

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

FEBRUARY 2023

Denver's Marade

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Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Members of the 40+ Double Dutch Club practice their moves in City Park before the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Marade begins. The organization, which has chapters in 30 states and three countries, is designed to empower women over 40 through mental and physical fitness, friendship, fun, and fellowship.

For 38 years, tens of thousands of Coloradans have taken part in Denver's "marade" to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. The term was first coined by former State Representative and Denver First Lady Wilma Webb. Part boisterous parade, part activist march, the annual event is designed to celebrate Dr. King's life and all of the progress that has been made, while also recognizing the civil rights work that still must be accomplished. More than 60,000 people participated in this year's marade. *Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 13.*

Learning About the West's Black History



Photo by Mary Jo Brooks

Volunteer and board member Eleise Clark greets visitors to the newly reopened Black American West Museum & Heritage Center in the Five Points neighborhood. It had been closed for three years for extensive renovations. The museum's mission is to tell the stories of African Americans who helped settle and develop the American West. *Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 6.*



Photo from Summer at Kent Denver School

2023 Summer Camp Guide

It's time for summer camp planning. Find what your children will love this summer in our 11th annual guide starting on page 8.

Gentrification Patterns in Northeast Denver

Story by Brian Heuberger on page 4.

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Front Porch

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Bird Sightings

Generously donated by George Ho



The Double-crested Cormorant's weight is 2.6–5.5 pounds; its wingspan is 45–48 inches; and its length is 28–35 inches.

Double-crested Cormorant

The Double-crested Cormorant is a large waterbird with a stocky body, long neck, medium-sized tail, webbed feet, and a medium-sized hooked bill. The eyes are aquamarine blue.

Double-crested Cormorants are not as waterproof as ducks and they tend to swim low in the water. A common posture is to have their wings spread wide and held open to dry. They are experts in diving and catching fish.



The Double-crested Cormorant sitting in its nest.

Cormorants build colonial nests—meaning a nest surrounded by nests of similar birds—in the center of the tree-tops and expand outward. However, the tree typically dies and collapses after a few years of being killed by the acidic guano build-up from their droppings.

Black-capped Chickadee



The Black-capped Chickadee's weight is 0.32–0.49 ounces; its wingspan is 6.3–8.3 inches, and its length is 4.7–5.9 inches. The birds hop along tree branches searching for food, sometimes hanging upside down or hovering.

The Black-capped Chickadee is a small songbird. It has a black cap and “bib” with white sides on the face. Its underparts are white with some rusty brown on the flanks. Its back is gray and the tail is normally slate gray. It has a short dark beak and a long tail. Its common call is the “chicka-dee-dee-dee” that is often heard before the bird is seen.

Insects, especially caterpillars, form a large part of their diet in the summer. They may catch insects in the air. Seeds and berries become more important in the winter, as are spiders and other foods such as suet, fat, and meat protein from frozen carcasses.

Bird Walks

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

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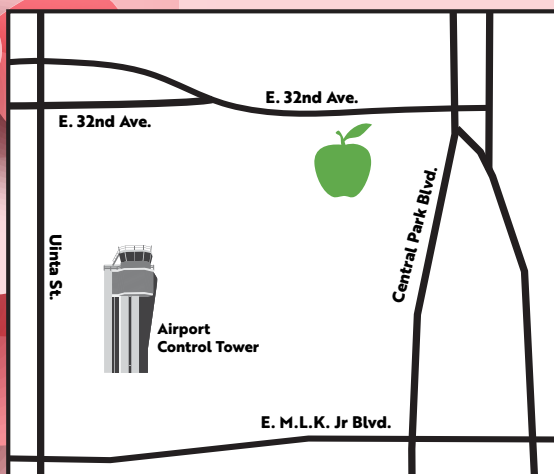
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Gentrification Patterns in NE Denver

By Brian Heuberger

The soaring home values and increasing rent prices that Denver experienced over the last decade has facilitated a pattern of neighborhoods being gentrified and residents being displaced. A study from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition revealed that 27 percent of Denver neighborhoods are currently gentrifying and that Denver is the second-most gentrified city in the nation, just behind San Francisco.

Gentrification is prevalent throughout Northeast Denver, especially in Park Hill. Housing prices skyrocketed, the business community flourished, and in 2021 a *Money Inc* report ranked Park Hill the 8th wealthiest neighborhood in Denver. From 2015-2018 the average rent in North Park Hill increased by 76 percent, which was the second-largest spike in the city behind Indian Creek. Although a thriving community can be a positive development, the failure to also maintain affordable options displaced many long-time residents from their homes and sparked a

demographic shift in the neighborhood. U.S. Census data analyzed by *Front Porch* demonstrates that from 2010-2020, the Black population in North Park Hill declined by 17 percent and

the neighborhood transitioned from a majority-minority to a majority-white community.

This reflects the common pattern of gentrification having a disproportionate impact on minority communities and especially Black residents. “It goes to the segregation theory that Black households have been segregated



Photo by Alesia Negusio from the East Colfax Community Collective

East Colfax residents protest a luxury condo project by marching from New Freedom Park to the development site at 14th and Yosemite.

because of economic discrimination,” says Dr. Tim Thomas, a UC-Berkeley researcher and director of the Urban Displacement Project. “Wealthier folks are moving into these areas, increasing the costs, and preventing low-income households from being able to afford to live there. That bears on the backs of Black households in particular

because the legacy of discrimination means very few of them can afford to still live in those spaces.”

