

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

APRIL 2022



Photo by Mary Jo Brooks

Organizers of this rally on the Colorado State Capitol steps said they wanted people to come out to show solidarity with Ukraine. “It’s not just the struggle of Ukrainian people. This is a struggle for all people. It’s a struggle of liberty over oppression,” said Alexi Drozd, a Ukrainian immigrant who lives in Arvada.

Whether it’s fundraisers at coffee shops, bars and churches or donations of medical supplies that fill giant cargo containers, Denver-area residents have opened their hearts and their wallets in hopes of easing the suffering in Ukraine. “We are all Ukrainians now. Everyone who feels our pain, who wants to help right now. We’re all Ukrainians,” says Irini Shatalov with Ukrainians of Colorado. *Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 8.*

Central Park PickleBRAWL



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Arslan Guney, on the right teaching two newcomers to play pickleball at the Central Park Rec Center, is at the center of a controversy regarding marking the floors for boundaries of pickleball courts that Denver Parks and Rec officials say is vandalism. *Story by Tracy Wolfer Osborne on page 14.*

DPS Board Restricts Innovation Schools



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

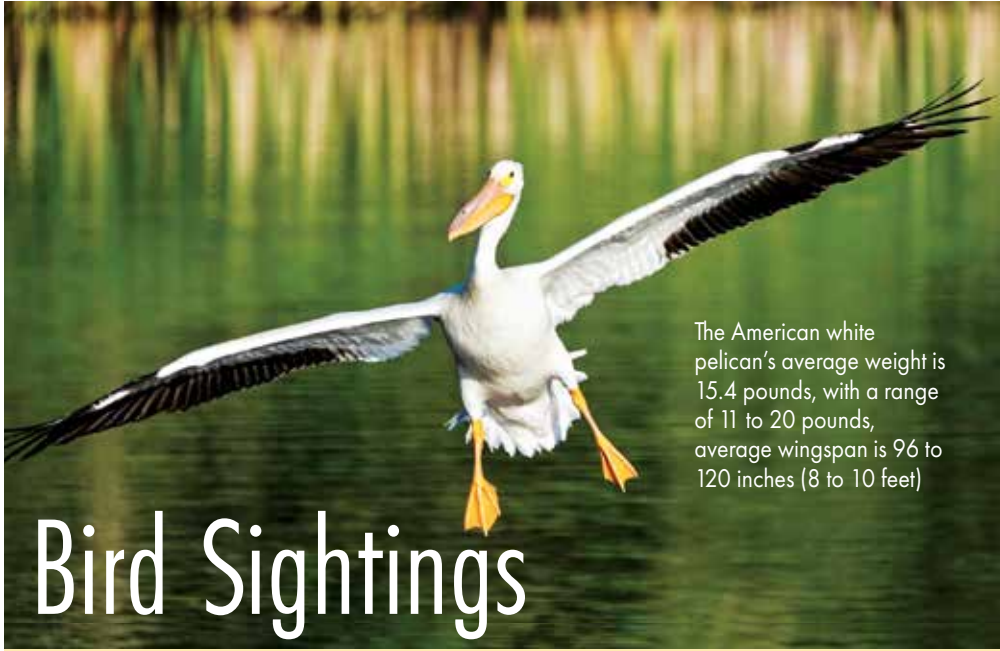
After listening to over a 100 community members, most of whom spoke passionately about the positive powers of innovation, the DPS Board voted to pass a controversial Executive Limitation that will provide protections to all licensed teachers while also limiting innovation practices.

Story on page 5 by Front Porch Staff.

The Marshall Fire Could it Happen Here?

Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 4.

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The American white pelican's average weight is 15.4 pounds, with a range of 11 to 20 pounds, average wingspan is 96 to 120 inches (8 to 10 feet)

Bird Sightings

American White Pelican

The American white pelican is a conspicuous all white bird with black coloration of the primary and secondary remiges, visible in flight. The large body size and the large yellow/orange bill (10 to 15 inches) and pouch give this bird a distinctive appearance. Its graceful flight—singularly or in flocks—and their cooperative foraging behavior make watching this bird mesmerizing. They are found in shallow inland marshes, lakes or rivers.



The pyrrhuloxia's average weight is 1.3 ounces, average wingspan is 11.25 inches

residential area near Lakewood. According to eBird.org, a website that records rare bird sightings, the pyrrhuloxia has been spotted in several southern Colorado counties including: Park, Las Aminos, La Plata and Prowers dating back to 1989. No previous sightings of this species have been reported in the Denver area.

The pyrrhuloxia, commonly referred to as the "desert cardinal" looks much like a northern cardinal but with a longer and thinner crest and more rounded yellowish bill. Plumage is mostly gray with red highlights on the face, crest, belly, wings and tail.

Photos and information by George Ho

Pyrrhuloxia

Pyrrhuloxia is a desert-dwelling cardinal who is a permanent resident of the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. It is not a known bird in the Denver area. One male, however, was sighted in February 2022 in a

Bird Walks April 2 and May 7, 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 use one of our pairs. 11255 MLK Blvd. BluffLake.org. Search FrontPorchNE.com for "Bird Sightings" to see all the past bird stories and photos from George Ho.

Front Porch

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The Marshall Fire

Could it Happen Here?

By Mary Jo Brooks

Last year's devastating Marshall fire, which raced across open-space grasslands and destroyed more than 1,000 homes in Boulder County, has led many homeowners to question whether a similar disaster could happen in Central Park. The Marshall fire, fueled by unusually dry weather and coupled with wind gusts over 100 miles per hour, quickly consumed the dense housing that surrounded the open space areas.

Sarah Metzger, with the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, said it was a perfect storm of conditions and—although extremely rare—could happen again.

“With those down-sloping winds, I’m not sure you could realistically combat that fire—even with all of the resources available. And therein lies the tragedy, knowing that there might not have been any way to have prevented this.”

The nearly 16,000-acre wildlife refuge is directly adjacent to densely-crowded homes in the northern part of Central Park. That wildland-urban interface, where housing and businesses intermingle with undeveloped lands, can pose unique risks for wildfire.

Metzger says the employees at the refuge take those risks very seriously. Half of the staff have firefighting training, a Type 6 wildland fire engine is kept on the property, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service keeps an inter-agency fire management team stationed at the refuge



Front porch photos by Christie Gosch

In many Central Park neighborhoods, close-knit homes are directly adjacent to open space grasslands. These wildland-urban interface areas pose unique risks for wildfire.

to respond to regional fires. In addition, the refuge follows a comprehensive land management plan that includes a variety of strategies including the removal of invasive grasses and prescribed burns to help reduce the fuel load. Metzger says the prescribed burns are one of the pillars of being a good community neighbor.



