, and bats.



Length: 6.7-9.1 inches; Weight: 1.1-2.7 ounces;
Wingspan: 12.2-15.8 inches

Photos and information by George Ho

Red-winged Blackbird

Male red-winged blackbirds spend much of the breeding season sitting on a high perch over their territories singing their hearts out.

They are the most abundant-living land bird in North America. Bird-counting censuses of wintering red-winged blackbirds show that loose flocks can number more than a million birds, and the full number of breeding pairs may exceed 250 million in peak years. Red-winged blackbirds flock with other blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, and starlings, feeding on the open ground and roosting in flocks of thousands.

The female is smaller than the male. The male is all black with a red shoulder and yellow wing bar while the female is a nondescript dark brown.

Red-winged blackbirds eat insects in the summer and seeds in the winter.

Bird Walks Mar. 5 and Apr. 2, 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 a link to a photojournalistic story by George Ho about a juvenile Cooper's hawk robbing a songbird nest in this month's Bird Sightings story at FrontPorchNE.com

Front Porch

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Local Sixth-Grade Girls' Lacrosse Team No. 1 in the West, No. 7 in the U.S.

By Tracy Wolfer Osborn

In the summer of 2020, a group of parents gathered on Alivian Jorgensen's Central Park front porch to sip coffee and discuss their daughter's futures in lacrosse. Many of the girls had played together—some since kindergarten—on a neighborhood recreational team called the Electras.

Now, in fifth grade, they were ready to take their game to the next level, but that meant going their separate ways on their respective middle-school teams.

"The girls wanted to stay together, and we thought maybe these girls need a bridge between rec lacrosse and highly competitive club lacrosse," said Jorgensen, whom the girls affectionately call "Coach J." "We knew we had talent, so we started entering them in local tournaments—sometimes putting them up against older girls—and we started to develop a reputation as a strong team."



Jorgensen shows off two 1st place trophies from the Santa Barbara Showdown.

In July of 2021, the girls—rebranded the Urban Elites Club Team—decided to travel to the East Coast to see the best of the best.

"On the East Coast, lacrosse is really big," said Stacy Neir, whose daughter, Morgan, plays attack and midfielder. "We put ourselves in a highly competitive bracket, and it was good because it allowed us to see the ceiling of what the absolute best lacrosse in the country looks like

"But we got our butts kicked," Stacy Neir added.

"It humbled us in a good way. We got beat just enough to not be broken. The experience showed gaps in our game, and it sparked a new culture." Inspired, Jorgeson hired more coaches, kicked up practices from one to five a week. They started doing stick training, agility training, shooting practice. An intensive program.

But improving wasn't just about sweat equity. They bonded as dedicated young

women on and off the field with dinners, pool trips, a little/big sister program.

"We're giving them a purpose which is so instrumental for young women," Jorgensen said. "None of this has felt alone. We're all in it together."

"We competed in a parents vs. kids pick-up game," said Sophia Cordova, who plays attack. "The parents cheated and still lost!"

A primer: In lacrosse two teams use long-handled, racket-like sticks (crosse) with an oval triangular net on the end typically made of leather or nylon to catch, carry or throw a ball down the field or into the opponents' goal; field is 110 yards by 60 yards.

According to USA Lacrosse, it is one of the fastest growing team sports in the United States. Youth participation in the sport has grown over 500% since 1999 to nearly 250,000.

By autumn 2021, Jorgensen knew the girls were ready for a big tournament, the Santa Barbara Showdown. It proved pivotal to their game.

Coaches Jorgensen (left) and London Bachelet, both Central Park residents, pose with their team after their undefeated win in Santa Barbara. Bachelet played on the Electra's rec team as a kid. Jorgensen says they're seeing more of their former players return as coaches.

"That's when we really clicked as a team," Morgan Neir said. "Everyone was doing their part. Everyone was catching. Everyone was passing."

"I started thinking we're really good, and we're gonna win this tournament."

She was right. They went undefeated. They also scored 65 goals while only failing to block 15 over the course of five games, earning them the largest goal differential in the tournament.

"We were very proud of that," Cordova said.

Now considered contenders, the girls returned to California three months later to compete in the largest tournament in the west, the Sand Storm in Palm Springs. Not only did they go undefeated for a second time, they also clinched a sudden death victory in overtime earning them the number one spot—and only top ten ranking—in the west and the number seven spot in the nation.

"It's honestly kinda scary," said Cordova who assisted Abby Kiely for the winning shot. "It's nerve-racking. It forces you to put a lot of trust in your teammates and yourself."

So, what does a relatively new, nationally-ranked, 6th-grade girls' lacrosse team do next? For one, they never stop challenging themselves. "We've started scrimmaging the boys," Cordova said.

"And we're going back to the east coast," Jorgensen said. "We have gaps to close, and this time we have the skills to

do it."

The Urban Elites serve 4th through 6th grade and are expanding through highschool. They are sponsored by The Neir Team at Kentwood Real Estate, Urban Renovators, and Nova Home Loans. To learn more visit urbanelitedenverlacrosse.com.

"I started thinking we're really good, and we're gonna win this tournament."