The Urban Displacement Project is one of the

leading authorities in the nation for data on gentrification. Operating from UC-Berkeley and the University of Toronto, their data is often utilized by local and state governments to identify gentrification patterns and implement effective policies. The geographical data specifies the degrees of gentrification

occurring within every tract of a city.

In Northeast Denver, the neighborhoods that are currently undergoing “advanced” gentrification include Mayfair, Montclair, and East Colfax. Lowry is performing the best of any NE neighborhood, according to the data from the Urban Displacement Project. Lowry has achieved an ideal balance of mixed-income housing, has avoided experiencing any gentrification, and is the only neighborhood in Northeast Denver that increased its Black population.

Central Park has never experienced gentrification, as the neighborhood has been affluent since its inception and *Money Inc* ranks Central Park as the wealthiest neighborhood in Denver. However, Central Park becoming an “exclusive” community renders its surrounding neighborhoods more susceptible to gentrification. “Exclusive areas tend to be a lot wealthier and whiter, and many people can’t get into those areas because of the high costs,” says Dr. Thomas. “People who want to move close by go into the affordable houses in cheaper areas, but then you might see businesses targeting those areas to make investments, flip houses, or revamp buildings.”

The loss of cultural identity is a frequent hazard in gentrified neighborhoods. People who have lived in their communities for generations often foster strong relationships with the residents and harbor deep affinities for the neighborhoods. But replacing the long-time residents with new populations can alter the features of the communities and erode the camaraderie of the residents. “That cultural shift is significant,” says Thomas. “When the people you’re pushing out grew up in the neighborhoods, you’re pushing out its heart and soul. Then the newcomers might have different political or social interests that completely change the landscape of the neighborhood.”

The East Colfax neighborhood is currently trying to protect its cultural identity from that kind of advanced gentrification. While East Colfax has a large minority and immigrant population, rising housing costs are gentrifying the neighborhood, displacing the residents, and changing the cultural dynamics. The East Colfax Community Collective (EC3) has been trying to alleviate this issue. Founded in 2018, the member-led EC3 supports the East Colfax and Northwest Aurora neighborhoods by assisting displaced individuals and by advocating for affordable housing policies.

“When new developments present themselves on the East Colfax corridor, the landlords in the area also shift their treatment towards the tenants and try to increase the rent,” says EC3 Community Organizer Nadeen Ibrahim. “We’re also seeing the demographics quickly change within the community, which is unfortunate because East Colfax was a safe haven for a lot of resettled refugees who have established communities here.”

A new luxury housing development called Ambience exemplifies this problem. Ambience will be built on Yosemite Street and East

14th Avenue, and the project plans to provide 44 condos that will cost over \$600,000. Project developer Aman Kochhar did not respond to a request for comment.

EC3 adamantly opposes this project. “Ambience causes great harm to the community,” says Ibrahim. “It’s completely inaccessible to anybody that’s living within the immediate community, so there’s no affordability aspect within the development. There’s a grave risk of property taxes being increased, landlords pushing out their tenants, and an income demographic shift with more redlining to create the kind of community they want.”

Last October, EC3 coordinated a protest against the Ambience project. Two hundred protestors marched from New Freedom Park to the development site. Residents held signs written in diverse languages, leaders delivered speeches to the cheering crowd, and protestors shouted chants to display the unity of the neighborhood and express their grievances with the project. “That was a special community space,” exclaims Ibrahim. “I get re-energized when I see that passion and love for East Colfax, when I see everybody standing for each other, and when I see that everything that makes us different no longer matters because we’re all advocating for the same thing.”

EC3 also helped filed an appeal to curtail the development. Although the Aurora Planning and Zoning Commission had already approved the project, the Aurora City Council had the power to reverse that decision and prohibit the development. At the Nov 15 meeting, many East Colfax residents gathered to protest the project and testify to the council, but in a 7-4 decision the council voted to deny the appeal and approve the project. “It was extremely disheartening because it’s the constituents of the City Council members that are directly impacted,” says Ibrahim. “Rather than siding with the interests of their immediate constituents, they sided with the interests of corporations and private developers.”



Nadeen Ibrahim

EC3 is now focused on housing policies that can help East Colfax protect residents and reduce gentrification. “We have members of our team working on a down payment assistance program, and then we

have another aspect of our team working on a mixed-income neighborhood model.”

Dr. Thomas from the Urban Displacement Project also recommends certain strategies that can maintain the features of neighborhoods and prevent the displacement of residents. “One simple recommendation is the Three P’s of protecting tenants, producing affordable housing, and preserving existing affordable housing,” says Thomas. “If cities adopt that model, it would help prevent displacement and enable future generations to benefit from not being pushed around all the time.”