Land managers at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge use prescribed burns to eliminate fuel and prevent large wildfires. Photo courtesy of USFWS

“It wouldn’t be responsible of us to allow so much fuel to accumulate.”

The prescribed burns are usually conducted in early spring and are highly coordinated across several agencies to ensure public safety.

“A lot of

planning goes into these burns to make sure they’re conducted in a safe manner. Weather conditions have to be absolutely correct, and there can’t be too many clouds that would entrap smoke,” says Metzger.

But the wildlife refuge isn’t the only open space where fire is a concern. More than 1,000 acres of open grasslands snake through the Central Park neighborhood along Sand Creek and Westerly Creek. Those lands are managed by Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR), which does not conduct prescribed burns. Officials there declined to be interviewed for this story, but sent an email which said, “the majority of Denver is rated at ‘low’ to ‘no risk’ for wildland-urban interface fires. DPR has re-evaluated the open space management practices for the urban park system and confirmed, at this time, no changes are required regarding our current work plan and mowing procedures.”

Those procedures include: maintaining native grasses, managing noxious weeds and retaining taller grasses “that hold moisture in the soil and keep plants from becoming dry earlier in the season.” The department also provides outreach to residents on “best ecological practices by providing plant species recommendations and landscaping alternatives.”

The Denver Fire Department can also provide resources to homeowners about best ways to prevent wildfires in the wildland-urban interface. Captain Greg Pixley said trees

and bushes shouldn’t be planted next to houses, dead branches should regularly be removed, and limbs of evergreen trees should be cut at least six feet up from the ground. He also said it’s critical to keep roof gutters clean. “Gutters collect dry needles and leaves, and if an ember blows in, it can catch fire and quickly spread.”

Metzger agrees that residents have a big role to play and cited studies that show that the majority of wildfires since the mid-1990s have been caused by humans. She said people need to be responsible with barbecues and cigarettes and that people should avoid illegal fireworks and storing flammable items under decks or next to their house.

Fire captain, Pixley, says that just 25 days before the Marshall fire, residents of Northeast Denver had their own scare when a wildfire burned seven acres of open-space grasses in the Lowry neighborhood.

“Fortunately, fire crews were on the scene within five minutes and were able to surround it and put the fire out without any structures being affected. But this was a classic situation where things could have quickly gotten much worse.” The cause of that fire was never determined.

For more information wildfire preparedness visit https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/s/are-you-wildfire-ready?language=en_US

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DPS Board Votes to Restrict Innovation Schools



Board President, Xochitl 'Sochi' Gaytan, addressed her fellow board members and the viewing public before listening to public comments on March 24.

By Front Porch Staff

The Denver school board voted March 24 to implement new restrictions on the way that the district's innovation schools operate.

The board's 5-2 vote came after listening for several hours of comment over Zoom from dozens of parents, teachers and school leaders who overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal known as an Executive Limitation.

Some board members said that there was insufficient community engagement for such a move that has caused much division among school communities. More time is essential to ensure proper practices for innovation schools.

"It's about doing it right," said Michelle Quattlebaum who represents northeast Denver that has numerous innovation schools. "I don't have a yes, and I don't have a no."

Others said that the board needed to approve the measure and continue to work on innovation school issues. And they won.

"I want to do the work," Laurvick said. Voting for the measure were Scott Esserman, Brad Laurvick, Scott Balderman, Xochitl "Sochi" Gaytan and Carrie Olson. Voting against it

were Tay Anderson and Quattlebaum. Prior to Thursday's meeting the board had proposed to strip several key autonomies from district policies and teacher contract provisions that innovation schools enjoy.

That initial proposal was further pared down March 21 to simply take away the ability of innovation school principals to fire ineffective teachers without following the process spelled out in the collective bargaining agreement.

Nevertheless, because of the haste with which the proposal moved its eventual impact is still somewhat difficult to calculate at this point.

Board members have said the change was necessary to protect teacher rights that they believe can be violated by waivers given to innovation schools which

are district-run but with autonomy from some policies and portions of the contract. At least 60 percent of union members at a scwwhoool must vote in favor of any waivers.

The board's initial proposal had drawn strong opposition from school leaders, teachers and parents. A recent virtual town hall organized by innovation principals and attended

by board members attracted more than 900 people. Many attendees were from northeast Denver, home to 10 innovation schools. DPS has 52 innovation schools.

Kurt Dennis, executive principal of McAuliffe International middle school, says board decisions like this can turn principals from leaders into middle management.

"Coming out of the pandemic, our schools are facing unprecedented challenges," he said. "Our students are behind academically, and they are struggling with their mental health. Our teachers are overwhelmed and exhausted from picking up the slack."

"It astounds me that when faced with a crisis of this magnitude, the DCTA and the school board have chosen to make their highest priority eliminating school-level autonomies and ensuring that the least effective one percent of teachers keep their jobs."

The seven-member board all won their seats with the strong backing of the union, known as the Denver Classroom Teachers Association. They have reversed a number of reforms instituted by former superintendents and boards since the mid-2000s.

Like Dennis, parents wonder why this redo of innovation practices has come up. They consider their schools well-run where their children are getting a good education. As far as they know, staffs of their schools are not unhappy.

"Since 60 percent of the school's unionized teachers have to vote for innovation, isn't this proposal going against the expressed desire of the supermajority of teachers at those schools?" one meeting participant said.

Another parent said: "They don't care what parents have to say; the teacher's union is their priority. Why would we give the board more say over how our far-more-successful innovation schools are being run when they

have a horrible track record?" But some teachers say that they fear for their livelihoods if they don't have protections against firing without a process that the union contract provides.

"I love that we are going to protect teacher's rights across the district," a teacher at McAuliffe, who wished to remain anonymous, said in an interview. "Right now, I don't have that protection, and it makes me a little worried."

"I am fortunate that Kurt (Dennis) is a great leader, but not everybody who runs an innovation school is a great leader just like not everybody is a great teacher. We just want a more democratized work environment, so when we advocate, we're not at fear of losing

our jobs, our health insurance, our homes."