—Morgan Neir, 6th grade player

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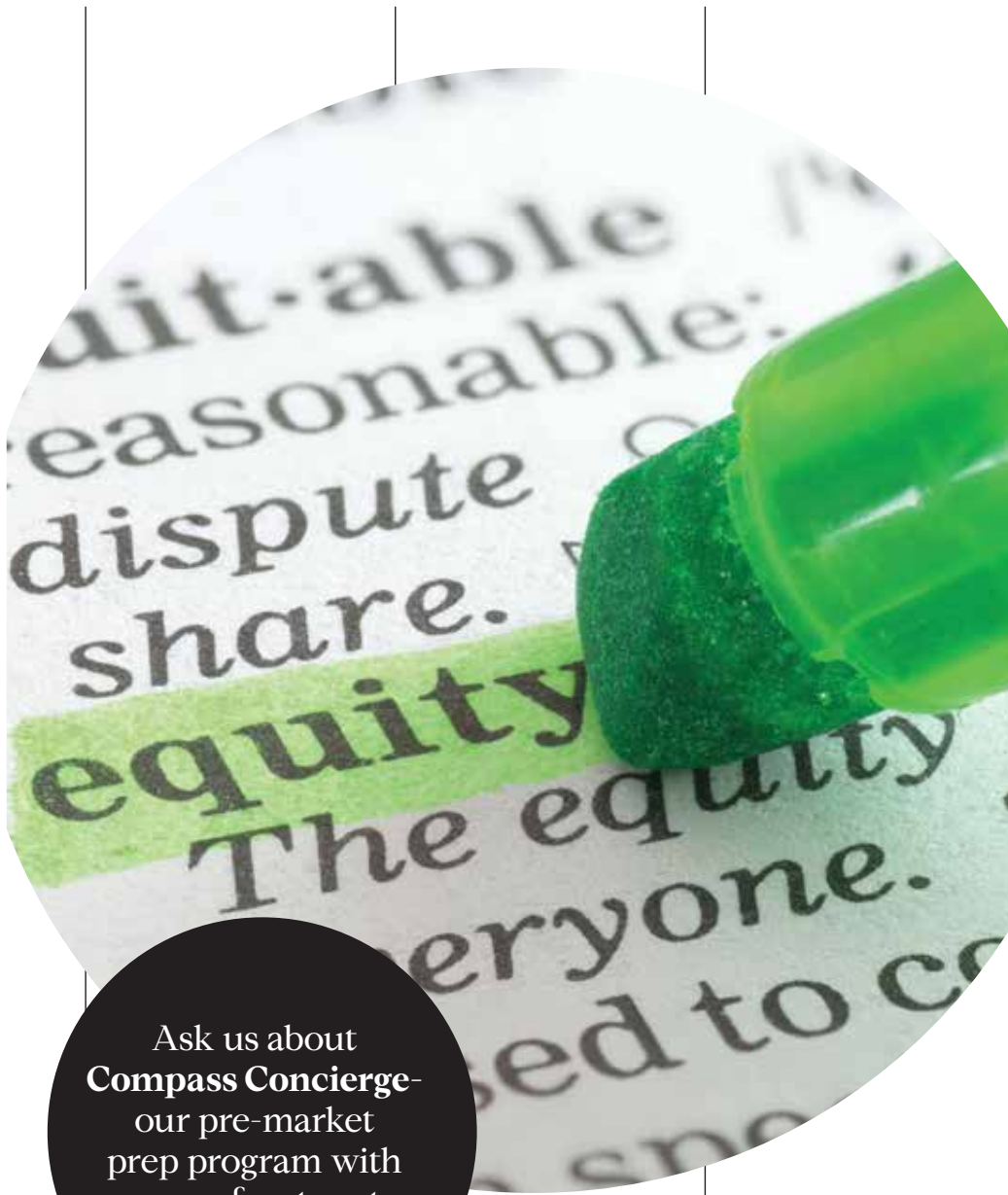
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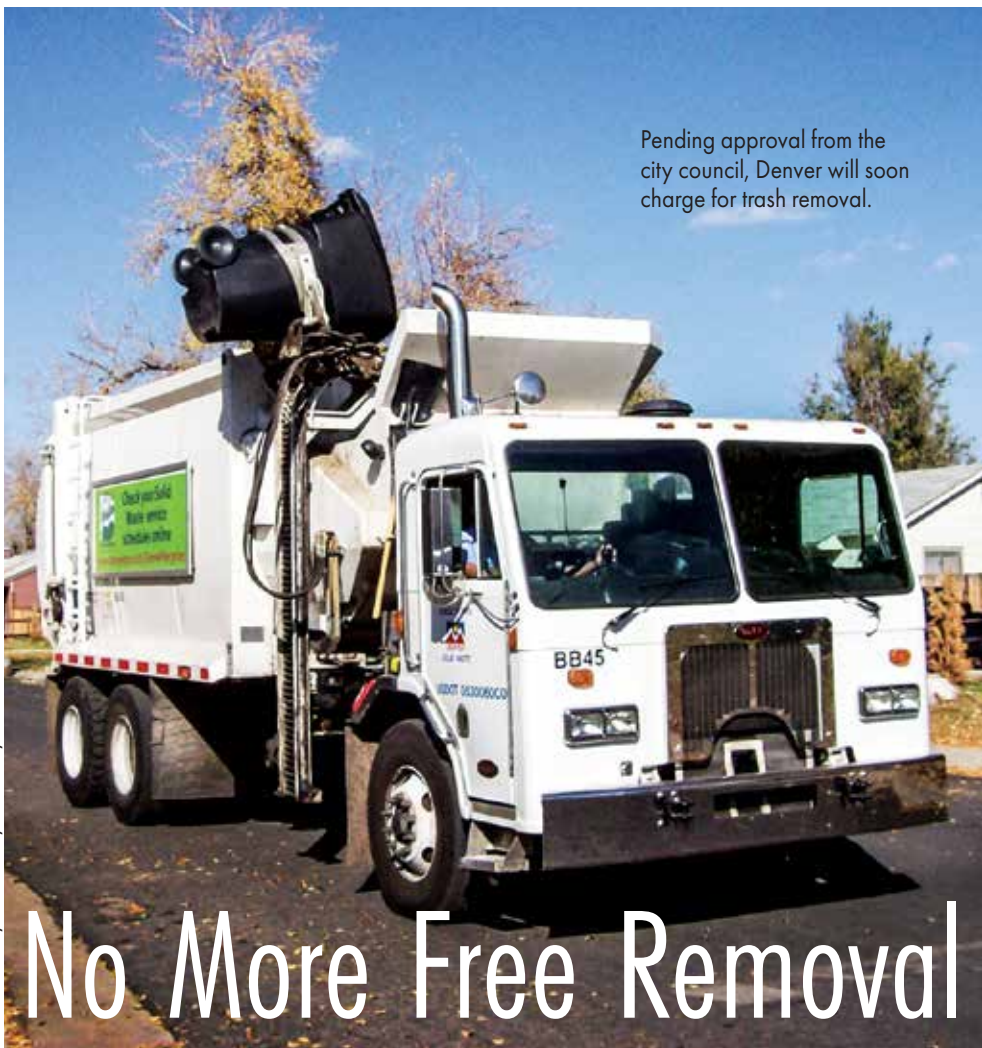


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Photo courtesy of the City & County of Denver



Pending approval from the city council, Denver will soon charge for trash removal.

No More Free Removal

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

By the end of the year, Denver residents will likely lose a time-honored tradition – free trash pick-up.

City environmental agencies are proposing a charge of \$9 to \$21 depending on the size of the cart. The proposal will likely go to the full city council in April. If approved, the new charge would start by the end of 2022.

The basic premise is to encourage people to recycle and compost by offering those services free while charging for trash removal, said Chief Climate Officer Grace Rink of the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR).

“Customers will be able to choose cart sizes that work best for their household—small, medium, or large—and by putting more of their waste in the recycling and composting carts, many should be able to use the small trash cart,” Rink said.

The monthly service fee would be \$9 for the smallest cart which holds two to three kitchen bags, \$16 for a medium cart which holds four to five kitchen bags, and \$21 for a large cart which holds seven to eight kitchen bags.

Rink says weekly recycling is something Denverites have wanted for a long time. Currently recycling is collected only every other week and compost is collected weekly for a monthly fee of \$9.75. Special services such as the monthly extra trash/large item pick-up day and the annual tree cycle and mulch giveaway program would still be offered for no additional charge.