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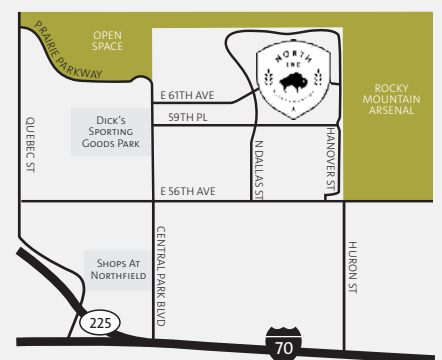


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Learning About the West

By Mary Jo Brooks

The medical office where Denver's first female African American physician treated patients. A saddle ridden by Bill Pickett, the famous Black cowboy and rodeo champion. A uniform worn by a Buffalo soldier in the all-Black 9th Cavalry stationed at Fort Garland in southern Colorado. These are just a few of the exhibits on display in the recently reopened Black American West Museum & Heritage Center in the Five Points neighborhood of Denver.

The museum's mission is to tell the under-told stories of how African Americans helped settle and develop the American West, says the museum's board president Daphne Rice-Allen. "Mainstream

history does not portray a positive image of African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans in the West. But they were all important players in the development of the western United States."

Board member Earnest Reese, who grew up in Denver, says that as a child he was completely unaware of the contributions made by African Americans in settling the West. "I didn't even know Black cowboys existed. When I was growing up, you never saw Black cowboys on TV or in the movies." In fact, historians now believe that a quarter of all cowboys in the West were African American.

The museum was started 52 years ago by Paul Stewart, a professional storytell-



Photos by Mary Jo Brooks

Visitor Zenzele Barnes looks at a display of medical tools used by Denver's first female African American physician, Dr. Justina Ford.



The remodeled museum features new and restored exhibits, such as this homesteader's cabin filled with furniture and dishes from the late 1800s.



The farm and ranch room helps to showcase how African Americans homesteaded the West.



Museum board member Earnest Reese stands in front of the newly created mining exhibit that he helped to construct.

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's Black History

er who toured Colorado schools to explain the rich cultural heritage of Blacks in the West. He had begun collecting materials to help tell those stories and soon realized that he had accumulated enough items to create a permanent display. He opened the museum in the former home and office of Dr. Justina Ford, a physician who arrived in Denver in 1902 but who wasn't allowed to practice in a hospital because she was Black. Throughout her career, she treated tens of thousands of patients and delivered nearly 7,000 babies. Stewart filled her former home with his collection of historical items and educational exhibits to teach visitors about the influence of African Americans on the culture of the American West.

The museum closed down for renovation just prior to the pandemic in 2020. Thanks to \$300,000 in grants, the museum's exterior was completely refurbished, new windows and flooring were installed, the interior was repainted, and displays were updated. A new exhibit featuring the Five Points neighborhood was also created. Dubbed "the Harlem of the West," Five Points thrived in the 1920s and 30s with Black-owned businesses, jazz clubs, and two Black-owned newspapers. The renovation also included the construction of a mining display that allows visitors to peer into the depths of a mine, and a farming and ranching display located in the corner of a recreated barn.

The newly remodeled museum is open on a limited basis on Saturdays from 10am–2pm, and all visitors must pre-register for an hour-long slot. The museum operates with limited funding and an all-volunteer staff. Rice-Allen says the museum is applying for additional grants that she hopes will allow the museum to expand its hours. "This museum has an important role to play and it's important that it survives."

The museum also hopes to soon resume its reenactment program that is based on the work that Paul Stewart initiated in schools. Volunteers conduct research, wear costumes, and tell the stories of famous African Americans in the West. Eleise Clark has volunteered with the museum for 30 years and coordinates the program. "The re-



Wayne Cartwright and Susan Allen, visiting from California, read about Bill Pickett, one of the West's most famous Black cowboys.

enactment program brings history to life. You get to meet Tuskegee airmen or Dr. Justine Ford. It allows children to meet characters from history up close and personal." Other characters who have been portrayed include Barney Ford—an escaped slave who became a wealthy entrepreneur in Denver—and Bass Reeves, a former slave who became one of the first Black U.S. Marshalls in the American West.

In addition to the museum in Five Points, the Black American West Museum and Heritage Center hopes that it can raise enough money to restore parts of Dearfield, Colorado. Dearfield was the largest Black homesteading settlement in Colorado. Located 30 miles east of Greeley, it was founded in 1910 by a successful businessman from Boulder named O.T. Jackson. "They named it Dearfield because the land was so dear to them," says Clark. By 1920 the town boasted nearly 300 residents, two churches,

and a café. But after the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, residents abandoned the townsite and it became a ghost town. Just a few deserted buildings remain.

For more information about the museum and to reserve a timeslot to visit, go to www.bawmhc.org.

