

# Front Porch

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DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

JANUARY 2023

## CSU Spurs Growth...



...at *The National Western Complex*

Colorado State University Professor David G. Holm helped lead a workshop at a recent Second Saturday event at the CSU Spur campus in north Denver. Here visitors are learning about ways scientists are breeding new potato varieties so they have a longer shelf life.

Just in time for the 2023 National Western Stock Show, CSU Spur is about to open its third new building at the National Western Complex. The Hydro building will focus on water quality, science, and conservation. It joins two other buildings that opened in the past year, Terra and Vida, which focus on agriculture and the connection between animal and human health. All of the buildings are free and open to the public. They also offer field trips and family-oriented demonstration days. *Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 6.*

## Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith for the Fellas



Regardless of the weather, the men of F3—which stands for Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith—gather in Central Park each Tuesday morning for an intense early workout. Exercise is only part of their mission, however, as the group also was created to foster friendship between men and to promote community service. *Story by Sarah Huber on page 4.*



## Rec Centers Are Pivotal to Denver's Migrant Response

The city has been using rec centers to provide shelter and resources for the influx of migrants who have been arriving in Denver since the beginning of December. *Story on page 8 by Brian Heuberger.*

## Front Porch 11th Annual Summer Camp Guide

The guide will be in the February issue. Camps should post their FREE listings by Jan. 17 at [frontporchne.com/submit-event/](http://frontporchne.com/submit-event/)



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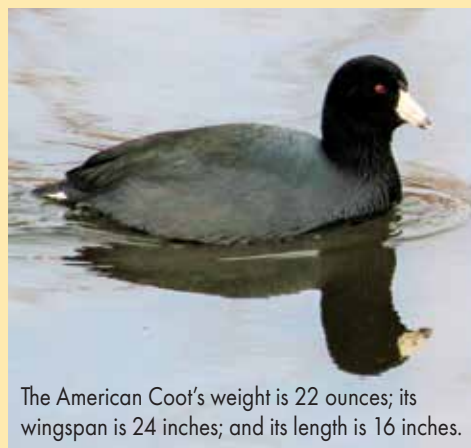
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# Bird Sightings

Generously donated by George Ho



The American Coot's weight is 22 ounces; its wingspan is 24 inches; and its length is 16 inches.



## American Coot

The American Coot is a water-borne, dark gray to black bird that often mixes with ducks. Its bill is white and the eyes are red.

Instead of webbed feet like ducks, the toes of the Coot are lobed to aid in swimming. American Coots are closer relatives to Rails than to Mallards or Teals.



Left and above: the American Coot's feet are not webbed but lobed to aid in swimming.

## American Crow and Common Raven

The American Crow is a large bird with iridescent black feathers. It is the size of a pigeon. The Common Raven is a larger bird with similar black feathers as the Crow. It is the size of a Red-tailed Hawk. The Raven's bill is also larger than that of the Crow.

The call of the Crow is a loud harsh cawing whereas the Raven's call is a lower guttural croaking.

The Crow's tail feathers are basically the same length, so when the bird spreads its tail, it opens like a fan. Ravens, however, have longer middle feathers in their tails, so their tail appears wedge-shaped when open.



The American Crow in flight. The tail is fan-shaped with similar lengths of all the tail feathers.



Top: the American Crow's average weight is 0.7–1.4 pounds; its wingspan ranges from 2.8–3.3 feet; and its average length is 17.5 inches. Above: The Common Raven's average weight is 1.5–4.4 pounds; its wingspan ranges from 3.3–4.9 feet; and its average length is 27 inches.

## Bird Walks

January 7 and February 4. Two options: 7:30–10am or 8–10am (choose a 2-hour or a 2.5-hour walk.) Both walks are free but you must RSVP at [www.blufflake.org/birdwatching](http://www.blufflake.org/birdwatching). All are welcome. Bring your own binoculars, or borrow a pair from your guide. 11255 MLK Blvd. Search [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) for "Bird Sightings" to see all the past bird stories and photos from George Ho.

## Correction

In the December 2022 edition's story "New Programs are Growing at the Urban Farm" *Front Porch* misidentified 18-year-old intern Lyric Perez. The newspaper regrets the error.



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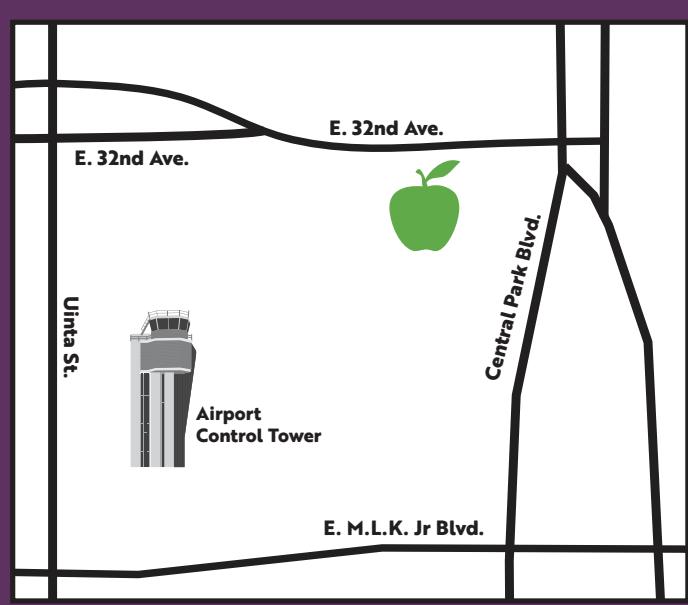
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# Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith for the Fellas



F3's mission includes not only facilitating group workouts, but also building meaningful relationships and engaging in community service. In December, the Denver F3 members served breakfast to about 350 men at the Denver Rescue Mission.

By Sarah Huber

In rain or snow, in sunshine or darkness, about 10 to 20 men gather every Tuesday at 5:30am near the sledging hill in Central Park for an intense workout. Their routine usually features 45 minutes of burpees, leg lunges, push-ups, and no-holds-barred repeats up and down the hill—especially tricky on icy mornings—among other exercises. To mix it up, they might also add their sole piece of fitness equipment: a cinder-block that the guys heave up and down the hill or lift as a dumbbell while the group hoots with encouragement. Although they appreciate the fitness benefits of these arduous workouts, fostering meaningful friendships among its members and doing volunteer work for the community are equally important missions for this non-profit group.