Rink and other officials know well that residents have come to expect free trash/recycle pick up; the city began household recycling in the early 1990s for no fee. According to CASR, 74 percent of Denver’s waste goes to a landfill while only 26 percent is recycled and

composted; the national average is 34 percent.

Under the new system, Denver could achieve a 50 percent recycling/compost rate within five years. With the current system, that would take 25 years, Rink said.

“We know the people of Denver care about the environment, and we can do so much better than a 26 percent recycling/compost rate,” Rink said. “Getting our food waste and yard debris out of the landfill is one of the quickest and lowest-cost ways to reduce the amount of methane we are putting into the atmosphere.

“If we can double the amount of waste we recycle and compost, we will cut in half the amount of greenhouse gas emissions our waste creates in the landfill.”

Not everyone’s so sure it’s a great idea. Shawn Schwab, who lives in northeast Park Hill, agrees that people need to make a bigger effort to reduce the amount of trash we produce and put into the landfills.

“And yes, charging people for this service is one way to accomplish that,” Schwab said. “I also see a lot of drawbacks to this approach beginning with people just putting their trash in their purple recycle bins.

“That defeats the recycling program because we know that when trash is found in recyclable materials, the entire lot of recyclables is then just tossed into the landfill.”

Schwab said he’s also concerned the new fee amounts to a double payment because the current service is already covered by property tax.

Rink says that the feedback they’ve received has been overwhelmingly positive but concerns like Schwab’s are not uncommon. The cost of trash removal is not fully covered by the property tax of their 180,000 customers; the cost of collection services is covered by the general fund which includes all residential property taxes, including residents who don’t receive

the city’s collection services, property taxes from commercial properties that also don’t receive city collection services, and sales and use tax paid by everyone in Denver.

“We have to educate people on the benefits of sorting their waste properly and why it’s beneficial to get more of it into the composting and recycling cart,” she said.

There will have to be an enforcement mechanism in place at some point, Rink said.

“It’s not going to be in the first month. If people are getting it wrong, we’d like to work with them first. If the contamination goes on for a long time after we’ve done a bunch of outreach, then we might have to remove a cart from a customer,” she said.

“If that contaminated load goes into a truck, it contaminates the whole load which will cost the city over time. But we are going to do everything we can to work with customers before we take a cart away.”

Low-income households may qualify for an instant rebate affordability program managed by the Denver Department of Human Services. Eligibility will be based on the area median income (AMI) table (found at www.denvergov.org) which takes into account income plus the number of people in the household. For more information on the city’s waste programs, go to www.denvergov.org/My-Property/Recycling-Compost-and-Trash.

Monthly Service Fees

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DPS Board Looks to Neuter Innovation

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

The Denver Public Schools board wants to yank much of the power to innovate from the district’s innovation schools. The board is seeking input at two community meetings this month, but it is expected to approve the move later in March. Board members say they worry teachers are losing rights because of the waivers from the union contract given to innovation schools.



Xóchitl Gaytán, Board President, District 2

“Nationwide, we’re seeing a demonization and disrespect for the teaching profession,” said board President Xóchitl “Sochi” Gaytán. “This is an opportunity to weave equity into a system, especially for teachers and to bring back respect to the teaching profession.” Innovation leaders disagree that their teachers are being disrespected.

Kurt Dennis, executive principal of McAuliffe International Middle School, believes the board’s main goal is to eliminate the freedom innovation principals have to fire teachers. Depending on the waiver, principals can let go of teachers right away if they’re not a good fit. Most innovation teachers are hired on annual contracts. Teachers in traditional schools can be fired only for cause, according to the union contract.

“In nine years—and I have a staff of over 90 teachers—I think we’ve executed that policy five times,” Dennis said. “That’s less than 1 percent of teachers, so it’s not something that’s being abused. And I can assure you, in those situations, it was very necessary.”

“Without that flexibility, kids are stuck with a bad teacher for an entire year.” Brent Applebaum, principal at Creativity Challenge Community, said besides a retiree and one teacher becoming a counselor, he has a 100 percent teacher retention rate. In a recent survey 100 percent of his teachers said they felt empowered to do their job.

Renard Simmons, principal at DC-21, said, “Our high teacher retention rates speak to the respect we give our teachers.”

The board’s plan would impact ten Northeast Denver schools: Swigert, Willow, Inspire, Isabella Bird, Ashley, Montclair School, Denver Discovery, Denver Green School-Northfield, McAuliffe International, and Northfield High School. They are among the 52 DPS innovation schools that enjoy a level of autonomy from the district, which allows them to decide what is best for their students.

All waivers from a union contract have to be approved by a vote of the school staff with at least 60 percent of union members at that school voting in favor.

Among those flexibilities:

- Control of their budgets and spending.
- Longer school year.
- Flexible scheduling.

- Control over what and how they teach.
- Teacher training tailored to their needs.
- The ability to fire teachers.

“Principals recognize a one size fits all approach where you’re mandating everything from the top down for 90,000 (DPS) students across 200 schools doesn’t work,” said Kurt Dennis, executive principal of McAuliffe and lead founder of the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone in 2018, that includes McAuliffe, Swigert, and Northfield. “Principals and teachers on the ground used to be the change agents, not districts.”

“Without that flexibility, kids are stuck with a bad teacher for an entire year.”

—Kurt Dennis, executive principal at McAuliffe International Middle School

But much of that self-governance, which is accomplished primarily through waivers to the union contract, would end if the DPS board essentially neuters the district’s policy on innovation schools.

All seven board members are backed by the teacher’s union. The board has opposed previous reforms and has dismantled or stopped key initiatives dating back to the mid-2000s.

The board’s proposal would require that all teachers, in innovation or traditional schools, have a workload “commensurate with a 40-hour work week” and have “minimal non-teaching duties,” and principals could no longer offer “additional pay to teachers for high student test scores or top school ratings.”

According to Boardhawk, an online news site focused on DPS, pay would “correlate with teaching/classroom experience. In other words, stick to the salary schedule and don’t reward teachers who excel at their work,” Boardhawk said. “Another dagger to the heart of innovation schools . . . would require the schools to adhere to the DPS calendar without deviation” prohibiting the extra instructional days local innovation schools have.

“Now they’re forcing school leaders to become middle management,” Dennis said. “The district is like, ‘Here’s your directive. Present it to your staff at this time, on this day, with this training. Here’s the curriculum for your students.’”

“We’re all just delivering the message from central admin, and the staff groans because they know it doesn’t work for their kids and their community.”

Board President Gaytán promises they will conduct community engagement as part of their decision process. She said they sent out surveys to principals and teachers and are meeting one-

on-one with innovation leaders and other stakeholders. She also said they’re hosting two town halls, March 1 and March 3. (Go to dpsk12.org for information on meetings.)

Gaytán, who drafted the proposal with board member Scott Balderman, said the proposal does not limit innovation within schools.