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Aurora Arts Education Theater Camps. Create and perform plays based on different themes. Ages 7–18. Central Library, 14949 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora and Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. More details at auroragov.org/things_to_do/recreation_sports_programs/camps

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Girls Create Summer Camps. Writing, Stand-Up, and Fashion Design. For girls in 6th–10th grades. 3 different camps from 9am–3pm, M–F. Various Denver locations. athenaprojectarts.org/summer-camps

Roaming Gnome Theatre and Art Summer Camps. Full-day and half-day sessions, with a different theme each week. 10255 E 25th Ave., Unit 5, Aurora. Roaminggnometheatre.com

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Altitude Youth Ultimate Summer Camps. We play numerous games to develop disc fundamentals for new and experienced players. All participants receive a jersey and disc. altitudeyouthultimate.org/play/summer-camps

Bounce Gymnastics Summer Camp. Weekly and half-day gymnastics camps for Kinder–8th grade. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. bouncegymnasticsco.com

CampGrippen Indoor Rock Climbing Camp. Full-day, week-long indoor rock climbing camps. 7 different camp themes to choose from. 8610 E. 21st Ave. ugclimbing.com/denver/camps

Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Camps. Several camps for all levels, ages 3 to 18. Just starting out or hone your skills and get those touches! Metro Denver locations. rapidsyouthsoccer.org

Dance Institute Camps. Offering week-long half- and full-day camps for ages 4–13. And a 6-week dance intensive for ages 10 and up. 4601 Quebec St. danceinstitutedenver.com

Dardano's Gymnastics Preschool Summer Adventure Camp. Ages 3 to 5 ½. Combining gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games, and much more. Sign up by the day, week, or full 4-week camp. 2250 Kearney St. dardanosgym.com/camp

Fussbally Soccer Camps. Soccer camps for kids that play competitively and want to further develop their skills. All sessions have niched topics and are intensive. Willow Elementary School, 8499 Stoll Pl. fussbally.com/summer-camps

Lace 'Em Up Skating Camps. A great way to advance your skating skills while having fun with friends. Our coaches offer a variety of on-ice and off-ice activities, games, and lessons for students of all abilities. Full- or half-day camps. laceemupskating.com

Mighty Movement Speed and Strength Summer Camps. Get Outside. Work Hard. Have Fun! Half-day indoor/outdoor summer camp for ages 8–16. 2245 Kearney St. mightymovementacademy.com

Nighthawks Soccer Camp. Youth camp 9am–12pm for rising 5–8th graders. High School camp 6–9pm for rising 9–12th graders. Week of July 24th. Register before 2/1 for a 20% discount. 5500 Central Park Blvd. nighthawkssoccer.com

PGA Junior Golf Camps. Hands-on instruction led by certified PGA professionals. Ages 6–16. Full- and half-day, indoor and outdoor options. Several Denver metro locations. pgajuniorgolfcamps.com

Shredder Ski and Snowboarding Camps. Learn to ski and snowboard indoors at our summer camps for ages 3–10. Half- and full-day options. 4890 Ironton St. shredderski.com

Soccer Electric 9th Annual "Camplify". Week of June 19th. We're teaming up with Sie FilmCenter, Denver East High School, and other local partners. Denver East High School, soccerelectric.com/camps.html

Swimming Simply: Swim Camp. Full-day camp, 9am–3pm, where we will ensure your swimmer has an excellent week of learning and stroke development. Ages 7–13. 11700 E 11th Ave. swimmingsimply.com

DAY CAMPS

Aurora Summer Camps. We have camps your kiddos are sure to enjoy! Every age group, from 18 months to 17-years old, is invited to join the fun. 15151 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. auroragov.org/daycamps

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

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

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

CSU Spur Summer Camps. Interested in science, animals, or the arts? CSU Spur offers camp opportunities that combine grade-level learning with hands-on fun! csuspur.org/summer-programs

Discovery Link Summer Camps. Outdoor programming and engaging activities in the visual and performing arts, sports, science, and cultural exploration. Several DPS locations. Ages 3–12. equity.dpsk12.org/extended-learning

Dream Big 1-3-6-9 Week Day Camp. An excellent program facilitated by highly trained staff. Day tripping adventures. Options for older campers. Counselor in training programs for high schoolers. Denver locations. dreambigdaycamp.com

Galileo Camps Colorado. K–10th graders enjoy STEAM-inspired projects, collaborate with peers and get active outside. Two locations: Odyssey School of Denver and The Denver Waldorf School. galileo-camps.com

Hands-On History Summer Camp. 8 weeks of summer camp for ages 6–12. Different weekly themes range from topics of the deep ocean, archaeology, superheroes, and space exploration! 1200 N Broadway. historycolorado.org/summercampathcc

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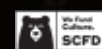
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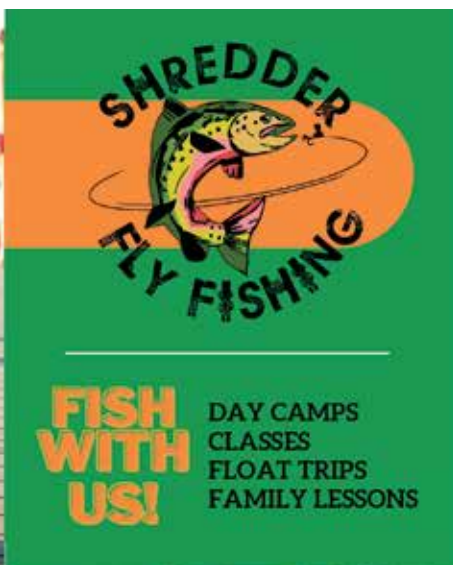
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SUMMER CAMPS