Since the board's plans were not based on student performance issues, many attendees wanted to know where it originated. Apparently, not from teachers. In a statement on his

website, board Vice President Tay Anderson said that the process was "flawed and rushed" and that the board "did not have any educators come to us highlighting a concerning pattern of innovation leaders working to erode their rights away from them." He added, "Our priorities must be centered on student achievement, not adult politics."

Innovation is not the enemy of teachers' rights, said Jennifer Anderson, principal at Grant Beacon Middle School.

"I was a DCTA union rep for seven years," she said. "I'm not against the DCTA or educator's rights. But I am in favor of innovation. These beliefs should not be at odds with one another."

"These limitations ask us to take a step backwards. We cannot tackle the future by what we did in the past."



Jen Anderson, Principal at Grant Beacon Middle School, spoke out against the EL at the March 9 meeting.



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Mamie Tissue, a clinician with the Mental Health Center of Denver, and her partner, Seth Humphreys, a Denver Health Paramedic discuss a call in their STAR van. They are one of eight STAR teams who respond to calls dealing with mental health issues, homelessness, poverty and substance abuse.

Sending Mental Health

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

Denver's program that sends mental health pros instead of police on 911 calls is expanding after proving itself a big success.

The STAR program (Support Team Assisted Response), launched in June of 2020, currently has three vans and eight teams that run from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Each team consists of an EMT and a mental health clinician. By August of this year, STAR plans to increase to 10 teams and five vans.

Unlike police who must look at things through a law-enforcement lens, STAR is not punitive. According to Joy Meadows, a public relations specialist for the Denver Department of Public

Health and Environment that oversees STAR, of the almost 3,000 calls they've responded to since June 2020, none has resulted in injury or arrest. STAR has never needed to call the police for backup.

Although officially born during the defund-the-police movement of 2020, the idea for STAR came years before, and the program has never siphoned money from the police. The pilot for STAR was funded through Caring for Denver, a taxpayer-funded foundation that combats mental health issues and substance misuse. STAR's expansion is funded through the city's general fund and Caring for Denver.

Denver Police Chief, Paul Pazen, is fond of the program that he helped

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launch. He said the police have more than enough work fighting violence and property crime and maintaining traffic safety. STAR provides needed relief to DPD to confront those more serious criminal—not mental health—issues.

Early on, programs like STAR faced skepticism. Critics said sending mental health professionals instead of police was akin to bringing a knife to a gunfight. But STAR doesn't go to gunfights or knife fights for that matter.

Most of STAR's calls involve trespass or an unwanted person; all of them involve elements of mental health, homelessness, poverty and substance abuse.

According to Meadows, approximately 30 percent of STAR's calls are initiated by police who arrive first on the scene, assess the situation and then determine STAR is more appropriate to handle the call.

STAR teams arrive in an unmarked van wearing plain clothes. "It's disarming," Meadows said. "We're like, 'Hey, how are you? How can we help you today?' We're armed with granola bars, sanitary napkins, water, first-aid."

A recent, typical call involved a belligerent man outside a 7-Eleven store. "He was upset because he was unhoused, had lost his ID," Meadows said. "So we connected him with peo-

ple who got him a new ID."

"A lot of times it's just about problem-solving through things, removing the roadblocks that are in people's way," said Meadows.

Before STAR, 911 calls were routed to either the police, EMTs or a fire station. People in crisis often ended up in jail or the emergency room that are places ill-equipped to assist them.

"That's not good," Meadows said. "You're already not in the right frame of mind and now you're sitting in the chaotic ER waiting room."

"And what can they do for you? Give you some medication and then send you back to your tent. That's not a solution."

Stephanie Van Jacob, the program manager who oversees the mental health clinicians, said STAR has full discretion and creativity to resolve calls any way they see fit.

"There are no restrictions on where we can transport someone," Van Jacob said. "If people have fallen out of the system, we'll reconnect them to their social worker."

We get calls from the VA, too, asking if we've seen certain people.

"We'll give rides to homeless shelters, relative's houses, anywhere we can connect people to the help they need," she said. "We drop a lot of people off at the Behavioral Health Solutions Center."

The Behavioral Health Solutions Center, which opened last year, is run by the same mental health agency that

"A lot of times it's just about problem-solving through things, removing the roadblocks that are in people's way,"

—Joy Meadows, public relations specialist for Denver's health department



Tissue and Humphreys use a stand-in to demonstrate how they use de-escalation techniques to calm a person down. The STAR teams help problem-solve through issues and connect people to support, often giving them rides to a relative's house, a homeless shelter or the Behavioral Health Solutions Center.

runs STAR. It offers a crisis stabilization clinic which allows people to stay for five days and a transitional shelter which allows people to stay for 30 days. Services include private bedrooms, meals, inpatient and out-patient treatment, transportation and transitional support to community living including help with job and housing security.

STAR is a partnership between the Mental Health Center of Denver, Denver Police Department, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment and other community organizations. To learn more about STAR go to www.mhcd.org/behavioral-health-solutions-center. To learn more about the Behavioral Health Solutions Center go to www.mhcd.org/star-program.



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More than 100 people attended a rally at the Colorado State Capitol in early March, calling for the United States to provide more military support for Ukraine.

How Coloradans are “We Are

Ukraine restoring electricity for the homes and businesses that have lost power because of the fighting.

With her brother serving as an interpreter, Tetiana said she is horrified by the violent war being waged against her country.

“I understand that war is war, and soldiers kill soldiers,” she said. “But now civilians are being killed. Children are being killed.”

She starts to cry as she continues. “Putin is trying to kill the Ukrainian nationality so that it doesn’t exist anymore.”

Like many of the 11,000 Ukrainian immigrants who live in Colorado, the Khmils have been very involved in the logistics of raising money and medical supplies to send to Ukraine. Daughter Anna held a fundraiser at a downtown Denver bar and raised \$22,000 in just four hours.

Larisa says many of her dental patients have written checks for thousands of dollars. “The generosity has been overwhelming.”

The Khmils have been sending some money and supplies directly to friends and organizations back in Ukraine, like for a fellow dentist who converted his office into a kitchen to cook for children and families. Most of the donations, however, will be bundled into a larger relief effort.

The Khmil’s dental clinic is one of the drop-off sites used by the non-profit group Ukrainians of Colorado to collect medical supplies. That organization partners with the humanitarian organization Project C.U.R.E., headquartered in Centennial, to send large shipping

By Mary Jo Brooks

For the past month, Larisa and Viktor Khmil have spent their weekends sorting through hundreds of boxes of donated medical supplies, preparing them to ship to Ukraine.