The group is called F3, which stands for Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith. For these men, F3 represents a combination of pushing one's limits and developing supportive

come-as-you-are camaraderie. They wrap up each workout with a huddle referred to as “the circle of trust.” This gives them an opportunity to express words of thankfulness, check in on family or work challenges, and conclude the session with a prayer. Then, before most of their neighbors have rolled out of bed, they head off—stronger physically and mentally—to face the day.



Before heading out after a workout, the men of F3 check in on each other, share words of thankfulness, and pray in what they call their “circle of trust.”

these brothers who show up and hold you accountable.”

Founded in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2011, Chief Executive Officer John Lambert says F3 was a response to the problem of “middle-age male loneliness.” Now the

The tight bonds that are built among the members are key. Each man answers to a nickname, bestowed on him by the group, and the laughs come as fast as the reps. Richard Diaz is nicknamed “Princess” by the group in honor of his four daughters. “You can go to a fitness gym, run on a treadmill, and not talk to anyone,” says Diaz. “But F3 is fantastic because you have all

F3 network includes more than 3,400 workout groups nationwide, with each group offering workouts that are always free and always outdoors, two of the non-profit's “core values,” says Lambert.

In October of 2021, Northfield resident Todd Meikle helped launch a Denver F3 branch located in Central Park. He had traded his gym membership for a Peloton Bike a few years earlier, but he missed the connections of in-person exercise. “I didn't realize the impact of working out with other guys,” says Meikle. “F3 is awesome because it offers both fitness and friendship.” Meikle, an executive at a global telecommunication company in his day job, is known as “DD,” for the double DD's in Todd, in the F3 group.

Digging deeper into the F3 mantra, Meikle notes that “the first F, Fitness, is the magnet for us, the second, Fellowship, is the glue, and the third, Faith, is the dynamite. While we're not a religious organization, we do believe we're not the center of our universe.”

That dynamic also inspires the men of F3 to help out in the community. They come out on weekends to perform volunteer work such as serving breakfast at the Denver Rescue Mission to help feed homeless people or repairing fixtures at a center for women who have escaped domestic abuse. “It's so easy—in a pandemic, or not in a pandemic—to coast, to go into passivity,” Meikle says. “F3 is an opportunity to engage, and the alternative seems like an unhealthy place to be.”

Although the F3 fellows take turns leading workouts, their sessions always begin and end at “the shovel.” This refers to an actual shovel that is clasped to an American flag and that they use for a home base during workouts as a reminder of their missions. “The missions of F3 are to plant, grow, and serve where we are,” says Meikle. For Meikle, serving extends from the Saturday outreach projects to how the men interact when they're pounding through drills. “Some guys are crushing it, and others here are trying to keep up,” he says. “The F3 motto is ‘leave no man behind, but leave no man where you found him.’ And our attitude is that we're just glad you're here because if a guy is going to wake up at 5am and come out in the cold, that's 80 to 90 percent of the battle.”

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# CSU Spurs Gro

is during the Second Saturday program, which every month features a different theme for demonstrations, activities, and local food trucks

In addition to Terra, the CSU Spur campus includes Vida (Spanish for “life”), a facility that focuses on the connection between animal and human health. It houses a veterinary clinic operated by the Denver Dumb Friends League that provides low-cost services for low-income pet owners. With large window-views of its operating theater, the clinic allows visitors to watch and ask questions as veterinarians operate on cats and dogs. Children can also use a “play clinic” to pretend to treat stuffed animals, and visitors can use a virtual reality room to have a 3-D experience while exploring animal or human bodies.

Terra is also home to the Temple Grandin Equine Center, which provides equine-assisted therapy for people who face a broad range of physical, emotional, and mental challenges. Eventually, an equine sports medicine clinic will open and let the public watch as horses go through physical therapy—including sessions on an underwater treadmill.

Vida opened last January and has hosted 18,000 visitors. Kathryn Venzor, director of education at the CSU Spur says the most popular attraction is the vet clinic. “The kids can see cats and dogs in surgery and ask the veterinarians questions. The students really get very engaged and enthralled with it all.”

Venzor says CSU has deliberately reached out to low-income and under-represented schools to schedule field trips and offer reimbursements for busing costs. “Our big goal is to increase the workforce in the STEM



The Denver Dumb Friends League Veterinary Hospital at CSU Spur serves low-income clients. The large observation windows in the Vida Building offer a chance for visitors to watch and ask questions of the veterinarians and technicians as they perform procedures.

Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch

By Mary Jo Brooks

On a recent Saturday at the Terra building on the CSU Spur campus in north Denver, it was “potato” day. Children and teens were talking with scientists about creating improved potato varieties. Others were cooking with spuds in a demonstration kitchen. Still others were looking at potato diseases under a microscope. It is all part of CSU’s mission to inspire young people to consider careers in science.

Terra (which is Latin for “earth”) opened in June and concentrates on agriculture. “We want to introduce young people to all areas of the food system. From farming to the transportation of food, to turning it into a food product, and to

actually cooking with it,” says Jocelyn Hittle, associate vice chancellor for the CSU Spur Campus. Terra features a rooftop garden and greenhouse, labs where researchers are working on improving crops, food labs where entrepreneurs develop new food products, and kitchens where recipes are tested and nutrition and cooking classes are offered. The whole idea is to allow young people to watch scientists and other professionals in action, with the hope of sparking curiosity about career possibilities.

Terra, like all of the CSU Spur buildings, is free and open to the public

Monday through Friday, and it often hosts school field trips as well. So far, 3,500 students and teachers have toured Terra. For families, the best time to visit



The new buildings include whimsical architectural elements, like this “avocado window” near the entrance to the Terra Building.



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# with at The National Western Complex

fields—not only increase in numbers but increase in diversity. And the way to do that is to ensure we have more diversity coming through our doors.”

The CSU Spur campus is located at the National Western Center and hopes to attract some of the 10,000 students who visit the National Western Stock Show every year. This year on Jan. 6, the day before the stock show begins, CSU will officially open its third and final new building named Hydro (the Greek word for “water”). Denver Water is opening a huge water compliance lab on the third floor where scientists are expected to conduct more than 200,000 tests each year for water quality. There will also be labs for researchers and students at CSU.