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9–11:45am: Half-Day am
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International School of Denver Summer Programs. Your child's ticket to a world of experiences. New programs offered each week—pick and choose the ones that work best for you. 7701 East First Pl. isdenver.org/summer

Montessori Children's House of Denver. Learning-centered, theme-based camps at our Central Park, Mayfair, & Park Hill campuses. Ages 1–12. Extended outdoor play and hands-on, real-world experiences with a variety of schedule options. mchdenver.org

Primrose Summer Adventure Club. Ages K–5th grade. Every week children explore new themes like sports, arts, robotics, and more through fun, hands-on activities. Central Park: primrosedenvercentralpark.com or Denver North: primrosedenvernorth.com

Summer at Kent Denver. Innovative, hands-on learning in the arts, athletics, our Tiny Farm day camp, academics, innovation, and technology. With 120 offerings, there's summer fun for everyone! Ages 4–18. 4000 E Quincy Ave, Englewood. kentdenver.org/summer

Summer at Ricks. Blending fun summer activities with rich learning experiences all while enjoying the benefits of the University of Denver campus. Before and after care available. Preschool–6th grade. 2040 South York St. du.edu/ricks

Summer at Stanley. Child-centered, experiential, full-day weekly camps for grades K–8. Activities and environments allow campers to explore, create, discover, and problem-solve. Before and after-care available. Stanley British Primary School, 350 Quebec St. stanleybps.org

MISC

Arise Kids VBS: Undefeated. Kids from 3 years old to 5th grade join us for a fun tropical-themed summer camp that runs from 9am–12pm (week of June 12th) at Arise Church. 8700 E 21st Ave. arisedenver.com/vbs

Every Child Reading: Super Stars Summer Camp. Engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham intervention program. Intensive, high-quality reading instruction along with math and writing instruction. Half-day and full-day options at 3 locations. everychildreading.org

Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families. Nine separate camps for international and domestic adoptees and their families, held in Colorado. Specific camp info at heritagecamps.org

Summer Sacred Art. Five-day camp explores world religions through music, dance, art-making, story, objects, and discussion. We emphasize building friendships as we learn about faith traditions in an atmosphere of creativity, celebration, and fun! Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia St. montview.org/children

OVERNIGHT

Avid4 Adventure Resident and Expedition Camps. Resident Camps with 1-week options for 1st–2nd graders and 2-week options for 3rd–11th graders. Week-long expedition camps for 5th–12th graders. Camp locations across CO and beyond. Learn more at avid4.com

Camp Chief Ouray. Nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Camp Chief Ouray is the premier overnight camp and adventure playground. Over 5,000 acres of mountains, valleys, streams, and meadows to explore. 1101 County Road 53 Granby. campchiefouray.org

Camp Granite Lake. Co-ed, overnight camp for campers in 1st–9th grade. 1 hour from Denver, CGL focuses on creating a kind & inclusive camp community. Kids can connect with nature and friends, disconnect from technology, and have fun. 11902 Camp Eden Road, Golden. campgranitelake.com

Camp Timberline. A Christian Sports and Mountain Adventure camp located in Estes Park, Colorado and along the Front Range. We offer several different camps for kids aged 5–18. Join us this summer for a camp experience unlike any other! 1207 Longs Peak Rd, Estes Park. camptimberline.com

Cheley Colorado Camps. Top-rated, 27-day overnight summer experience for girls and boys ages 9–17. Activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rafting, mountain biking, and more. 3960 Fish Creek Rd, Estes Park. cheley.com

JCC Ranch Camp. JCC Denver's overnight camp located on 380 acres of stunning private land in Elbert, Colorado in the Black Forest. ranchcamp.org/explore-ranch-camp

STEM

Code Ninjas. Kids learn to code while gaining problem solving, critical thinking, and STEM skills in a fun, safe, and inspiring environment. 101 Ulster Ct. codeninjas.com

Curious Jane Summer Camp. A girls' camp revolving around science + engineering + design. Themes include The Poster Project, Spies in Disguise, Fab Lab, Magic + Mystery, and Ooey Gooney Science. Ages K–2nd, 3rd–6th, CITs. Full- and half-day options. Graland School, 55 Clermont St. curiousjane.fun

Denver Rocky Mountain 29th Annual Chess Camp. 9am–4pm. Participants will be taught scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament prep, logical-thinking, and strategic planning. June 5–9 and July 5–7. Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave. coloradomasterchess.com

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Performance Camps!
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Hogwarts Camp!
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AND MORE!

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roaminggnometheatre.com

Minecraft Makerspace STEAM Summer Camps. For the kid who loves creating, inventing, engineering, and building. A different theme every week. Ages 5–10+. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. mindcraftmakerspace.com/makerspace

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4605 Quebec St, units B2 and B3, Denver, CO 80216

Offering week-long half- and full-day camps for ages 4–13 and a 6 week Dance Intensive for ages 10 and up.
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by a stunning Felix Kammerer), journeys through this hell-on-earth with eyes increasingly wide-open and a burgeoning dehumanized psyche that serves him well. Meanwhile, German Minister Matthias Ertzberger (the in-

The Oscars loom, and I continue to review films that will be nominated or that I think should be nominated. This was a particularly good year for international film, and so this month I review another of the best films as well as a wonderful new documentary. The throughline should be apparent. In addition, my book review this month is essential reading for all human mammals; next month, I will review its (just-as-important) successor. Please enjoy.