It’s just one of many volunteer efforts in the Denver area to aid the citizens of the war-torn country. But for the Khmils, this effort is very personal. Twenty years ago, they emigrated with their two young daughters from Ukraine to the U.S. in search of a better life, eventually settling down in Aurora where Larisa and daughter Anna established the Alameda Dental practice on Alameda Avenue east of I-225.

Viktor says he still can’t quite believe the horrific footage he’s been watching since Russia invaded his homeland. He kept in constant contact with his

mother and his sister Tetiana, who live in Poltava, the town where he grew up in central Ukraine.

“We didn’t really think it would happen, and we didn’t think it would

getting worse.”

Tetiana has since left Ukraine with their mother while saying goodbye to her husband and two stepsons, who stayed behind to help defend the country.

“We didn’t really think it would happen and we didn’t think it would escalate like this.”

—Viktor Khmil, Ukrainian immigrant who lives in Aurora

It took five days for the two women to make their way to Aurora.

“It was, of course, very difficult for her to leave everything behind like that, but her husband says it’s better that they’re here with us in the U.S.,” Victor said. “This way, he doesn’t worry about them and can spend all of his time working to help the people of Ukraine.”

Tetiana’s husband, who is an electrical engineer, spends long hours in

escalate like this,” he said. “They were having to run to the bomb shelters two or three times a night. Conditions kept

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containers of supplies to Ukraine. One of those containers arrived in Ukraine in mid-March. Another is expected to arrive at the beginning of April.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, Irina Shatalov with Ukrainians of Colorado was overseeing 25 volunteers who were moving boxes of donated goods to a larger warehouse. She, too, says she's so grateful for the generosity that many Coloradans have shown.

"We are all Ukrainians right now," she said. "Everyone who feels our pain, who wants to help us."

That sentiment is exactly why Alexi Drozd coordinated a large rally of support on the steps of the state capitol in March.

"It's not just the struggle of Ukrainian people," he said. "This is a struggle for all people. It's a struggle of liberty over oppression."

More than 100 people joined Drozd with Ukrainian flags and signs that called on the U.S. government to enforce a no-fly zone. Drozd, who came to the U.S. in 2004 when he was 12, says he hopes rallies like that help educate people.

"Our soldiers are very brave and are standing their ground, but our air defenses are not where they need to be. We're not able to stop the Russian planes from bombing."

Colorado law enforcement agencies have joined together to aid the Ukraine war effort, collecting and shipping more than 1,000 ballistic helmets and 840 sets of surplus body armor to Ukraine.

Numerous coffee shops across the metro area have also held fundraisers. The proceeds will go to the International Committee of the Red Cross to be used in Ukraine. Dazbog coffee, which was founded by a family that fled Russia in 1979, is donating \$3 from every bag of its Svoboda "Freedom" blend.

In Park Hill, the Long Table Brewhouse, 2895 Fairfax St, is brewing a golden ale using a Ukrainian beer recipe. The beer should be available mid-April, both on tap and in cans, with proceeds going to Ukraine relief efforts. On April 5 at 7 p.m., Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., will hold a "Harmonies of Hope, Lyrics

of Light" concert to show solidarity with the millions of people who have been displaced by the war. A free-will offering will be collected for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund's efforts to help Ukrainian refugees.

For more information about how you can help, consult the following websites.

<https://www.ukrainiansof-colorado.org/>

<https://projectcure.org/>

<https://www.icrc.org/en>



Tetiana Khmil fled Ukraine in mid-March and is now living with her brother Viktor in Aurora. The two recently sorted donated medical supplies that will be sent to Ukraine by Project C.U.R.E

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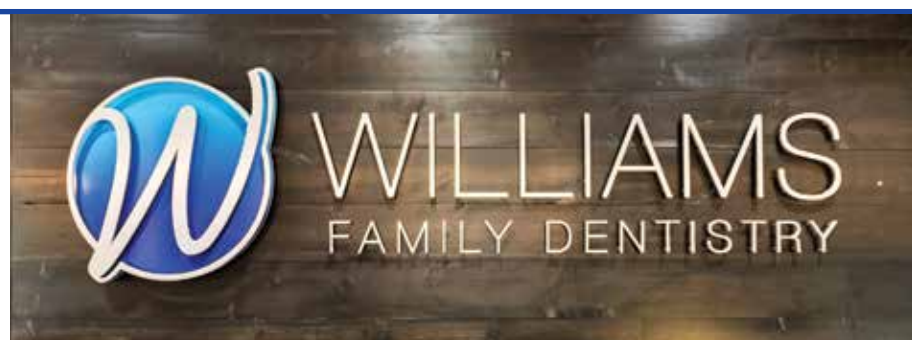
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NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

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

4/2 & 4/30—No Strings Attached Book Chat. 11am–12:30pm. Ages 18+. Share a recent read, an old favorite, or anything in between. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

4/12 & 4/19—In-person Memory Café. 1:30–3pm. For people experiencing memory loss and their families/caregivers. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

4/27 Wednesday—Meet the Author of a True Crime Memoir. 4–5pm. Colorado author Jamie Gehring shares her new memoir *Madman in the Woods: Life Next Door to the Unabomber*. Registration required. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

4/30 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

METRO EVENTS

4/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa. 5:30–9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

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

4/8 to 4/10—RMGM Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show. 10am–6pm Fri & Sat, and 10am–5pm Sun. Free parking and admission. 15500 E 40th Ave, rmgmpromotions.com

4/9 Saturday—Bowl-a-thon for Sunday Sundae. Help us make 200 bowls for our summer ice cream social & fundraiser. Free event. Art Stu-

dents League of Denver, 200 Grant St. asld.org

4/12 Tuesday—Spring Brass Ring Luncheon & Fashion Show. Featuring designer Lourdes Chavez. Benefiting The Guild of the Children's Diabetes Foundation at the Hilton Denver City Center. 1701 California St. childrensdiabetesfoundation.org

4/15 Friday—The Year of Lincoln Hills: documentary by donnie I. betts. 28-minute documentary film screening followed by a Q & A with donnie. 6pm. 1200 N Broadway. Free, tickets at historycolorado.org

4/19 Tuesday—Denver Labor History Walking Tour. 10–11:30am. Explore the hidden history of labor activism and solidarity in Denver. 1200 N Broadway. Tickets at historycolorado.org