Hydro will feature exhibits that explain the connections between water and health and that offer tips on water conservation. The education staff at Hydro is currently in the process of ordering child-sized waders so students will have the chance to study the nearby Platte River. “There will be a nice safe path to the river where our educators will take students



Young visitors to the Vida Building try their hand at being veterinarians by treating stuffed animals in the mock veterinary exam room.

community wealth building and local community impact. “We are building relationships with the businesses in the community so that when people host an event at our buildings, they can hire local caterers or local bands,” says Miley. “Often big institutions like a state university can have bureaucratic systems in place that can be barriers for small, minority-owned businesses.

We’re trying to break down those barriers.”

CSU Spur hopes to grow community partnerships in other areas too. CSU botanists have given advice to residents about tree care, which corresponds with a recent tree-planting effort in the neighborhood. Local non-profits are encouraged to conduct workshops at the Spur. This summer, CSU Spur plans to launch four or five summer camps that will give priority to neighborhood children. And in the near future, the Terra facility hopes to offer cooking classes

taught by local chefs.

Hittle says the work of the Spur is just getting started, and she encourages everyone to come visit—whether on a weekday or for a Second Saturday event.

“It’s hard to understand what CSU Spur is until you come here and see it in action and really see the magic of kids getting a chance to talk to these scientists and professionals at work. And also the magic of those professionals getting to describe to young people what they do. It really energizes everyone to be in this space together.”

*For more information about scheduling field trips or attending a Second Saturday event, visit [csuspur.org](http://csuspur.org).*



Second Saturday demonstrations are a great way for families to experience what CSU Spur has to offer. Here children learn about how an auger works.



Inspiring careers in science is a major goal of CSU Spur. These visitors were learning about plant diseases by examining them under microscopes.



to collect water samples, look for indicators of water quality, and compare the water samples to drinking water,” says Venzor. “We want them to understand why water is so important and get them to become good stewards of water.”

Hydro will also house a café that utilizes food grown on the roof of the Terra building, and a 3,500-seat auditorium that can be used for lectures or performances by CSU and the surrounding Globeville and Elyria-Swansea community.

Another goal of the CSU Spur is to serve as an “anchor institution” for the neighborhood. Sarah Miley, who is in charge of community engagement, says that CSU hopes to use its vast purchasing abilities and hiring power to help with



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# Rec Centers Are Pivotal to Denver’s Migrant Response

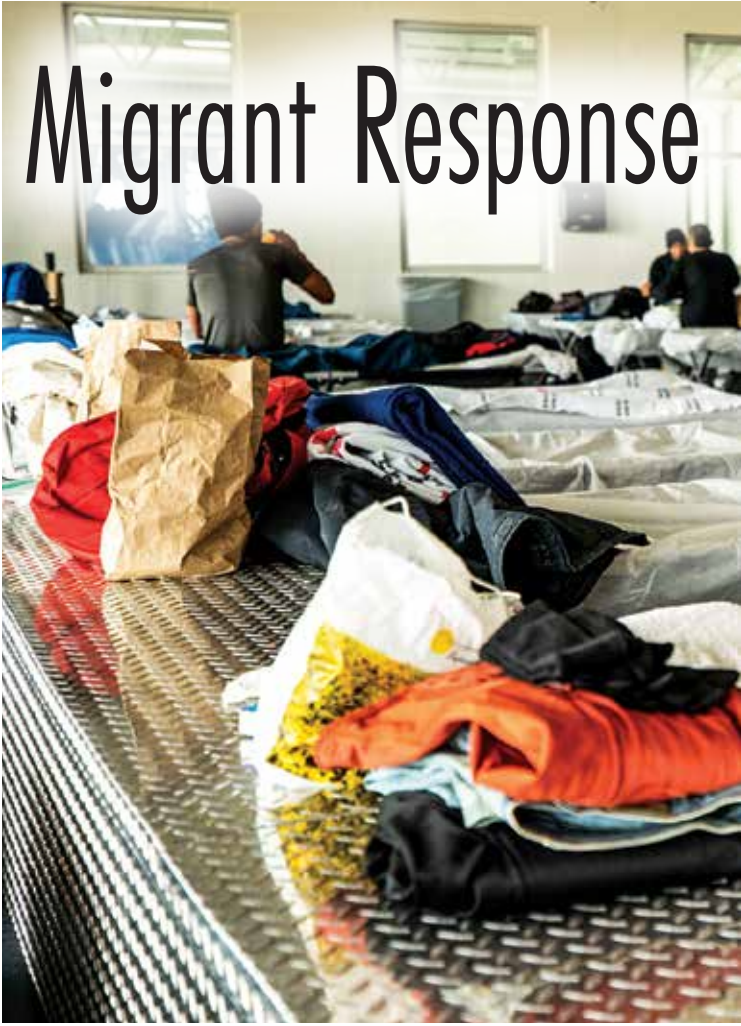
By Brian Heuberger

In December, Denver faced the unexpected challenge of providing shelter and resources for an influx of migrants from Central and South America. The first wave occurred on Dec. 5, when approximately 50 migrants arrived at Union Station by bus and then walked to the Denver Rescue Mission near downtown. With Denver unprepared for their arrival, the city activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to plan a response, and it was decided that city rec centers would be used to shelter the migrants. The city has requested that news media not announce the specific rec centers that are being used as shelters to maintain the security of the facilities, though residents are drawing their own conclusions as they find their usual rec center closed.



City staff and rec center workers have been fulfilling various roles inside the shelters, including registering the newly-arrived migrants.

The EOC has determined that most migrants are originating from Venezuela, crossing at the El Paso border, and then riding buses into Denver. Although the December influx began with modest numbers, in the recent weeks the surge increased substantially. From Dec. 9 to Dec. 22, approximately 140 migrants were arriving each day for a total of 1,431 migrants—and Mayor Hancock issued an emergency declaration to obtain more resources. As of Dec. 22, Denver had allocated \$2 million from the general fund to support the migrant response, and the city announced that it was at 69 percent of its maximum shelter capacity. “Denver has basic emergency response plans, and if we need



After traveling several months from Venezuela to Denver, many migrants arrived malnourished from the insufficient food and unsanitary water. The EOC



Rec centers have been useful as shelters because the large facilities can hold hundreds of cots for the influx of migrants plus they contain other beneficial features, including bathrooms, showers, kitchens, private spaces, and laundry machines.

emergency shelters, rec centers are on the list of city buildings and resources that are employed in those situations,” says Jill Lis, the spokesperson for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is comprised of city workers who represent different government departments and collaborate to address emergency situations. The EOC’s responsibilities include gathering information, implementing strategies, accumulating resources, and coordinating with community organizations.