All Quiet on The Western Front (2022—Netflix)

This might be the best movie of the year—that category of “Best Picture” where everything is expertly done and placed into a tight package. The writing, the cinematography, the settings, the editing, the acting, the directing, the costuming, and the sound are all first-rate and add up to spectacular viewing. This is what the best pictures look like.

Based on the seminal 1929 anti-war novel from Erich Maria Remarque and the fourth adaptation of the story, this version is powerful, grueling, frightening, and overall, stinging. We follow a small band of German WWI soldiers from young, eager volunteers to hardened young men who see horrors beyond belief. The lead character, Paul (played

All Quiet on The Western Front



comparable Daniel Brühl)—after charting mounting, unbelievable casualties—attempts to persuade the German High Command to enter an armistice. The film moves through both worlds adeptly, and that striking dichotomy becomes one of the best, lasting metaphors for the subjugation of war. The original book by Remarque was extremely polemical in its time, and the most frightening aspect of this film version is the cruel recidivism of the story. This is one that never ends—consider Afghanistan, Iraq, and now, Ukraine—and one that never changes. Young men (and women) who are eager to fight get squeezed through a hand-cranked machine. Some are lucky enough to get out alive. This film version is powerful, vituperative, horrific, and important to see. Now available on Netflix.

Retrograde (2022—Nat Geo)

This is a documentary that brings us into an unseen world we may have thought was in plain sight. We have seen images of the war in Afghanistan, we have seen images of the Taliban taking over the country, and we have seen images of the Kabul airport with swarms of desperate people begging to disembark. This doc, however, burrows into all of that and allows us to see things from the Afghan side as the Americans leave. It is hard to watch.

Point of view matters, and here we see the exit through the eyes of Afghan Army Lt. General Sami Sadat. Sadat oversees the final months of the American exit and the lightning-fast fall of the Afghan troops. As we watch, we know the ending that Sadat does not, and we cringe. He is either the most positive and hopeful human on the planet, or the most naïve and idiotic. The film begins with the last American Army Rangers stationed in the country and then transitions the narrative to Sadat. We get inside access to meetings, hospitals, and even the front lines as Sadat makes a futile attempt to hold it all together. Of course we know he can't, and he eventually leaves for England. The access, the cinematography that brings us into the action, and the skilled editing that ties it all together adds up to a tight and vigorous package delivered by director Matthew Heineman. This is another powerful vision of war, its pawns, and its victims. Most of all, it is about humanity. Available on National Geographic.

The Sixth Extinction (Elizabeth Kolbert)

This is a must-read. Alternately terrifying and fascinating, Kolbert shepherds us through Earth's history, the first five



mass extinction events, and then into the sixth extinction—the one we are watching unfurl in real time. This one includes the extinction of everything, and we, humans, are the asteroid.

Kolbert showers us in biology, geography, geology, oceanography, field study, history, and a host of other topics too long to mention. Yet we are reading neither a science textbook nor an academic paper; we are told *a story*, full of real people, anecdotes, personal minutiae, and a living history that bleeds into our own world. “Bleeding” might be the operative word here because it is the essential element of the narrative: humans are bleeding the Earth to death. Enticed to read?

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

Super Stars Summer Camp

Does your child struggle with reading, writing, spelling, and/or math? Is your child dyslexic?

Camp is an engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham Intervention camp. Students entering 1 - 9th grade receive intensive, high-quality 1-1 or small group (max 4) individualized reading instruction, small group STEAM project-based learning to grow math and writing skills and self-confidence.

Denver 1800 Pontiac St. (St. Elizabeth's School)	Lakewood/Littleton 4000 S Wadsworth Blvd (The Havern School)
Greeley Location to be announced	

June 12th - July 14th
Session Times:
8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
or 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

www.EveryChildReading.org camp@everychildreading.net

SUMMER 2023 REGISTRATION OPEN!

Camps will run June 12 - July 28th at two Denver Area Locations;
The Odyssey School of Denver & The Denver Waldorf School

At Camp Galileo, K - 10th graders enjoy STEAM-inspired projects, collaborate with peers and get active outside.

More information & registration at galileo-camps.com

Bluff Lake Nature Center

Summer Camp 2023

Explore. Play. Get Dirty.

Denver's favorite camp for outdoor exploration, hands-on activities, live animal encounters, and creek play!

www.blufflake.org/camp

Questions? Contact ben@blufflake.org and chira@blufflake.org

2023 summer camp spots for 5-12 year old's sold out in record time in early December!

We still have Junior Counselor spots and scholarship spots available!

Scan the QR code below to learn more!

Junior Counselors ages 13-17

Week-long sessions Jun 5 - Aug 18

Mon-Fri 8:45am-3:15pm

Summer at Ricks for Preschool-6th Grade

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

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

Enjoy weekly themes and specialty camps ranging from Shipwrecked, Art in Motion, Journey into Space, Grossology, The Great Escape, Play-Well Lego® Engineering Camps, Chess camps and more!