“I know there’s been concern about how this could potentially limit innovative programming or innovative ways of being able to provide a quality learning environment for students,” Gaytán said. “That’s not what this is.”

Innovation principals are baffled about the real issue. The board has struggled to articulate its motivations and even how they will gather that genuine community input they say they want.

“I have to justify my innovation practices, but there’s no reason why,” said Sheldon Reynolds, principal of The Center for Talent Development (CTD). “I have one of the highest school performance ratings and one of the highest [teacher] retention rates, but not one person from the board has engaged me.”

“How can we look at a [proposal] of this magnitude when you don’t have a clear direction of how policies are going to be put in place or how you’re going to engage the community.”

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LIVE EXTRAORDINARY



Arslan Guney (facing camera) spends several days a week at Denver rec centers, volunteering his time to teach new players the fundamentals of pickleball.

By Mary Jo Brooks

It may have a funny-sounding name, but it's the fastest growing sport across the nation and in Denver. Pickleball, which is a cross between tennis and ping pong, is delighting players of all ages even as it's

causing challenges for municipal recreation departments. "I haven't seen anything take off this fast and get so many people so excited," said John Martinez, Denver's deputy executive director of recreation.

The paddle sport, which was created

Pickleball Fever Fastest Growing Sp

more than five decades ago, uses a court that is smaller than a tennis court and is usually played as doubles. It is popular among active senior citizens, but also among millennials and even children. Over the past five years, Denver Parks and Recreation has developed seven outdoor locations with 28 pickleball courts and 18 indoor locations with 45 courts.

And still it's not enough. Perhaps nowhere is that more evident than in Northeast Denver where players are clamoring for more court time. Martinez says he hears the pickleball players "loud and clear" but he must manage multiple recreational interests in determining where to invest infrastructure dollars. "We've tried to keep up with demand. We've built pickleball courts that were old tennis courts. It's a community-driven process, but we have to find balance between tennis, basketball,

volleyball, other recreational programs and pickleball."

Jan Devor is part of an active pickleball community in Central Park that is advocating for additional resources. She's already had some success. Devor and her friend, Dorothy Schepps, convinced Central Park rec center officials to set up six pickleball courts in the gym every Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The two women said they would volunteer to give free, informal lessons during the first two hours of the pickleball sessions. They had no idea it would be such a success. "We have lots of people who are retired, but we also have younger people who come on their lunch break and college kids who



For four hours every Monday and Wednesday morning, the Central Park Rec Center gym is transformed into 6 pickleball courts. Free instruction for beginners is offered during the first two hours.



Pickleball players at the Central Park Rec Center say the cloth markers that delineate the court boundaries pose a tripping hazard. They want the center to paint the kind of permanent lines that are found at other rec centers.

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Sport in The Country

come when they're home on vacation. Most say they've been wanting to learn but they didn't know where to go," says Devor.

Arslan and Linda Guney moved to Denver from the East Coast in 2017 to be near grandchildren. They had never heard of pickleball but were trying to meet new people, so they stopped in the rec center and were introduced to the sport by Devor and Schepps. Pickleball quickly became an obsession for them. They've made dozens of new friends in the process and now help coordinate the free instruction. "It's come full circle. Now we're introducing it to other people," says Linda.

Seventy-one-year old Arslan says he's become addicted to the fast-paced game and plays five to seven days a week, often for three to four hours at a time. He's not surprised at the sport's meteoric rise. "Pickleball has a short learning curve. People can learn to play in two hours. You get exercise, but most importantly, it's the social aspect that really keeps people coming back."

In fact, it's that community-building aspect that players repeatedly mention when they talk about what they love about the game. Unlike tennis, where players usually arrive at the courts knowing who they are going to play, with pickleball, players can show up alone and instantly get into a rotation of playing with new teams. The games are relatively short. The first team to score 11 points—with at least a two-point margin—wins, so often it means a player can play four to five games with several new partners and new opponents in just two hours.

Those quick games are one of the things that appealed to Joey Holland, who



Pickleball players say that the sport has become so popular because it is easy to learn and encourages a lot of social interaction.

has organized a Central Park pickleball Facebook page. As a 40-something, she is a bit younger than many of the players at the Central Park rec center, but she decided to take up pickleball when she was recovering from a broken ankle. Soon she was playing two to three hours every day and her ankle pain disappeared. "I'm so inspired by the older people who play. I watch one 82-year old woman who is out there playing all of the time. That's my dream: to be 82 and flying around the court like that."

Seventy-nine-year-old Ken Fox is also an inspiration to many. He has been playing pickleball regularly for five years, despite the fact that he has Parkinson's disease. He credits the sport for keeping him active. "It helps me stay younger and more fit. And as far as Parkinson's is concerned, I know that exercise helps me feel better."

Arslan Guney is thrilled that pickleball continues to attract so many new people,

but he does worry about the shortage of adequate facilities to meet their needs. He and others who play regularly at the Central Park rec center are frustrated that the city won't paint permanent lines on the gym floor to clearly mark the pickleball court. Instead, short cloth strips are put down as temporary markers. Guney says they pose a hazard since people can trip or slip on them. "They curl up. They're always moving so you really have to watch where you step."

John Martinez says that a safety inspector for the city has determined that the temporary strips are safe and that permanently painted lines would be confusing when the gym is used for volleyball or basketball.

Guney says he plans to continue to lobby city officials to build more courts in Northeast Denver especially if the indoor courts are taken away during the summer months. "There are 40,000 people who live in the Central Park neighborhood and we only have six outdoor courts. That's not nearly enough."

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New Pop-up at Stanley Marketplace

By Mary Jo Brooks

Jump in a clawfoot bathtub with friends, get your groove on in a 70s-era living room, float among the clouds, or swing in a sea of flamingos. It's all part of Selfie@Stanley, a pop-up immersive installation at the Stanley Marketplace. Created by two Central Park moms, it features more than 25 backdrops for Instagram photos, Tik Tok videos, or just making lasting memories.

Molly Pearson and Regan Suhay are the brains behind interactive photo labyrinth, which has been constructed in the central commons area of the market. A year ago, Suhay visited a similar pop-up with her 12-year old daughter and friends, and collectively they took more than 200 photos and videos. That's when the two women decided to try to bring such a venture to the Stanley despite the fact that neither has small business experience. "We're always on the hunt for new and fun things to do with our families, and also for our kids to do with their friends," says Suhay. "And

we've been very lucky to work with some amazing professionals who have helped us figure out how to launch a business."

The Selfie@Stanley booth opened in January, just as the COVID-19 Omicron variant was surging. Pearson says that was unfortunate timing, but that February brought new energy and a huge uptick in visitors of all ages. "We love seeing grandparents taking keep-

sake photos with their grandchildren, having girls' night out groups enjoying themselves, and teens and tweens Tik-Toking it up. Everyone who comes out

of the space is all smiles," says Pearson.