“Everybody’s watching the national news and seeing what’s happening at the southern border, and so we don’t expect this surge to abate anytime soon,” says Lis. “But we don’t know how long and how significant the surge will be, and so we’re taking the temperature and keeping tabs on the situation every day.” The EOC attributes this uncertainty to the migrants using social media to plan their trips. If the bus plans were arranged by state or local governments, Denver could communicate with those entities and anticipate incoming buses. But the migrants are coordinating the trips themselves on social media platforms, which makes it hard to track when buses will arrive and how many migrants are approaching. The city recently established a reception center to register the newly arrived migrants and direct them to the appropriate shelters. The size of the gymnasiums and the features in the buildings make rec centers workable spaces to house migrants and provide for their basic needs. While some non-profits house a few migrants, given their limited space, the vast majority are being accommodated at rec centers.

Photos courtesy of the Joint Information Center

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stories to be especially moving. “Some of them are ex-government employees. Then when they no longer wanted to cooperate with the negative aspects of the Venezuelan government, some had to leave the country and some were prosecuted. Those were the hardest stories to hear because they used to be part of the government, they had an opinion about how it was run, and then they were prosecuted for that.”

Chavez was also struck by the difficulty of the migrants’ journey in fleeing their country and traveling to Denver. “Some of them traveled for months through Columbia, El Salvador, and Mexico just to get here. And some of them also had to leave their children behind because they couldn’t travel through the jungle with small kids. But they also can’t go back to Venezuela to see them, and so their hope is to work while they figure out a way to reconnect with their kids.”

Although most migrants are eager to work so they can provide for their families and contribute to the community, bureaucratic obstacles can hinder them from being able to achieve this goal. “They just want to work, but the asylum process is not easy,” says Chavez. “It takes five months to get asylum, and in the meantime they’re in limbo because they can’t work until they receive a work permit, and so a lot of them don’t know what to do.”

The city has also been determining how to address the situation and provide more resources. Winter clothing is one resource that is direly needed, as the migrants were dressed in summer clothing to cross the hot jungle and now need winter attire to endure the colder temperatures.

Denver is also struggling with a severe staffing shortage. On Dec. 14 the city designated two more rec centers as emergency shelters, but the staffing levels in the shelters have not been able to keep up with the rising volume of migrants. “Up until this point we have just been activating city staff,” says EOC spokesperson Jill Lis. “Rec center workers and city staff employees are being tasked with working 8 to 12 hour shifts in this difficult and stressful scenario. They’re doing everything from keeping the shelter clean to serving the food to checking folks in, and so they’re doing these basic duties just to keep things running.”

The EOC is now seeking help to fill the positions, manage the shelters, and assist the migrants. “We see that the need isn’t going to go away and that we’re going to be here for a while,” says Lis. “So we need to start filling that gap with other

believes that the most common reasons for choosing Denver include our proximity to the border, our compassion for immigrants, or the presence of family members.

One rec center served as the primary shelter throughout the December surge, with approximately 300 migrants being housed there. “For the most part it is very organized,” says Lilia Chavez, a professional translator who helped the Spanish-speaking migrants communicate with the city staff members. “It’s a mix of men, women, and children all in one big room with cots. But it’s very clean, and they’re also providing the migrants with showers, bathrooms, food, laundry, and private spaces.”

Talking to the migrants has afforded Chavez with insight regarding the general mood in the shelter and the mixed emotions of the individuals. “They’re happy and thankful that they’re here and that we have resources. One of them couldn’t believe that we also have public libraries with free resources. But they’ve also been functioning out of survival mode for four months now, so for a lot of them it’s been traumatic and difficult. They’re just trying to figure out the next move, and you can sense that in their energy and stress levels.”

Chavez’s job as a translator is to help the migrants explain their backgrounds, receive health care services, and consult with lawyers. But she has found the migrants’



Professional translator Lilia Chavez worked in the rec center to help Spanish-speaking migrants receive medical treatment from Denver Health, legal advice from city lawyers, and basic resources from the rec center staff. Chavez says that working with migrants and hearing their stories was an emotional experience. Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

types of staff, and we’ve just opened paid shelter-assistant positions.”


The EOC has also specified the details of the temporary shelter positions. The jobs are expected to last until the end of March, the workload usually requires about 24-39 hours per week, and the pay rate for all positions is \$25 an hour. Anyone interested in working at an emergency shelter can apply for a role at the Office of Emergency Management website.

Donations can be dropped off at the Iglesia Ciudad de Dios at 5255 Warren Ave. Denver, CO 80227 (Drop-off times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 4 and 7pm).


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# New Members, New Leaders in the Capitol Spotlight



Colorado House Dems elected leaders from left: majority co-whip Rep. Andrew Boesenecker of Fort Collins, majority co-whip Rep. Iman Jodeh of Aurora, majority leader Rep. Monica Duran of Wheat Ridge, speaker Rep. Julie McCluskie of Dillon, assistant majority leader Rep. Jennifer Bacon of Denver, majority caucus co-chair Rep. Brianna Titone of Arvada, and majority caucus co-chair Rep. Mandy Lindsay of Aurora.

By Todd Engdahl

The best one-word description of the 2023 Colorado General Assembly is simply—new.

Consider these numbers:

- New members—There will be at least 31 brand-new members, including 18 Democrats and 13 Republicans (the number of new members may change depending on who is chosen in January to fill a Republican Senate vacancy).
- New leaders—Of the six top leaders in both chambers, four are new in their roles.
- New and bigger majorities—Democrats now have a 46-19 margin in the House and control the Senate with a 23-12 margin.
- New gender majority—Women now hold 51 of the legislature’s 100 seats.
- Committee changes—There will be many new faces serving as committee chairs, along with a lot of shuffling of members.
- New budget writers—Five of six members are new to the Joint Budget Committee, where there’s a steep and long learning curve for members to master state finances.

Of course, turnover happens and fresh faces appear after every set of legislative elections. The rough, historic rule of thumb is that about 25 percent of the legislature turns over each election cycle.

So this year’s turnover was high, and it’s noticeably higher than after the 2020 elections, which sent only 18 new lawmakers to the 2021 session. That incoming class was equally divided between Democrats and Republicans, and the class included 11 women and seven men. The 65-member House received 15 of the newcomers, while three joined the Senate.