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

Feb. & Early Mar. Events

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

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

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

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

2/3 Friday—Visions of Love Wine Tasting Event. Benefits the Anchor Center for Blind Children. Anchor Center, 2550 Roslyn St. anchorcenter.org

2/4 & 3/4—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

2/4 Saturday—Voice of the Wood Chamber Players. Slightly unusual string quartet (two violins, two cellos) will play Mendelssohn, Haydn, and Turina. 2–3pm. All ages. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/7 Tuesday—Lunar New Year Crafting Party. All ages. 4–5pm, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/9 Thursday—Active Minds presents New Orleans: Biography of a City. Join us for a virtual visit of this iconic place. 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. activeminds.com

2/11 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Get an up close look inside select aircraft. 10am–2pm. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

2/11 Saturday—Stories on Stage presents The Word Painter. Denver theater company offers up a sneak preview of their upcoming show. Ages 13+. 2–3pm, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org



Colorado Garden and Home Show

2/23 Thursday—Black History Month Book Buzz. A list of books about various aspects of the Black experience. 3:30–4:30pm. Ages 18+. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

METRO EVENTS

2/3 & 3/3—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa Fe. 5:30–9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

2/3 to 2/26—Swallow Hill Concerts. Color, Larry & Joe, Dakota Blonde, Toad In the Hole, Mick Flannery & Tianna Esperanza, and Jews Do Jews Part Two. 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

2/4 to 2/12—Colorado Garden & Home Show. Rocky Mountain region's largest, oldest, and most prestigious. Colorado Convention Center. coloradogardenfoundation.org

2/9 Thursday—Chocolate, Cocktails, and Corsets. Valentine's Day in all its glory and Victorian traditions! Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. historicdenver.org

2/9 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. denverartmuseum.org

Through 2/14/22—Downtown Denver Rink. Free admission, rentals available. Hours at downtowndenver.com

2/15 Wednesday—Come On In Dearie: Reclaiming the Stories of Sex Workers in 19th-Century Denver. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

2/19 Sunday—Day of Remembrance. A Mile High Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League sponsored annual event. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

2/23 Thursday—Children's Museum's Adults-only Craft Beer Extravaganza. Samples of beers from local breweries, light bites, and our world-class exhibits. 2121 Children's Museum Dr. mychildsmuseum.org

2/28 Tuesday—Becky Hammon. Basketball Star, WNBA Coach & Trailblazer. 7pm. In-person & online. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

3/5 Sunday—The Challah Prince. A challah braiding workshop—each participant will be taught to braid their own challah loaf that they take home to bake. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Tuesday–Friday—Local Library Storytime. Mornings. Different age groupings and locations. Info at 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—Magic the Gathering Club. 4–5:30pm. Ages 12–18. A teen-run magic club. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/4, 2/18, & 2/25 —Chess Club for 18 and Under. 3–4:30pm. Ideal for ages 5–18. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/5 Sunday—Create Playdate. For families with children ages 3-5 and their siblings. 10am–12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

2/11 Saturday—CSU Spur 2nd Saturdays. Free. Lots of family-friendly programming. 10am–3pm. 4817 National Western Dr. csuspur.org

2/11 Saturday—Family Program: Love Notes. 10:30am–12:30pm. Join us for family artmaking. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/12 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

2/18 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

2/19 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids. 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

2/19, 2/22 & 2/25—Art Crawl: Into the Archives. 10:30–11:15am. For caregivers with infants–14 months. Registration required. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/25 Saturday—ideaLAB Sensory Friendly Maker Hours. Create in an environment that is quieter and less overwhelming than typical lab hours. 10–11:30am, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

Through 3/3—Charlotte's Web. The beloved children's story for K–5th graders. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

3/4 & 3/5—Bluey's Big Play. A brand-new adaptation of the award-winning children's television series. Buell Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

MUSEUMS, ETC.

American Museum of Western Art. Open M, W & F from 10am–4:30pm. Admission is \$5. 1727 Tremont Pl. anschutzcollection.org

Aurora History Museum. Admission is free. Closed Mondays and holidays. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

The Byers–Evans House Museum. Operated by History Colorado as the Center for Colorado Women's History. History Colorado members are free. 1310 Bannock St. Tickets at historycolorado.org

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

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 23. 10am to 5pm. Children ages 17 and under are always free. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 14. Contemporary Indigenous Photography exhibit *Speaking with Light* opens 2/19. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens. SCFD Free Day Feb. 16. 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. SCFD Free Day Feb. 5. 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. 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. mcad Denver.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



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Sean Rodgers, AVVO review

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2280 E. 16th Ave. Denver



PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

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

2/5 Sunday—Skride Piano Quartet. A “multinational chamber super-group” (Gramophone) makes their debut. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. friendsofchambermusic.com

2/5 Sunday—One Night Stand Theater reveals all in “Guilty Pleasures”. Performances and readings of short plays and stories about hidden cravings, shameful indulgences, and quirky behavior. 1460 Dayton St., Aurora onenightstandtheater.org