Tickets for the selfie-station are \$10 per person. The space is also available to be rented for birthday parties or school fundraisers. The pop-up installation is scheduled to close April

17. Pearson and Suhay say they're not sure what's next for them whether it's replicating the photo booth elsewhere or creating another new business venture entirely.



Photos courtesy of Selfie@Stanley

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

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

3/12 Saturday—Voice of the Wood Chamber Players. 3–4pm. Ages 18+. Diverse music, from Boccherini to Taktakishvili. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

3/12 & 3/13—St. Patrick's Day Performance with Wick School of Irish Dance. Noon. Two St. Patrick's Day traditional Irish step-dance shows. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

3/27 Sunday—Central Park 5K. 9:30am. Central Park, 8801 MLK Jr Blvd. central5k.com

METRO EVENTS

3/4 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa. 5:30–9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

3/4 Friday—Jon Dore at Denver Comedy Underground. 1400 N Williams St. eventvesta.com/events/13298/tickets

3/5 Saturday—Athena Project's 10th annual Cocktails & Comedy. Fundraiser at The Maven Hotel, 1850 Wazee St. Doors open at 7pm, event begins at 7:30pm. athenaprojectarts.org

3/6 Sunday—Nat Geo Live: When Women Ruled the World. Egyptologist Kara Cooney delivers six fascinating tales of female pharaohs. The Newman Center for the Performing Arts 2344 East Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

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

3/8 Tuesday—Blaxplanation: Overground Railroad, an in-person talk with Candacy Taylor. This talk will focus on the author's new young adult version of her book, *Overground Railroad*. 1200 N Broadway. historycolorado.org

3/12 Saturday—St. Patrick's Day Parade. Starts at 9:30am. Begins on Wynkoop at 19th, turns down 17th St in front of Union Station, then turns NE down Blake St proceeding all the way up to 27th. denverstpatriksdayparade.com

3/18 to 3/20—46th Annual Denver March Pow Wow. Denver Coliseum. 10am–10pm. denvermarchpowwow.org

3/18 to 3/20—Denver Home Show. National Western Complex. For tickets and \$2 off, go to homeshowdenver.com

3/23 Wednesday—Bold Women. Change History. Pat Schroeder. Former Congresswoman. Feminist Icon. Women's Rights Champion. 7–8pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. Tickets at H-co.org/BoldWomen

3/24 Thursday—Visiting Artist Series: Heinrich Toh – Artist Talk. Art Students League of Denver, 200 Grant St. asld.org

4/2 to 4/3—Rocky Mountain Train Show. 10am–5pm Sat., 10am–4pm Sun. Admission good both days. National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St. rockymountaintrainshow.com

4/5 Tuesday—Nat Geo Live: Secrets of the Whales. Nat Geo Explorer Brian Skerry has spent nearly four decades documenting Earth's oceans. The Newman Center for the Performing Arts 2344 East Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

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

Thursdays—After School is Cool at Pauline Robinson Library. 4:15–5:15pm. Arts and crafts for ages 5–12. 5575 E. 33rd Ave. denverlibrary.org

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

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

3/19 Saturday—LEGO Building Workshop: Kayak Adventure Kit. Build (and keep!) your own Colorado-style LEGO set, then take a special guided museum tour based on your creation. 1200 N Broadway. historycolorado.org

3/20 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. anschultzcollection.org

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

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Mar. & Early Apr. 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.



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

The Children's Museum. By reservation only at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Mar. 19. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

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

Denver Botanic Gardens. SCFD Free Day Mar. 16. 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. Egypt: *The Time of the Pharaohs* exhibit now open. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. dmns.org

Denver Zoo. 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 Mar. 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

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

3/5 to 4/9—Refuge. Weaving original music with artistic puppetry to share a bilingual tale. 1080 Acoma St. curioustheatre.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

3/6 Sunday—Ivalas Quartet: Free Family Concert. Changing the face of classical music. 3pm. Centro San Juan Diego, 2830 Lawrence St. friendsofchambermusic.com

3/6 Sunday—Magic Circle Mime Co - The Mozart Experience. All ages. 2:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall. Tickets at coloradosymphony.org

3/11 to 3/13—The Denver Brass - Celtic Mania. One of Denver's best annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Fri & Sat, 7:30pm; Sun 2pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

3/11 to 3/20—Colorado Ballet Presents *The Wizard of Oz*. Dorothy and a whirlwind of your favorite characters return to the Yellow Brick Road. Ellie Caulkins Opera House (14th & Curtis) coloradoballet.org

3/11 to 4/17—*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Tennessee Williams. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintage theatre.org

3/12 Saturday—Swallow Hill Music presents *Gobs O'Phun*. Traditional Irish and Scottish acoustic folk band. 8pm Quinlan Cafe, 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

3/12 & 3/13—Around the World - Aurora Singers. A musical adventure with authentic Zulu folksong. Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm. South Middle School, 12310 E Parkview Dr, Aurora. aurorasingers.org

Through 3/13—*Rattlesnake Kate*. A badass new musical. Wolf Theatre stage at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

Through 3/13—*In The Upper Room*. A new play about family, secrets and the power of the stories we grow up hearing. Ages 16+. Kilstrom Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

3/16 Wednesday—Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor. One of the most exciting young pianists around. friendsofchambermusic.com. 7:30pm. Gates Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 E. Iliff Ave.

3/18 Friday—The Denver Moth - StorySLAM. Tickets go on sale 3/11. 8pm Daniels Hall, 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

3/18 to 4/10—*Hurricane Diane*. Diane's not really Diane at all. She's the Greek God Dionysus in disguise. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 3/20—*Shakespeare in Love*. Antics and drama as a young Will Shakespeare desperately tries to cure his writers block. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintage theatre.org

3/26 Saturday—Sound of the Rockies - Back in Business. 2pm & 7:30pm. Colorado's premier a cappella chorus. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

Through 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

4/2 Saturday—An Evening with Leslie Odom, Jr. 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$35. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.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/

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It is time for the annual Oscar column, and that means it is also time for my annual lament about the Oscars. If you have followed this column, I will save you the diatribe; feel free, however, to review my past Oscar columns for my take on the show as well as an idea to transform it. (I am still waiting for the call from the Academy.) Now on to this year's nominees for Best Motion Picture, which I find a wide-open category with the possibility for a surprise winner. I give short reviews of most films, and I have already reviewed two—*The Power of the Dog* and *Belfast*—in the February column. Enjoy the show.

Drive My Car

Would the Academy give the big award to an international film for the second time in three years? I think not, but *Drive My Car* from director Ryusuke Hamaguchi is certainly worthy. The riveting story follows a grieving stage actor/director from Tokyo as he searches for meaning in a world without his wife. He takes a job directing a play in Hiroshima and builds an unlikely friendship with his provincial young driver, herself with a broken past as well. This doesn't do the complicated story and characters justice, but the performances drive the film. Those performances are nuanced and dense, as is the writing. Hiroshima itself is the site of one of the world's worst man-made tragedies, but from my own experience, it is a gorgeous city that is now a center of peace and tranquility. It has overcome its past. The

setting, therefore, is perfect, and the direction is magnificent. A great all-around film.