4/22 Friday—Bold Women. Change History. The Summit. Women leaders, from many fields, share how they show up, create, disrupt, and transform our communities.. 9am–4pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. Tickets at H-co.org/BoldWomen

4/23 Saturday—YouthBiz Spring Marketplace. Find unique gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, graduation, showers, and more. 3550 E. 1st Ave. yacenter.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—Mornings at the Museum. Ages 3–6, 10:30–11:15am. Free. New programs every week. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. Register at auroragov.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

Wednesdays—Preschool Storytime at Pauline Robinson Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 3–5 years. 5575 E. 33rd Ave. 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—Toddler Storytime at Park Hill Library. 10:30–11am. Ages 18–36 months. Registration required., 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

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

4/9 Saturday—Musical Storytime: Free Admission for All. "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" and "Tortoise and the Hare" are set to music with narration. 2pm and 3:30pm. Front Range Chamber

Players. Montview Presbyterian Church. 1980 Dahlia St. frontrangechamberplayers.org

4/16 Saturday—LEGO Building Workshop: Mining Team 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

4/17 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids. 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. Stanleymarketplace.com

4/24 Sunday—Día del Niño Celebration at the Denver Art Museum. Free general admission all day and special performances and activities. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy, denverartmuseum.org

4/24 Sunday—El Día del Niño/The Day of The Child. One of the year's most exciting and vibrant events at the beautiful History Colorado Center. Free admission all day. 1200 N Broadway. historycolorado.org



Día del Niño Celebration at the Denver Art Museum on April 24th.

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. By reservation only at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Apr. 24. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day Apr. 12 & Apr. 24 (Día del Niño.) Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens. SCFD Free Day Apr. 21. 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 Day May 1. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. dmns.org

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Denver Zoo. SCFD Free Day Apr. 10. 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 Apr. 8. 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

4/2 Saturday—Amber Waves with Winds. Free community concert featuring the United States Air Force Academy Winds and Rockies Clarinet Quartet. 7–8:30pm. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. augustanaarts.org

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

4/2 to 5/19—Stick Fly. What should be a relaxing summer weekend on Martha’s Vineyard goes south when the LeVay brothers bring new girlfriends home. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. arvadacenter.org

4/6 Wednesday—Quatuor Ébène. Performing Brahms, Mozart, and Shostakovich. 7:30pm. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. friendsofchambermusic.com

4/8 Friday—New Morse Code. Alluring and uncommon combination of cello and percussion. Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 East Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

4/8 Friday—David Starr. Starr features a new digital single release every month for one year. 8pm, doors open at 7pm. Tuft Theatre, 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

4/8 to 4/30—♥ Richard. A comedy about Richard III enthusiasts, Victorian undergarments, and the lying liars that make theater. Buntport Theater, 717 Lipan St. buntport.com

Through 4/9—Refuge. Weaving original music with artistic puppetry to share a bilingual tale. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org

4/9 to 5/7—Flyin’ West. Following the Civil War, many former slaves, went west to take advantage of The Homestead Act. The John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. firehousetheatercompany.com

Through 4/10—Tootsie. Michael Dorsey’s show-stopping act of desperation lands him the role of a lifetime. Buell Theatre. denvercenter.org

Through 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

4/13 Wednesday—Fairview - a Free Community Night. A staged reading of the Pulitzer prize-winning play, followed by a community conversation. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

4/15 to 4/17—Jersey Boys. Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony and Grammy Award®-winning true-life musical. Buell Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

4/15 to 4/23—Colorado Ballet Presents Ballet MasterWorks. Our season crescendos to a mesmerizing close with a compilation of unique works. Ellie Caulkins Opera House (14th & Curtis) coloradoballet.org

4/15 to 5/22—The One-Act Play That Goes WRONG. There has been an untimely death at a country manor and everyone is a suspect. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. Vintagetheatre.org

Through 4/17—Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. The Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Tennessee Williams. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. Vintagetheatre.org

Apr. 22 to May 29—Choir Boy. Despite embodying the strong morals his school promotes, being gay has made Pharos an outsider. Kilstrom Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

4/23 Saturday—Synergy of Stratus II: For the Love of Music. Exciting works by Vaughan Williams, Beethoven, Rand, and Haydn. 7:30–9pm Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. augustanaarts.org

4/23 Saturday—One Epic Night. Swallow Hill’s annual fundraising event filled with music, dancing, food, and drinks. Live performances, on three stages, will feature 12 local bands. 6–10pm. 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

4/24 Sunday—Lift Every Voice, Free. Family-friendly concert featuring guest artists Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Fiesta Colorado Dance Company, and spoken word poet Frankie Le’Troy. 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$15. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.org

4/29 to 5/22—Disney’s Freaky Friday the Musical. An overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies and have one day to put things right. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

4/30 to 5/28—Fireflies. A church bombing has shaken the Civil Rights Movement to its core. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org

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

5/6 Friday—Colorado Wind Ensemble. Family-friendly concert with music including themes from blockbuster movies like Star Wars, E.T., and Schindler’s List. 7:30pm. The King Center Concert Hall, 855 Lawrence Way. coloradowindensemble.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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One of the most satisfying aspects of my teaching is when I get to introduce students to unknown cultures and/or current events through the cinema. I have taught films from all over the world, and they always illuminate something special about the world we are observing. That same beauty is available to all of us, and I wish to share some of it with you this month. I give short reviews of two very different films that tell us a bit about Ukraine. Please enjoy, and perhaps, learn.

Winter of Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom (2015—Ukraine)

This award-winning documentary tells the story of the 2014 Ukrainian uprising that removed then-Russian-puppet-President Viktor Yanukovich. The fight was brutal, ugly, deadly, and fierce, and the documentary pulls no punches; be warned: it is not easy viewing. Director Evgeny Afineevsky was on the ground with a large camera crew following several different stories and individuals over the four-month standoff between the diverse group of students, intellectual, *babushkas*, and ex-military men and women fighting against the well-organized and brutal state police force.

The film uses actual footage of those demonstrations that started in November 2013 when Yanukovich reneged on his promises to join the EU and instead signaled that Ukraine would align itself with Russia. In response to the Kyiv uprising, Russia invaded and then annexed Crimea in 2014 and invaded the eastern, Donbas region of Ukraine in 2014 as well. All of these events, of course, were precursors to the current Russian invasion of all Ukraine.