It’s a little tricky to handicap an upcoming legislative session when there are a lot of new members without Capitol track records.

New members often like to introduce “pet project” measures, many of which don’t go anywhere but which do take

up legislative time. A clearer picture of this legislature won’t come into focus until the first waves of bills are introduced and made public after the 2023 session convenes on Jan. 9. More than 600 bills are introduced during a typical session.

So, while it’s hard to fully predict the big issues that will dominate the 2023 session, some likely subjects have surfaced. They include:

**A tighter budget**—During the 2022 session lawmakers had billions of one-time federal pandemic relief funds to spend. (For example, the annual non-transportation state construction budget was paid for almost entirely with federal funds.) In 2023 the budget committee will have to figure out how to pay for a 5 percent state employee pay raise. The committee will also need to address providing improved compensation for outside providers who supply healthcare, correctional, mental health, and other services for the state while also covering inflationary cost increases in state programs.

**Education funding**—In January a House-Senate study committee that’s been working off and on for several years is expected to unveil a proposed major revamp of the state’s decades-old K-12 funding formula. What that will look like and how the bill will fare are unknown, but there’s likely to be significant debate.

**Firearms regulation**—Democrats are weighing how to strengthen gun laws in the wake of the Club Q shootings in Colorado Springs.

**Housing**—The 2022 session devoted significant amounts of that federal funding to housing programs. Voters in November approved earmarked state funding for housing, which lawmakers probably will want to review.

**Judicial reform**—Another legislative study group has proposed a ballot measure that would create a fully independent process for disciplining judges. The full legislature will have to consider whether to submit that to voters.

**New programs**—A brand-new Department of Early Childhood will oversee the universal pre-school program that’s set to launch next year, but lawmakers may need to do some fine-tuning. The same may be true for the state’s reorganized system for providing mental health services.

Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, who is starting his second term after a landslide victory in November, had a pretty successful legislature track record during his first term. Major successes included launching full-day kindergarten and reforming behavioral health programs.

The governor will detail his agenda in his January State of the State speech, but several priorities were laid out in November when he submitted his proposed 2023-24 state budget. His plan is organized around four goals—investing in the future, making neighborhoods safer and more affordable, protecting the environment, and bolstering state reserves as insurance against future downturns.

One of those priorities is crime. The governor has proposed a significant increase for the Colorado State Patrol, both for trooper salaries and for a grant program that will help law enforcement fight auto theft, which has exploded in Colorado.

The governor has also proposed increased funding for school security and continued increases in funding for wildfire prevention, mitigation, and suppression. That plan includes the acquisition of a second high-tech helicopter to fight fires.

The governor is also pushing for proposed increases in preschool and K-12 funding, further reductions in state professional and business fees, more funding for youth mental health, and additional financial support for affordable housing and homelessness programs.

His budget plan also includes more funding for state water programs and agencies.

Finally, the governor’s budget plan urges lawmakers to maintain the state’s 15 percent reserve, set aside additional funds to cover some basic state costs beyond 2023-24, and to match new federal infrastructure grant funds.

## Closing notes

Despite all the talk of newness, it’s worth noting that 41 legislators were re-elected. And 18 senators who are in the middle of their four-year terms didn’t have to run last election. So there will be 67 or 68 experienced members returning, pending the filling of that vacant Senate seat.

Only two people without previous legislative experience were elected to the Senate, with one from each party. The other nine “new” senators successfully moved from the House. (In a less common switch, one Democratic senator was elected to a House seat.)

Democrats have held the majority in the House continuously since the 2012 elections and have controlled the Senate since 2018.

The new, larger Democratic majorities will further diminish the Republican role at the Capitol, although the vast majority of routine bills will have bipartisan support, as they do every session.

Todd Engdahl operates Capitol Editorial Services, which provides private clients with research, reports and news on the state budget and other issues at the Colorado legislature. He’s a former executive city editor of The Denver Post, launched DenverPost.com and was a co-founder of the website Education News Colorado.



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As we ring in the new year, the best films from 2022 are in the spotlight. The race for the Oscars is now a sprint, and we continue to look at the contenders for the various awards. This month, I review a unique and unsettling gem that will certainly be nominated in at least one category, and the second is one of the best and most provocative documentaries of the year. Awards or no, both films reward your viewing. Finally, I review a book from my shelf—great reading for a cold January day. Enjoy.

### *The Whale* (2022)

Darren Aronofsky knows how to get under our skin. And stay there. The enigmatic director who began making films with the indie hit *Pi* and then the polemical and insufferable (and I mean that in a good

way) *Requiem for a Dream*, has always been able to give us difficult stories about difficult people. Aronofsky's superpower is that we can't turn away, no matter how unseemly, how unattractive, or how disgusting the material. His newest film, *The Whale*, is no different an endeavor. The multiple meanings of the title are opaque at first blush, but like everything Aronofsky, it ultimately makes sense. And it repulses. And it shines.

The film is based on the play of the same name by Samuel D. Hunter, and the plot is deceptively simple: an extremely obese man attempts to reconcile with his estranged daughter as his health rapidly declines. I say "deceptively" because the themes are layered and slowly peel back, as Aronofsky has described, "like an onion." The lead character Charlie is played by Brendan Fraser in a tour-de-force, come-back performance for the decades. To be clear, Fraser was never a celebrated

dramatic actor, but after disappearing from the screen for many years, he is back with a brilliant performance. He received a standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival and has been feted ever since; he will certainly be a

worthy Oscar contender for Best Actor. The supporting cast of Hong Chau, Ty Simpkins, Sadie Sink, and Samantha Morton are all very good, with Chau being a standout of that group. Save a single shot of another extra, they form the entire cast.

The most important aspect of this review should center on one thing: this touching, dark, yet effervescent film is based on a play. This usually never ends well since plays and films are completely opposite art forms: a play is based on dialogue and a film is based on visuals. The visuals of a play are static, and the dialogue in a film usually drags it down. The two are not a natural marriage, yet Aronofsky, along with longtime cinematographer Matthew Libatique, editor Andrew Weisblum, and production designer Mark Friedberg bring alive the play. The lighting, camera work,



*The Whale*

sharp editing, and rich set design collapse the prosenium arch and make us feel like a drone spinning around the action.