Licorice Pizza

Two wonderful beings escape the Island of Misfit Toys and land in Los Angeles circa 1973.

P.T. Anderson finds them in what might be the most P.T. Anderson of all P.T. Anderson films, a director who I consider to be one of the top five living American directors. See the filmography: *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*, *There Will Be Blood*, and *Phantom Thread*, among others. There is not much in the way of story to tell except that we follow this oddball pair through a myriad of hijinks while Anderson's quirky, restless, and endearing style oozes through every frame. This is a joy to watch and discuss; perhaps it is not a film for everyone, and I don't see the Academy landing here. Still, this is expert filmmaking from an expert filmmaker and perhaps the best visage of Fellini we have here in America. I give no greater compliment.


CODA

I absolutely adored this endearing film from Sian Heder, best known for her work writing on *Orange Is the New Black*. The story centers around a teenager who is the only hearing person in a deaf family. Ruby (Emilia Jones) has always been the family interpreter and works on the family fishing boat. The other family members, mom Jackie (Marlee Maitlin), dad Frank (Troy Kostur), and brother Leo (Daniel Durant) rely on her as their conduit to the hearing world. Ruby is also a shy but beautiful singer who finds the courage to join the school choir. Her teacher (a shining Eugenio Derbez) sees her talent and urges her to audition for a prestigious music college. The conun-



CODA

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drum ensues. This film has been described as a "feel good coming-of-age story," but it is so much more than that. It is about the deep roots of a close family and the breakdown of that unit in the larger American society; it is about the struggles of a deaf family in a hearing world; it is about the beauty of art and how that transcends daily concerns; it is about a loving family who find the truth in each other. It is also a superb ensemble cast that shines through every moment of the movie. I usually have a good idea of where movies are going and rarely find myself moved to the point of tears. I was here.

King Richard

This is an expertly acted and directed film from Reinaldo Marcus Green with an Oscar-worthy performance from Will Smith as Richard Williams (best known as father of Venus and Serena). He is a shoo-in for Best Actor. The movie itself is brilliant as well, with excellent performances from the entire cast: Saniyya Sidney as Venus Williams, Demi Singleton as Serena Williams, and Aunjanue Ellis as Oracene Williams. It is also a complicated film with many layers, and Smith's performance is so captivating that we might miss some of the expert direction in particular. The Rodney King beating plays on TV in the background at one point; a gangland killing occurs directly in front of us; the explicit and implicit racism of the white-dominated tennis community surrounds the family at every turn; and nosey neighbors who misread family dynamics cause troubling issues. I would not be disappointed to see this film win.

Don't Look Up

I did not think I would like this movie as much as I did; I had seen so much written about it that it left a bad taste in my mouth. The obvious metaphor for climate change that everyone wants to deny was written by Adam McKay and Denver's own David Sirota and also directed by McKay. With an all-star cast led by Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence, the film manages to be fun, quirky, thoughtful, and in the end, poignant. There are stretches that are hard to take, but McKay sprinkles in some techniques to let us know we are watching a movie and that it is all a



Drive My Car

construction. The message is no construction, however, and (contrived) controversy or not, we should all see it.

Nightmare Alley

This *film noir* remake of a 1947 film and now directed by the brilliant and bizarre Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *The Shape of Water*) tells a brutal and horrifying story. A con man (played by a frightening and frighteningly good Bradley Cooper) finds his calling at a small carnival and works his way into higher society while acting as a clairvoyant. His descent into madness and depravity is captured with ease by Cooper, who has quietly become one of the best actors on the planet. He is the only competition for Smith in this category, and del Toro may take away his second Best Director Oscar. An underdog for Best Picture.

Dune

I reviewed this in January '22 with the simple phrase "wonderfully operatic." A few more sentences are necessary: this dense epic directed by Denis Villeneuve (*Arrival*) fits the description for my definition of Best Picture: it rates highest in every category—acting, directing, cinematography, editing, set design, costuming, etc. Yet Villeneuve was not even nominated for Best Director. That sums up the Oscars.

The only film in the category I do not review here is *West Side Story* (due to time constraints and availability). I lament this because I am a fan of the original, and Steven Spielberg never disappoints. All reports note the wonderful performances from Rachel Zelger and Ariana DeBose in particular, the latter nominated for Best Supporting Actress. Look for a full review in the coming months.

My prediction for Best Picture: *The Power of the Dog*. See you on the red carpet.

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

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...NE News Updates



By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

1 The Shops at Northfield Sold

The Shops at Northfield sold for \$71 million on Jan. 26 to Stockdale Capital Partners, a real estate firm in Los Angeles. That's \$16 million less than what Forest City sold it for in 2017.



As malls across America face uncertainty, The Shops at Northfield sell for a \$16 million loss. File photo by Steve Larson

The seller was QIC, an Australian investment firm. According to Denver property records, the sale of the 87-acre shopping complex took place over two transactions. The first included the lot of parcels that make up The Shops at Northfield for \$66 million. And the second for an adjacent parcel for \$5 million. The open-air shopping center includes over 20 dining concepts and major retailers like Super Target, Macy's, Old Navy, Bass Pro Shops, and Harkins Theatres.

2 DPS Healthy Start Times to Affect Bussing

Citing an adolescent's need for adequate sleep, the DPS Board passed a resolution to have all middle and high schools start no later than 8:20 a.m. The new bell times will go into effect in the 2023-24 school year.

DPS has proposed three options. The first option allows DPS to keep all bus routes but would have high schools starting and ending at different times throughout the district which would likely impact after school activities. The second option eliminates 20 bus routes but allows middle and high schools to start and end at similar times. It would also start elementary schools earlier, likely before 8 a.m. The third option eliminates 106 bus routes and allows all elementary schools to start at 7:50 a.m. and all middle and high schools to start at 8:50 a.m. Changes to bussing will not affect the northeast and far northeast Success Express Route. It will affect magnet programs, schools with purchased bus routes, and schools where fewer than 10 percent of the population is on free and reduced lunch.