Organized around the stories of actual participants, the film gives a clear, chronological overview of what is now known as the Revolution of Dignity,

or the Maidan Revolution (named for the “Independence Square” in Kyiv). The participants look back upon the events and serve as narrators while events unfold on screen. We see the success, but we also see the price of that success in stark and vivid display. Also on display is the steely nerve and the courage of regular Ukrainians. The current situation in Ukraine should be slightly clearer, and certainly more heartbreaking, after screening this illuminating documentary.

You will like this movie if you appreciated *Burma VJ*, *The Square*, and/or *No Stone Unturned*. Available on Netflix.

Atlantis (2019—Ukraine)

This dystopian film is set in 2025 Ukraine after the “war with Russia” is over. Whether director Valentyn Vasayanovych meant it to depict the aftermath of the continuing conflicts in Eastern Ukraine or was simply prescient about the current war is an open question. What is not up for debate is how the film shows the horrid after-effects of a devastating war: on the landscapes, on the buildings, on the people, and on the entire ecosystem. Vasayanovych masterfully gives us an episodic view of this brutal landscape and how the resilient people continue to wade through it. Knowing what we know now, it is particularly painful. Life is now imitating art.

Vasayanovych uses a very expressive filming technique: a static medium-shot in long take that allows us to sit with an image or a scene. The lack of editing can be disturbing and/or illuminating but it is always contemplative, and it makes us focus our attention on all of the details. It might be something dark, such as a smelting plant where we see a tragic event; or extremely visceral, as when we see mass graves uncovered; or just plain comical, as when we see the main character take a warm bath in the most curious location possible.



The story is simple: a man tries to find meaning and purpose in this difficult world. He befriends a woman who works as a volunteer locating bodies; she then brings them “home” for a proper goodbye/burial. He joins the cause. The acting is as superb as the cinematography and staging are remarkable. This is a difficult watch, but it pays off with a poignant burst of humanity. We can only hope for that in our own reality.

You will enjoy this film if you liked *The Road*, *The Book of Eli*, and/or *Children of Men*. Available on demand.

Finally, I want to make you aware of a wonderful annual event: the Women + Film Festival from April 5–10 at the Sie Film Center. About the Festival, the Film Society notes “The April 5 Opening Night presentation of the documentary *Fire of Love*, a riveting retrospective following the love story of scientists Katia and Maurice Krafit and their unwavering passion for deciphering the mysteries of volcanoes. The Closing Night presentation is the animated biopic *Charlotte*, a soulful retelling of the life of a prolific German-Jewish painter, Charlotte Salomon, coming of age during the Second World War.” For the schedule and more information, go to www.denverfilm.org.

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 Front Porch staff

1 Central Park Cub Scouts Scrub Graffiti and are Available for Other Service Projects

Cub Scout Pack 8023 took it upon themselves to scrub graffiti from the sidewalk trails north of Beeler Park. The Cub pack covers the Northfield area of Central Park and boasts approximately 70 kids. The graffiti-scrubbers are Wolf Cubs, mostly second-graders, who belong to Den 6. Scrubbing graffiti was just one of several service projects they'll complete throughout the year to earn their wolf badge. Den Leader, Rami Touma, says they're always looking for ways to give back to the community and are happy to clean other areas. For more information visit their Facebook page or contact Rami at ramitouma@gmail.com



Cub Scout Pack 8023 posing while scrubbing graffiti off of sidewalks on the trails north of Beeler Park. Photo courtesy of Rami Touma

2 Court Dismisses Lawsuit by Opposition to Developing Park Hill Golf Course

A lawsuit against the city of Denver by Save Open Space Denver over the development of the former Park Hill Golf Course has been dismissed by Denver District Court Judge Ross B.H. Buchanan. The lawsuit sought to stop the city's Community Planning and Development department from engaging the public in a planning process for the future of the 155-acre site. It argued that the city was wrongfully using taxpayer money to fund a planning process that violates a taxpayer-funded conservation easement on the land that stretches northeast from 35th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. The court dismissed the case saying that the plaintiffs lacked standing to pursue the lawsuit, and even if they did have standing, they wouldn't be entitled to the relief they requested. Save Open Space Denver is a grassroots community group focused on the future of the old golf course.



Westside Investment Partners bought the land in 2019 and wants to build a mixed-use development with housing, retail and some open space. The easement calls for the land to be protected as a golf course which is potentially a big roadblock for Westside.

3 Clark's Market Breaks Ground in Lowry

Construction on a ninth Clark's Market has begun in Lowry. The mountain-town grocers, which features natural, organic and gourmet products, will be located at Lowry Boulevard and Pontiac Street. The store will feature a bakery, meat department, deli, fish-on-ice table, stone-fired pizza, Italian gelato wheel, wine and liquor store on site, as well as a community gathering space with beer on tap. www.clarksmarket.com Partners Confluent Development and Kelmor Development celebrated the groundbreaking with a commemorative shovel toss on Feb. 24. Completion is slated for early 2023.



4 Annette Owner Snags Another James Beard Nomination

Caroline Glover, the chef and owner of Annette at Stanley Marketplace, is again a finalist for a James Beard Award. She was a semifinalist in 2018 and 2019 and was nominated in 2020. She and four other Colorado chefs earned all five nominations in the Best Chef, Mountain category which includes Utah, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. The other four Colorado nominees:



File photo by Steve Larson

- Jose Avila of El Borrego Negro in Denver
- Cody Cheetham of Tavernetta in Denver
- Dana Rodriguez of Work & Class in Denver
- Eric Skokan of Black Cat Farm Table Bistro in Boulder

According to the James Beard Foundation, the awards "recognize exceptional talent and achievement in the culinary arts, hospitality, media and broader food system, as well as a demonstrated commitment to racial and gender equity, community, sustainability and a culture where all can thrive." James Beard (1903-1985) was an American chef, cookbook author, teacher and television personality. He pioneered television cooking shows, lectured widely and taught at The James Beard Cooking School in New York and Seaside, Ore.; he was born in Portland. He emphasized American cooking, prepared with fresh, wholesome, American ingredients, to a country just becoming aware of its own culinary heritage. Beard taught and mentored generations of professional chefs and food enthusiasts. He published more than twenty books.

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Central Park PickleBRAWL

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

On March 14, Arslan Guney, 71, was doing what he loves—playing pickleball and teaching newbies how to play at the Central Park Rec Center.