The actors, particularly Fraser, seal the deal. It's an enticing and wonderful package.

I have read dozens of the film's reviews, and one thing is true: Aronofsky is still divisive. The aforementioned films divided critics and the public alike, as did *The Fountain*, *The Wrestler*, *Black Swan*, *Noah*, and *Mother!* I find him brilliant, willing to take chances, and unfettered by corporate movie algorithms. Fraser will get the (well-deserved) accolades here, but make no mistake, Aronofsky is the fulcrum. There are many reasons to see this film—the title and the allegory about America are tantalizing enough—but for me, it is the directing.

You will like this if you enjoyed any Darren Aronofsky film.

Currently in theaters and on VOD soon.

### *Navalny* (2022)

Just as Darren Aronofsky gets under your skin, for many years now Alexei Navalny has taken residence inside Vladimir Putin's skull. You probably know the larger strokes of Navalny's story: the Russian politician who dared to challenge Putin, was subsequently poisoned and nearly died, and now resides in a Siberian prison. What you may not know are the fantastic details of Navalny's story, and this interesting and insightful documentary gives life to some of those details, and most strikingly, *as they are happening*. It is a fascinating glimpse into the life of a mercurial character in a ridiculously impossible situation.

The documentary takes place after Navalny is poisoned and before he returns to Russia. Director Daniel Roher makes use of inside access to the titular character and gives us interviews and as-they-are-happening miraculous events in Navalny's life. If we didn't know some of the story already, this might be an interesting fictional film. Rather, we get a documentary about a dictator, the police state over which that dictator rules, and how people become pawns and targeted objects in that society. Once we take a step back and realize the implications of these events and actions, the story is horrifying. How far away from such activities were/are we in our own country? That seems to be a looming question as we watch from our cozy U.S. living rooms. Watch with care.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Winter on Fire*, *The Square*, and/or *Citizen K*. Available on HBO Max.

*Bag Man: The Wild Crimes, Audacious Cover-up, and Spectacular Downfall of a Brazen Crook in the White House*, by Rachel Maddow and Michael Yarvitz (2020).

Yes, *that* Rachel Maddow. She brings the same insightful, incisive, and intuitive journalistic voice to her writing that she has brought to the news for so many years. This book tells the story of Spiro Agnew, Nixon's disgraced VP and the grumpy, grandiose, and greedy character who rose to power on graft and fell



*Navalny*

from power due to his guile. Venal men are an unfortunate part of our American history, and too often they reside in untouchable positions of power.

Maddow charts his meteoric rise and fall with an eye to the present, and that searing eye allows us to consider the consequences of putting such men in power again and again. Along the way, we learn fascinating tidbits about many of the contemporaneous historical characters that would gain fame and fortune in his wake, namely, George H.W. Bush. This breezy read can be finished in an afternoon, and after that particular tidbit, I'm sure you will.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D. is a Film and Media Studies Professor at MSU Denver. He can be reached at [vpiturro@msudenver.edu](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.edu) or follow him on Twitter. For more reviews, search The Indie Prof at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com).

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# Jan. & Early Feb. Events

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

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

## NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

**Saturdays—East Colfax Free Bookstore.** 4–6pm. Located at Counterpath, 7935 E. 14th Ave. Take books or donate kids books.

**1/7 & 2/4—Bluff Lake Bird Walks.** Saturdays: 2.5-hour walk at 8am or 2-hour walk at 8:30am. Free but must RSVP at [blufflake.org/birdwatching](http://blufflake.org/birdwatching)

**1/12 Thursday—Active Minds presents: Women of Denver History.** We will cover some familiar names as well as some lesser known figures. 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

**1/14 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day.** Get an up close look inside select aircraft. 10am–2pm. 7711 East Academy Blvd. [wingsmuseum.org](http://wingsmuseum.org)

**1/17 Tuesday—Winter of Reading Afternoon Book Tasting.** 2–3pm. Sampling from a variety of books, enticing you to try something new. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)



Visions of Love Wine Tasting Event

**1/25 Wednesday—Winter of Reading Book Buzz.** A quick summary of new and forthcoming books from all genres. Ages 18+. 4:30–5:30pm, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**Through 1/29/23—Dali Alive.** A fully immersive experience. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. [DaliAlive.com](http://DaliAlive.com)

**2/3 Friday—Visions of Love Wine Tasting Event.** A benefit for Anchor Center for Blind children. Anchor Center, 2550 Roslyn St. [anchorcenter.org](http://anchorcenter.org)

## METRO EVENTS

**1/6 & 2/3—First Friday Art Walks.** Art District on Santa Fe. 5:30–9:30pm. [denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**Through 1/7—Blossoms of Light.** A dazzling and ever-changing display of light and color. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**1/12 Thursday—Writing in the Museum.** In partnership with Lighthouse Writers. The workshop is limited to 20 people. 1–3pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**Through 1/15/23—Zoo Lights.** 60 acres of lights, entertainment, and treats. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. [denverzoo.org](http://denverzoo.org)

**1/18 Wednesday—The Life and Times of Colorado Barbecue.** Presented by James Beard Award-winning author Adrian Miller. 1–2pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**1/20 Friday—Opening Reception for “The World in Denver.”** The Photography of Robert Weinberg. 6pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**1/20 to 1/27—Swallow Hill Concerts.** Nefesh Mountain, Deborah Solo Trio & That Damn Sasquatch, Red Mountain Boys, Jews Do Jews, and Mollie O'Brien & Rich Moore. 71 East Yale Ave. [swallowhillmusic.org](http://swallowhillmusic.org)

**1/12 Thursday—Art & About Tours.** For visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners. 1–2:30pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. To register email [access@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:access@denverartmuseum.org)

**2/6 Monday—Active Minds presents: The Great Migration.** Millions of Black Americans moved from the rural south to urban areas in the north and west. 2–3pm, Free. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

**Through 2/14/22—Downtown Denver Rink.** Free admission, rentals available. Check out hours at [downtowndenver.com](http://downtowndenver.com)

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Tuesday–Friday—Local Library Storytime.** Mornings. Different age groupings and locations. Info at [denverlibrary.org](http://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](http://auroragov.org)

**Wednesdays—Magic the Gathering Club.** 4–5:30pm. Ideal for ages 12–18. A teen-run magic club. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**Saturdays —Chess Club for 18 and Under.** 3–4:30pm. Ideal for ages 5–18. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/3 Tuesday—Day at the DAM.** For kids ages 6–11 to spend a day at the museum making art and learning. 9:30am–3pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. Register at [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