3 Proposed Suncor Permit Sent to EPA

This week state environmental agencies proposed a new permit for operating Suncor's plant 2 in Commerce City. The Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) sent the permit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval on February 8. The EPA can approve, reject, or offer feedback on the draft proposal. Local residents and environmental groups say the permit overlooks Suncor's failure to minimally comply with existing laws and regulations, perpetuating an ongoing behavior of negligence. They demand the EPA find the permit in violation of the Clean Air Act citing many years of documented illegal air and water pollution. Despite being seen by many as an oil cowboy who regularly flouts regulations, Suncor—as Colorado's only oil and gas



The EPA has 45 days to approve, reject, or offer feedback on Suncor's newest draft proposal for plant 2. File photo by Christie Gosch

refinery—is nonetheless an economic and energy powerhouse in the state. According to their website, Suncor turns 98,000 barrels of crude oil a day—including that locally harvested from the Julesburg Basin—into various products, 95 percent of which are sold and used in Colorado. They supply fuel to more than 225 Shell, Exxon, and Mobil sites in Colorado and Wyoming, serving about 15 million people each year. They employ 500 Coloradans directly while supporting more than 5,000 jobs indirectly, with a total payroll impact of more than \$250 million. Their operations and fuel sales have generated over \$200 million in Colorado state, county, and municipal taxes over the past five years, averaging \$40 million annually. Their estimated annual contribution to the state's economy is \$2.5 billion. The EPA has 45 days to make a decision.



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Foundation to Assume Stewardship of *Front Porch*

By *Front Porch* Staff

The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities assumed ownership of *Front Porch* newspaper in February.

The transfer of ownership was prompted by the retirement of publishers Carol Roberts and Steve Larson, who donated the paper to the foundation.

Under the foundation, the paper will continue as a high-quality monthly community newspaper.

“*Front Porch* is a true neighborhood asset, and we look forward to our new relationship with the paper,” foundation CEO Tammi Holloway said.

Brian Weber, a foundation vice president and former journalist, serves as the paper’s editor.

Weber stressed that the foundation’s new role will be one of trust and stewardship, and that the paper will retain its editorial autonomy.

“For more than 20 years, Carol and Steve did an outstanding job in building *Front Porch* into a trusted source of news, information and entertainment for Northeast Denver,” he said. “We are pleased and proud to further support this community by supporting this great publication.”

The foundation was launched by the late Denver oilman and philanthropist Sam Gary in 1990 as the Stapleton Foundation. It wrote the redevelopment plan, known as the Green Book, for Stapleton, the city’s former airport that closed in 1995. The area’s name was changed to Central Park in 2020. The foundation changed

its name in 2018.

At 4,700 acres, Central Park is the nation’s largest urban infill development. The foundation now works to advance the development’s responsibility laid out in the Green Book to promote and nurture lifelong learning, sustainable and healthy living, and alternative transportation.

The foundation believes it is well-positioned to take on *Front Porch*. Prior to joining the foundation, Weber was a newspaper reporter for 20 years, the last 10 at the now-closed *Rocky Mountain News*. He holds a master’s in nonprofit management from Regis University and an undergraduate degree in journalism from Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Joining Weber in day-to-day operations is a strong and experienced staff who have worked for the paper for many years.

Tracy Wolfer Osborne, managing editor/editorial, received a bachelor’s degree in journalism and secondary language arts education from the University of Wyoming. She worked for her college paper and publications in Anchorage, Alaska, then spent 10 years teaching English, mostly at Eaglecrest High School in Cherry Creek. She has been writing for *Front Porch* since 2019.

Christie Gosch, managing editor/design, who has been with the paper since 2008, graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor of fine arts. She has been a senior art director for a major marketing firm and worked in advertising for the former Gart



Back row, Brian Weber and Tammi Holloway from The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities. Front row, from left to right, staff members Christie Gosch, Tracy Wolfer Osborne, Sharon Young, and Heather Weldon.

Sports retail company.

Heather Weldon, ad sales manager, holds a political science degree from the University of Arizona. She has 15 years of experience in advertising and marketing, working at Colorado Homes & Lifestyles Magazine, the Karsh Hagan agency and in Chicago. She joined *Front Porch* in 2022.

Business Manager Sharon Young has an accounting degree from the National College of Business in Rapid City, South Dakota. She has provided bookkeeping services for many different clients for several decades and has worked for *Front Porch* since 2006.

Weber, Osborne, Gosch and Weldon are residents of Central Park.

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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@cuanchutz.edu to learn more.

Brianne M Bettcher COMIRB#: 18-2607

NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MARCH 2022



HELP US NAME FILING 54 POOL!

Filing 54 pool is the newest pool in the community! Located at 9888 E. 59th Place, this pool has designated lap lanes, two slides, and a zero-depth entry for swimmers of all ages. Starting on March 1st you can visit our website www.mca80238.com and submit your pool name suggestion. We are hosting a “Name the Pool” contest. The winning submittal will receive a free after hour party from 7–9pm in June or July at the new pool.

If we receive multiple suggestions of the same name we will use the first one received as the “owner” of that suggestion. Only one suggestion per person will be accepted.

We will narrow down the suggestions from the community and in April we will have a community vote on our website for the favorite name and the submittal with the most votes will be the new pool name.

The deadline for suggestions is March 31st. Did you know that the community pools all have aviation themed names?

Some of these pools were named after planes and old airport runways that the pool now sits on. The full list of pool names and their locations are below:

Aviator Pool	8054 East 28th Ave.
F-15 Pool	2831 Hanover St.
Jet Stream Pool	5574 Alton St.
Maverick Pool	8822 Beekman Pl.
Puddle Jumper Pool	2401 Xenia St.
Runway 35 Pool	9888 East 59th Pl.



IMPORTANT AQUATIC DATES

- April 6th | Wednesday | Resident Swim Team Registration Opens
- April 13th | Wednesday | Resident Group Lesson Registration Opens
- May 1st | Sunday | Pool Party Reservation Request Open
- June 1st | Wednesday | Non-Resident Group Lesson Registration Opens

Stay informed, for the most up to date information about programming, schedules, and pool operations for the 2022 season, check our website, www.mca80238.com/aquatic_update_mca

MCA MEMBERSHIP MAINTENANCE MONTH

With spring snow and four-leaf clovers comes the MCA's membership maintenance month! What's at the end of the rainbow? 90+ days of summer fun at your neighborhood pools, of course!

Start your summer prep now by making sure your ActiveNet account is ready. Below are some helpful steps to ensure you are ready for youth program registration and pool memberships for the whole family!

- Check your ActiveNet login – access your ActiveNet login by clicking on “My ActiveNet” at the top of our homepage, MCA80238.com
- New to the neighborhood or never set up an ActiveNet account? No problem, create your account here: https://bit.ly/activenet_createaccount

- For registration and pool memberships, dependents in your household (20 years and younger) can be added to your household account as well. Email dependent verification (birth certificate or guardianship paperwork) to signup@mca80238.com or bring documentation to the MCA office during office hours. Please include your property address with all communication.
- Have you moved within the community? We can update your account address. Just email your former and new address information to signup@mca80238.com



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.

ACTIVE MINDS: TAIWAN

Thursday, March 10th, 1–2pm. Online

As China continues to increase its global power and influence, it is becoming a serious threat to the island of Taiwan. Over centuries, various powers have claimed control of Taiwan, including the Portuguese, Dutch, Japanese and Chinese. In 1949, with the victory on Mao's Chinese Communist Party, US-supported Chiang Kai-Shek and his KMT Party fled China to Taiwan, where the US provided ongoing military protection. Join Active Minds as we look at the history of Taiwan and what the future may hold as this conflict continues to unfold.