Twenty-four hours later, the rec center canceled all pickleball, revoked Guney’s membership to all city rec centers and filed felony criminal mischief charges against him for \$10,000 in damages, a crime that carries up to three years in prison.

The Central Park Rec Center re-summed pickleball on March 23.

On March 24, Guney turned himself into the Denver Police Department and was booked into the Denver County Detention Facility. He was released a few hours later on his own recognizance. At the time *Front Porch* went to print on March 24, it wasn’t known whether District Attorney Beth McCann would file criminal charges.

The dispute erupted on March 14 after Guney refreshed 45 small X marks that had been drawn by the staff in fall 2021 to show where temporary, L-shaped markers should be placed to delineate pickleball boundaries on the court.

Guney started communicating with rec staff in late January about improving the pickleball experience at Central Park. He contacted the Deputy Executive Director, John Martinez, asking for permanent pickleball lines. In a cordial email, he said that the L-shaped yellow markers the players use are dangerous; they don’t stay in place and curl up at the ends posing a tripping-hazard for the players, many of whom are older.

Martinez—also cordial—responded that they avoid taped lines because it deteriorates and damages the floor. He said another reason for not painting extra lines is that the primary use of the gym is for basketball and volleyball, and adding extra lines might create confusion and errors for those athletes. He said that the floor was refinished in 2020 with two additional coats added in 2021 and was not scheduled to be redone for at least another five years. He also said that the safety director believed the L-shaped markers to be a safe option.

On March 9, Central Park pickleball players, including Guney, met with Martinez and two other parks and rec officials, Seth Howsden and Elizabeth Supple, to discuss a

possible solution for the pickleball-line problem. According to follow-up emails, it seemed to go well.

Guney sent an email to Martinez thanking the rec staff for their time. He called the meeting “productive” and said he felt “encouraged” by the rec staff’s “commitment to pickleball.” He wrote, in part, “The results of our meeting include the following: Mr. Howsden is going to look into any viable options to add pickleball lines to the Central Park Rec Center, Ms. Supple is going to assess expanding the hours of the current

pickleball program throughout the spring and summer and Arslan Guney will provide drawings for the pickleball nets and strips set-up locations to Ms. Supple.”

Sidenote: What Guney calls “strips” in the previous paragraph, we have called “L-shaped markers.”

Howsden responded with an email saying, “It was a pleasure to meet you and your fellow pickleball aficionados” and that he would schedule time in the future to discuss their progress.

On March 14, Guney and approximately 20 other pickleballers played at the center. After they finished, Guney re-examined the staff’s pre-existing X marks to prepare to draw the diagram of the court he promised the staff. Guney’s attorney, Hollynd Hoskins, said that the staff’s markings from the fall had faded and were confusing. So Guney borrowed a marker from the front desk, refreshed and drew boxes around some of the existing Xs and added a few more.

Forty-five marks total.

On March 15, the rec center put a sign on the door suspending all pickleball until further notice and sent Guney a letter saying his membership to all facilities had been revoked. The notice said in part, “There are 45 marks on the basketball court which cannot be removed without degrading the finish on the basketball court. The basketball court will have to be completely refinished to remove the marks made by Mr. Guney with a permanent marker. The estimated cost for this is \$10,000. The letter was signed by Martinez and Howsden.

On March 16, Guney sent an email to Martinez and Howsden saying he’d been contacted by the Denver Police Department and was “shocked and saddened” to learn they were accusing him of vandalism. He said, “I am not a criminal. I am a 71-year-old retiree, and I have never damaged anything in my life.” He added, “The detective recommended



Several dozen marks like this, approximately 2” square, are all over the gym floor at the Central Park Rec Center.



A sign on the gym door announcing cancellation of pickleball which lasted from March 14 until the parks dept. resumed it March 23.



Arslan Guney, left, giving free lessons to a new pickleball player in February.

I talk to you about this issue to get it resolved between us as soon as possible.”

Central Park Rec Center never responded. Guney’s attorney, Hoskins, said, “Mr. Guney acknowledges this was an honest mistake and he should have consulted with the supervisor before; however, at the time he fully believed he was acting with the consent and at the request and direction of the Denver Parks and Rec (DPR) staff. His markings are small, inconspicuous and have not damaged or destroyed the gym floor. Furthermore, these markings do not interfere with activity at the gym. Finally, these markings could be removed from the center at a nominal cost.”

Guney tried reaching out to the rec center staff again through his attorney. Hoskinsw said they were willing to pay reasonable damages and wanted to provide free pickleball lessons to at-risk kids at any Denver Parks and Rec facility.

In the arrest affidavit, Martinez said: “We want to move forward with charges as his actions caused significant damage to the gym floor and will cost the city thousands of dollars to repair.” He also said in the March 9 meeting that he made it very clear permanent lines would not be added for pickleball.

In a separate statement, Cyndi Karvaski, a media relations person for DPR said, “It is our duty and responsibility to the citizens of Denver to protect city assets and public property. Defacing or damaging public property is unacceptable, a criminal offense and will not be tolerated in any of our public buildings or spaces.”

For updates on this story, go to www.frontporchne.com.



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Welcome to Holy Week and Easter at Augustana!

April 10 Palm Sunday Worship 8 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.	April 14 Maundy Thursday Worship 11 a.m. • 7 p.m.	April 15 Good Friday Worship Noon • 7 p.m.	April 17 Easter Worship 8 a.m. • 9:30 a.m. • 11 a.m.
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April 2022

14

Front Porch – NE Denver

NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION APRIL 2022



ANNUAL EGG SCRAMBLE

*Saturday, April 9th, 10am,
Runway 35 Park*

Join the MCA at Runway 35 Park on Saturday, April 9th for a hopping good time!

The Annual Egg Scramble will begin at 10:00am with the first scramble starting at 10:15am. The first scramble is for children ages 0-5 (parents are allowed in the scramble area). The second scramble will begin at 10:30 and is for the age group 6 and older (parents are not allowed in the scramble area for this age group).

Make sure to bring your own basket to collect eggs!

In addition to the scramble there will also be sponsor booths with goodies, a magician, a balloon artist, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, food trucks and a Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar for the adults. This event is free and open to the public!