**1/8 Sunday—Sensory-Friendly Morning.** A program for kids with neurodiversity or sensory processing disorders and their families. 9am–12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

**1/8 Sunday—Foxy and Shmoxy: Art Detectives.** Helping young children access and experience art in unique ways. 10:30am–12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

**1/14 Saturday—CSU Spur 2nd Saturdays.** Free and open to the public for lots of family-friendly programming. 10am–3pm. 4817 National Western Dr. [csuspur.org](http://csuspur.org)

**1/14 Saturday—Family Program: Caring & Sharing.** 10:30am–12:30pm. Join us for family artmaking. Walk-ins welcome. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**1/15 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids.** 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. [Stanleymarketplace.com](http://Stanleymarketplace.com)

**1/18 Wednesday—Manual Cinema: Leonardo!** An adaptation from the beloved children's books by Mo Willems. 6pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. [newmancenterpresents.com](http://newmancenterpresents.com)

**1/19 Thursday—Bingo for Books.** Play bingo and win books for prizes while enjoying snacks. Kids 5–12. 4:30–5:30pm, Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/21 Saturday—History Buff Day.** Hang with Billy the History Buff, enjoy some crafts, and explore the museum. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**1/21 Saturday—DIY Mini Snow Globe.** This program is entry level and ideal for kids. 10–11am, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/25 & 1/28—Art Crawl: New Year Celebration.** 10:30–11:15am. For caregivers with infants–14 months. Registration required. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**1/29 Sunday—Concert Encounter for Kidz.** Get up close and comfortable with the music and instruments of the Stratus Chamber Orchestra. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E Alameda Ave. [augustanaarts.org](http://augustanaarts.org)

**2/1 Wednesday—Black History Bingo for Kids.** Play bingo and learn about black history, past and present. Ages 5–12. 4:15–5:15pm, Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)



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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 history-colorado.org

**The Children’s Museum.** Snow Days thru 2/7. Reservations recommended at mychildsmuseum.org

**Clyfford Still Museum.** SCFD Free Day Jan. 13. 10am to 5pm. Children ages 17 and under are always free. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

**Denver Art Museum.** SCFD Free Days Jan. 12 & 28. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

**Denver Botanic Gardens.** Tickets and member reservations required. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

**Denver Firefighters Museum.** Hours: Tues–Sat, 10am–4pm. 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science.** Open till 9pm on Fridays. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. dmns.org

**Denver Zoo.** Reserve 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.** Open Wed–Sun, 10am–4pm. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

**History Colorado.** The Sand Creek Massacre exhibit now open. 4th graders get a free membership. 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.** SCFD Free Day Jan. 28. 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.** Open to the public from 9am–1pm, Wed–Sat. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

**Wings Over the Rockies Museum.** Planet Pioneers exhibit now open. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

**1/6 to 1/8—Harry Potter and The Sorcerer’s Stone™ In Concert.** Watch the movie

while the Colorado Symphony performs John Williams’ iconic score. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

**1/6 to 1/22—“Little Women” The Broadway Musical.** Tony award-winning musical based on Louisa May Alcott’s novel. Lakewood Cultural Center, 470 S. Allison Pkwy. lakewood.org



**1/10 Tuesday—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute.** 7:30pm, Boettcher Hall. Free event, reserve tickets at coloradosymphony.org

**1/13 to 2/19—The Roommate.** A dark comedy about what it takes to re-route your life. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

**1/14 to 2/18—Alma.** A poetic, funny, and timely piece. Curious Theatre, 1080 Acoma St. curioustheatre.org

**1/15 Sunday—A Hall Pass to the Galaxy.** Mind-blowing tales from some of science fiction’s very best writers. Online showing on 1/19. Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, 721 Santa Fe Dr. storiesonstage.org

**1/19 Thursday—Fabulous Fanny Brice at Neustadt JAAMM Series.** An unforgettable nostalgic journey. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org

**1/20 to 2/5—Acts Of Faith.** A young woman named Faith gets mistaken for a prophet. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

**1/22 Sunday—Drums of the World.** A dynamic concert that is fun for the entire family. 2:30pm. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

**Through 1/22/23—Theater of the Mind.** A new theatrical experience you’ll see, feel, taste and hear. York Street Yards, 3887 Steele St. denvercenter.org

**1/24 & 2/5—To Kill a Mockingbird.** Aaron Sorkin’s adaptation of Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork. Buell Theatre. denvercenter.org

**1/27 to 3/5—Duke Ellington’s Sophisticated Ladies.** A Brassy, High Energy Musical Revue. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. vintagetheatre.org

**1/27 to 3/12—Laughs in Spanish.** Part crime-comedy, part telenovela, and 100% chistoso. Ages 16+. Singleton Theatre. denvercenter.org

**2/3 to 2/12—Colorado Ballet Presents Lady of the Camellias.** Chopin-scored tale of troubled courtesan Marguerite. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 1385 Curtis St. coloradoballet.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Denver Public Schools.** Numerous volunteer opportunities with our students and schools. equity.dpsk12.org/get-involved/volunteer-services

**Food For Thought Denver.** Striving to eliminate childhood hunger by providing food for students and their families. Sign up to volunteer or donate at foodforthoughtdenver.org

**Project Worthmore.** Help bag and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and household necessities to refugees. 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. Email info@reachoutandreadco.org for details.

**Reading Volunteers needed** to share reading with students in grades K–8 through. One hour a week. No experience necessary. Contact: Pil, 2011@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 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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or 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[www.EveryChildReading.org](http://www.EveryChildReading.org)

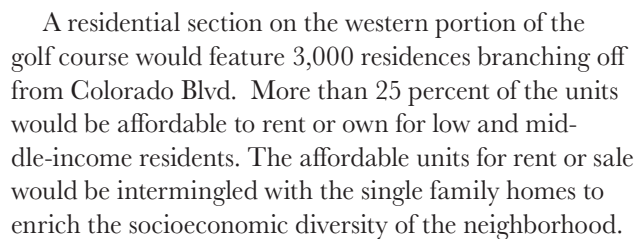
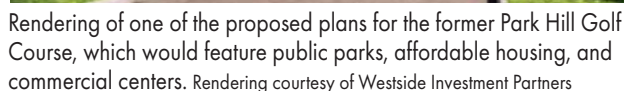
[camp@everychildreading.net](mailto:camp@everychildreading.net)



*By Brian Heuberger and Mary Jo Brooks*

On Dec. 5, the Denver City Council voted by a 10-3 margin to send the development plans for the Park Hill Golf Course to the city ballot. During the spring election, Denver residents will cast their votes to decide whether the city can lift a conservation easement that prevents the land of the former golf course from being used for any development purposes. If voters choose to approve the measure and lift the easement, Westside Investment Partners will be allowed to develop the land and implement their project.