ACTIVE MINDS: THE STORY OF SALT

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

The word “salary” comes from “salt” and indicates the historic value placed on this important commodity. Used as a method of trade and currency, the role of salt in the history of civilization cannot be overstated. Join Active Minds as we tell the story of salt, from its key role in preserving food, to its influence in political conflict, to modern angles including gourmet salt and health concerns surrounding high blood pressure. It's a salty tale indeed!

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



Jennifer Olsen | Communications Manager | Jolsen@mca80238.com

MCA

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Northeast Denver Community News

This page is for area nonprofits and community organizations to post events, activities or other information.
Send items to: commnews@fsucommunities.org

MARCH 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 CentralParkUnitedNeighbors.com

SELECT CENTRAL PARK FALL 2021 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Our Fall 2021 Central Park Community Survey asked residents to rate a variety of elements of the Central Park community. Survey participants rated each item on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being the most favorable option and 0 the most negative.

Our high schools and middle schools also received positive ratings, while traffic, crime, and transportation options received less positive ratings, on average. Many of these lower ratings differ greatly based on where residents live. For example, residents north of I-70 were least satisfied with grocery and restaurant options.

We asked these questions to determine what concerns or issues residents want

CPUN to prioritize or try to address. We hear you and will work on these issues with our elected leaders, nearby developers, and other community partners. For full survey results, please reach out to CentralParkUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com.

JOIN THE CPUN BOARD

Want to help make Central Park a better place to live and work? Do you want to see more community voices represented in development and local government?

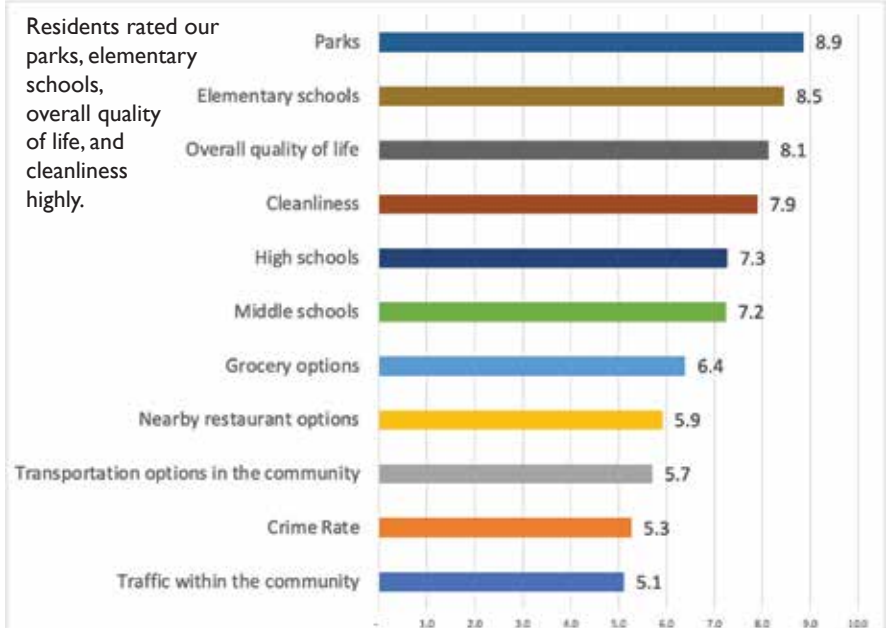
If your answer is "yes", please consider applying for a seat on the Central Park United Neighbors (CPUN) Board of Directors. There are currently six seats available.

A nominating committee has been formed to identify members of the Central Park community who are interested in becoming more involved in organizing the neighborhood. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to CentralParkUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com.

What do CPUN Board members do?

CPUN board members are responsible for helping bring the mission of CPUN to life. This entails at least the following responsibilities:

- Attendance our monthly community meetings.
- Chairing or serving on at least one CPUN committee.
- Attending and helping out with CPUN-sponsored community events and forums.



What do I need to do to run for the Board?

The application process entails submitting a 200-word statement of interest and bio to CPUN (CentralParkUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com) and attending the CPUN Annual Meeting in May. Statements of interest and bios of nominated candidates will be published online on CPUN's website at CentralParkUnitedNeighbors.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 at CentralParkUnitedNeighbors.com/join.



MONTBELLO TO THE SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY: COMMUNITY WALK AUDITS

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway is a 13-mile trailand wildlife corridor connecting Aurora, Denver, and Commerce City. Only 1.5 miles away from the Montbello neighborhood, it offers opportunities for safe walking, running, bike riding, and nature watching.

Help us assess street infrastructure and conditions, document barriers, positive features, activities, and perceptions of the walking environment from Montbello to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

Saturday, March 12, 9-11am Scan Me!
(approx. 3 mile walk)

Information at
sandcreekgreenway.org
Register: 720-301-3976;
mfair@sandcreekgreenway.org



SATURDAY MINI CAMP

Is your child interested in exploring nature, doing arts and craft activities, and playing games? Bluff Lake is starting a new nature-themed, education

program starting this Spring: **March 19, 9am-12pm**. Sessions will be led by our education team. Registration FREE for all participants!

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Bluff Lake's Spring Break mini-camps offer nature-themed activities, games, crafts and more led by Bluff Lake's environmental educators.

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

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

Contact Lauren at lauren@blufflake.org with questions.
<https://www.blufflake.org/mini-camps>



Central Park Business Association

The CPBA provides opportunities for connection and collaboration among individuals and businesses located in or serving the Denver Central Park and surrounding neighborhoods. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at The Cube in Northfield. Visit centralparkbusiness.com to meet the new board of directors and view upcoming events.



NETC TO MAINTAIN CPB BIKE LANE LOGO; PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

NETC has been working with Central Park United Neighbors (CPUN) and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) to manage the Central Park Blvd. High Comfort Bike Lane stencil project, helping the community choose a unique bike lane symbol to be painted on the street.

The new lane will be completed the early part of this year, depending on contractor availability, on Central Park Blvd. from Montview Blvd. to 36th Ave. providing improved bike access to the 29th Avenue Town Center, Central Park, Quebec Square, and the Central Park Transit Station. It will be a protected lane with dedicated space for bicyclists.

CPUN held a contest in 2020 to find a symbol that represents the Central Park community. The project could not move forward without someone to maintain the symbols, so NETC agreed to monitor and repaint them as needed in the future. Better bike access to the transit station could reduce the number of drivers along this stretch of Central Park Blvd. improving both traffic and air quality. NETC's mission is to promote better infrastructure and awareness of alternative modes of transportation to decrease the number of people driving their cars alone.