RESIDENT POOL MEMBERSHIPS/ ACTIVE PASS

April showers bring May splashes! Central Park pools will open for the 2022 season over Memorial Day weekend! Central Park residents with an ActiveNet account are eligible to purchase pool memberships. Begin by logging into your ActiveNet account from our website, MCA80238.com, and click "My ActiveNet" at the top of the page. Once logged in, select the memberships tab. Once memberships have been purchased, we have two options for pool entry:

- The **MY MCA** app is available in the iTunes and Google play stores. Your app conveniently holds your pool membership, lists pool schedules, and allows you to access lap lane reservations! For easy check in, as long as an adult membership can be shown in the app the front desk staff will be able to check-in all current Active Pass holders in the household.
- If you have purchased your membership and would like to have a physical Active Pass card, you may have one printed at the MCA front desk!

Important Dates:

Tuesday, April 5 @ 6pm –New-to-swim team parent meeting
Wednesday, April 6 @ noon –Swim team registration opens
Wednesday, April 13 @ noon –Resident group lesson registration opens
Sunday, May 1 @ noon –Pool reservations and party pads available



MCA FRONT DESK

Need in-person assistance? Our front desk staff is here to help!

Beginning April 4, 2022, our front desk location at The Cube (8371 E Northfield Blvd.) will be open weekdays from 10am to 4pm. For the most up-to-date information on front desk hours and locations please visit www.bit.ly/mcahours.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Growing season is upon us! Are you interested in testing out your green thumb? The MCA manages 30 Garden Plots in the North Central Park Neighborhood. The plots are located at Spinning Spokes Park (located in the alley between Yosemite Ct and Akron St) and Green Links Park (Located at 50th Drive and Stoll Place).

Visit our website for more information and to fill out an application for a garden plot! www.bit.ly/mcagardens

Jennifer Olsen | Communications Manager | Jolsen@mca80238.com

ACTIVE MINDS: THE AGE OF VIKINGS

Thursday, April 14th , 1–2pm. Online

Join Active Minds as we trace the rise and fall of the Age of the Vikings. We will describe their origins in Scandinavia and how they extended their reach into Europe, North America, and beyond. We will explain the culture and traditions of the Norse Warriors, including their distinctive horned helmets and unique ships. Finally, we will discuss their legacy in modern times (besides the football team).

ACTIVE MINDS: HONG KONG

*Thursday, April 28th , 6:30–7:30pm,
Online*

Once a British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997. Recently, Hong Kong has erupted into violent conflict between the Chinese government and protesters objecting to increased government controls. Join Active Minds as we tell the story of Hong Kong, past, present, and future.

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



Visit our website!

mca
CENTRAL PARK



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

APRIL CPUN SPOT

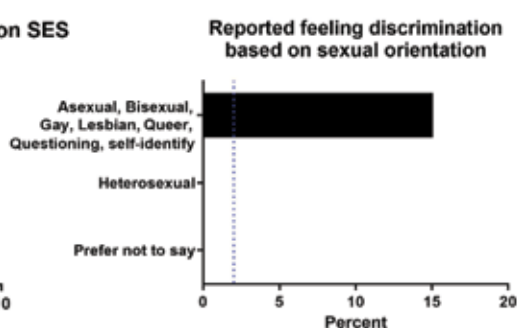
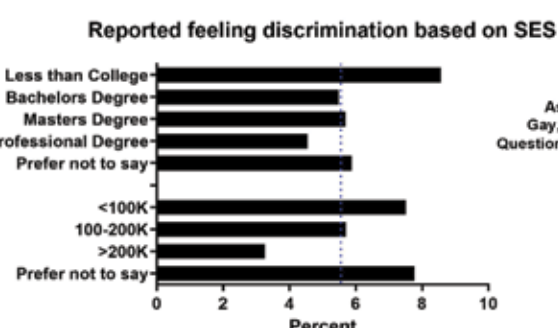
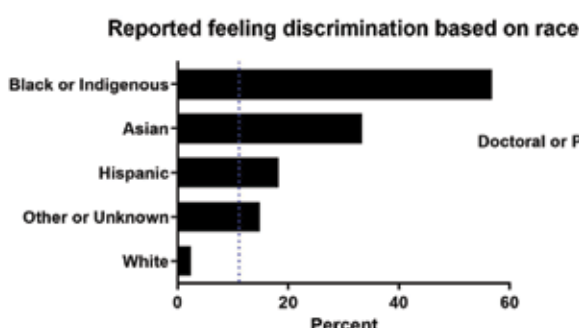
Central Park United Neighbors (CPUN) is the registered neighborhood organization for the Central Park community. Our mission is to work for the betterment of Central Park by providing a forum for residents to discuss and resolve issues, a network of communication, and a means of acting on

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

SELECT DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION SURVEY RESULTS

At our March community meeting, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee presented some results from the DEI community survey conducted from Aug–Sep, 2021. One of the goals of the survey was to identify strengths and challenges related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in Central Park. We looked at respondents' feelings of discrimination

around (a) race/ethnicity, (b) sexual orientation, and (c) socioeconomic status (SES) to gauge how welcome or included they feel in Central Park. Each figure plots feelings of discrimination reported by specific groups of respondents (black horizontal bars) against the community-wide average among respondents (dotted vertical line).



The DEI committee will use these findings to shape our 2022 goals and projects going forward. If you'd like to get involved or have questions/comments to share, email them to DEIcommittee@CentralParkUnitedNeighbors.com. We want to hear from you!

Want to help make Central Park a better place to live & work?

JOIN THE CPUN BOARD!

Info & application:
bit.ly/cpunboard

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 www.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 www.centralparkunitedneighbors.com/join.



Awards & Community Celebration

The 12th Annual be well Awards and Community Celebration | April 28, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Thriving in a Pandemic | Hosted by Shed G.

Join us for a 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.

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.

April 28, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
The Hangar @ Stanley Market Place

bewellconnect.org
303-468-3239



MONTHLY BIRD WALK

Saturday, April 2, 8–10am
FREE - RSVP to George Ho: hogeorge@yahoo.com.
Join our birding experts on a walk around Bluff Lake!

Bird walks take place on the first Saturday of each month. We will bird in groups of 10 or less (multiple groups if necessary). Next walk will be May 7.



NORTHEAST TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

We continue to work with Central Park businesses to get people using RTD, including the A Line at Central Park Station.

We're working with developers in Central Park to help them find alternative transportation solutions for their future residents, ensuring fewer new cars will be coming into the area.

Stakeholder groups and community meetings have started for the Quebec Street (Montview Blvd. to 12th Ave.) pedestrian and bus stop improvement project. You can get involved here: bit.ly/quebec17thsidewalks

Contact EHerbst@NEtransportation.org for more.