Westside Investments has elaborated on the plans regarding how it would develop the Park Hill Golf Course. An 85-acre public park would be placed on the eastern half of the former golf course and would only be accessible for pedestrians and bikers.



A commercial center would also be positioned on the western side of the golf course. The pedestrian market called “Main Street” would stretch along 38th Avenue and provide a long row of stores, bars, and restaurants. Main Street would then blend into the park so residents can alternate between shopping at stores, eating at restaurants, relaxing on the grass, and playing at the park. Additionally, the plan includes a large space for a grocery store on 35th Avenue, although there are no guarantees that one would be built.

This plan cannot be implemented unless the voters approve the development project and lift the conservation easement on the springtime ballot. The proposed development has ignited passions on both sides.

Opponents contend that the most beneficial use of the golf course would be to preserve it as a public park. They argue that having a huge public park would improve the mental and physical health of the residents, enhance the air quality of the neighborhood, and expand the recreational activities for families. However, supporters of this development plan contend that it would supply certain features that they say Northeast Park Hill desperately needs. They argue that the community would benefit from having a grocery store for food options, affordable housing for residents, and commercial centers for businesses, as well as a park designed with amenities requested by neighborhood residents.

The Lowry Taproom is expecting to open its facility and start serving brews in January. This taproom is located in the Exchange at Boulevard One development at 7070 E. Lowry Blvd., just west of Quebec. It is the fourth location opened by the Denver Beer Company. The venue will feature a 4,200-square-foot indoor space that can hold 125 guests, and it will offer a restaurant, brewery, and taproom.

The large outdoor patio space is a unique aspect of the Lowry Taproom. The 5,400 square-foot patio wraps around two sides of the building, holds up to 360 guests, and connects into a park with an open space for outdoor games. Additionally, the patio is designed to be equally comfortable in all seasons. Guests can stay warm on cold winter nights by gathering around the fire pits or by sitting under the patio heaters, and they can stay cool in the hot summer afternoons by letting the outdoor misters spray them with water.



Renderings courtesy of Denver Beer Company

The patio will serve as a live music venue by providing a stage for bands and a floor space where crowds can dance to the tunes, features that will enable the Lowry Taproom to be used as a community event center. The venue plans to host tasting parties where guests can socialize while playing various games and listening to live music.

Lowry Taproom also made environmental sustainability a priority. Solar panels on the roof will generate power for the building, the beers will be brewed with 100% solar energy, and almost all of the ingredients will be derived from local Colorado sources. The taproom will implement brewing mechanisms to reduce water usage, CO2 emissions, and energy consumption. Additionally, the Lowry Taproom will provide EV charging stations for electric vehicles and a section of the parking lot for storing bikes.

The Shops on Montview retail center will soon offer two new fast food options in Central Park. The center, which was acquired by Site Centers Corp in November, currently houses Starbucks and Smile Studio. In January, I ♥ Mac & Cheese and More will open at the west end of the center. The nationwide fast-casual chain sells made-to-order macaroni and cheese bowls and grilled cheese sandwiches. Later this spring, Pizza Hut will open a delivery and carryout shop in the last remaining space at The Shops.



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosco

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# NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION JANUARY 2023



### MCA SHOWCASE - A COMMUNITY TALENT SHOW

Do you have a special talent that you would like to perform for your community? Then we want YOU!

“MCA Showcase” is returning as a LIVE event at the Cube on April 15th for all amateur performers in Denver. We encourage all ages and talents to apply! For more information, please visit [www.mca80238.com](http://www.mca80238.com).

### THE CUBE IS OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS

The Cube is now open for reservations! To reserve the Cube, email our new Cube manager Lawrence Uhling at [cube@mca80238.com](mailto:cube@mca80238.com).

### THE MCA IS HIRING

The MCA is looking for full- & part-time staff! We are looking to fill the following positions:

- Event Manager
- Event Coordinator
- Cube Event Coordinator
- Event Venue Coordinator
- Administrative & Front Desk

Visit [www.mca80238.com](http://www.mca80238.com) for more information.



### ACTIVE MINDS: Women of Denver History

Thursday, January 12th, 1–2pm. Sam Gary Library

The city of Denver was shaped by the efforts of many great people. Join Active Minds as we focus on the women of Denver and their contributions to the city and the state. We will cover some familiar names as well as some lesser known figures as we trace the impact of these women and their place in history.

### ACTIVE MINDS: Nuclear Weapons

Thursday, January 26th, 6:30–7:30pm, Online

Vladimir Putin has raised the possibility of using nuclear weapons in his war against Ukraine. Join Active Minds as we review the history and role of nuclear weapons in the world. We will discuss both the deterrent effects that have led to over 75 years without a nuclear weapon being used as well as how



the advent of “tactical nukes” potentially changes the decision process. We will explore what Putin is potentially considering as well as how the rest of the world might respond.

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

### BE IN THE KNOW BEFORE IT SNOWS

There are several entities who take on snow removal responsibilities on a regular basis from the City & County of Denver down to individual property owners. The system works when everyone does their part. Snow should be addressed within 24 hours of the completion of the snow event under normal circumstances. Major blizzards can extend the time it takes to address snow community wide for all involved. For more information on snow removal please visit [mca80238.com](http://mca80238.com).



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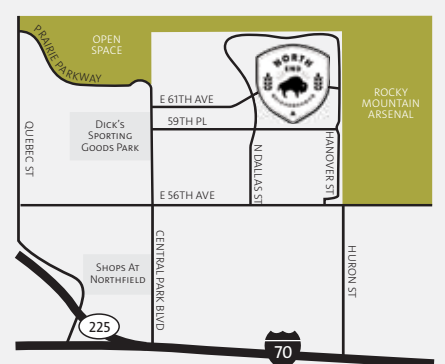
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