Through 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

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

2/10 to 2/26—The Year of Magical Thinking. A spellbinding adaptation of the award-winning, bestselling memoir by Joan Didion. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

2/10 to 3/12—Hotter Than Egypt. A captivating tale of an American couple’s own personal revolutions. Kilstrom Theatre, DCPA. denvercenter.org

2/11 Saturday—Fiesta! Experience the celebration of sound, color, and motion with Fiesta Colorado Dance Company and Denver Brass. 7:30pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

2/17 Friday—Extasis: Tango Quartet. Enjoy the thrilling, vibrant sounds of Argentine tango music. 7:30pm. Tickets \$7–\$15. Center for Musical Arts, 200 E Baseline Rd, Lafayette. centerformusicalarts.org

2/17 & 2/18—RZA and the Colorado Symphony. From the mind of RZA comes a symphonic double-feature that bridges the gap between classical and contemporary music. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

Through 2/18—The Death of Napoleon: A Play in Less than 3 Acts. Loosely based on the historical events surrounding Napoleon’s last days on the island of St. Helena. 717 Lipan St. buntport.com

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



cert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

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

2/19 Sunday—The Word Painter. An afternoon with best-selling author Peter Heller. Virtual performance on 2/23. Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, 721 Santa Fe Dr. storiesonstage.org

2/21 to 2/26—STOMP. The international percussion sensation has garnered an armful of awards and rave reviews. Buell Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

2/24 to 5/21—Our Town. The story of one small town is a portrait of the universal experiences of life, love, and death. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

2/25 to 3/25—Tiny Beautiful Things. Based on the best-selling book by Cheryl Strayed. The John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. firehousetheatercompany.com

3/5 Sunday—Denver Young Artists Orchestra Spectacular. An afternoon of music with dance-like flare. 2:30pm. Tickets: adults \$20, seniors \$15, students & teachers are free. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

Through 3/5—The Secret Comedy of Women. You are invited to laugh with the women in your life until you cry...or pee. Garner Theatre, 1101 13th St. denvercenter.org

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

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

Denver’s Marade
Largest in
the Country



Scenes from the Martin Luther King Jr. Marade, held this year on January 16. Some activists held signs honoring Dr. King while others called for solutions to problems of inequity. Stephanie Hancock (lower right photo) sang “Lift Every Voice” to kick off the festivities in front of the MLK statue in City Park. Former Mayor Wellington Webb, Gov. Jared Polis, and Sen. John Hickenlooper spoke before the crowd marched to Civic Center Park where the entertainment and celebrations continued. Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch



By Mary Jo Brooks
Terri Gentry is a fourth generation Denverite who has been attending Denver’s Martin Luther King Jr. Marade since its inception in 1986. “It’s always been an event about unity and coming together, with people from all walks of life. Young people, old people, families pushing strollers. Blacks, whites, Latinos, Jews, Christians, Muslims.”

Gentry, who serves as the engagement manager for Black communities at the History Colorado Center, says the marade was created by former State Representative Wilma Webb, who along with her husband, former Mayor Wellington Webb, spent over a decade in the 1970s and 80s advocating that Colorado designate a state holiday to honor the slain civil rights leader.

After that designation was signed into law, Webb led a commission—with input from Coretta Scott King—about how to properly celebrate MLK Day. Both the state and federal MLK holiday were to be inaugurated on the third Monday of January in 1986.

Wilma Webb decided the best way to honor the civil rights leader was with an event she called a marade. “A parade is a celebration of good things that have happened and a march is to stand up and make change,” says Gentry. “So we celebrate accomplishments but also recognize the things we have yet to achieve. And we do so in a peaceful manner, just like Dr. King wanted us to.”

Over the years, Denver’s marade has grown from 15,000 participants to 60,000 this past January. Other cities have also started marades, but Denver’s remains the largest and Gentry predicts it will continue to grow. “A marade is about human rights, civil rights, and equity. And those are issues that aren’t going to go away.”



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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/



Suncor placed the refinery in “safe mode” to perform repairs.

By Brian Heuberger and Mary Jo Brooks

1 The Suncor Shutdown

Suncor Energy’s Commerce City oil refinery experienced severe equipment damage that forced the facility to shut down until March and that could increase gas prices and airfares in Colorado. As the only oil refinery in the state, the Suncor plant is a major fuel supplier for gas stations and for airplanes at Denver International Airport. It refines approximately 98,000 barrels of oil each day, provides about 40 percent of the gasoline used in the state, and produces nearly one-third of all jet fuel for DIA. The company employs over 500 workers in its facility. The damage was caused when extreme weather bombarded Denver with an arctic blast that kept the city frozen in sub-zero temperatures for several days. The Suncor equipment was not prepared to handle the cold temperatures, and multiple fires erupted at the refinery during this stretch. On Dec. 24, the fires forced Suncor to shut down the refinery to repair the damage, correct the problems, and upgrade the equipment.

“The inspection and repair of the damaged equipment is ongoing,” says Suncor Communications Advisor Leo Garcia in a written statement. “Based on our current assessment, we anticipate a progressive restart of the facility with a return to normal operations expected to be completed by late Q1 2023.”

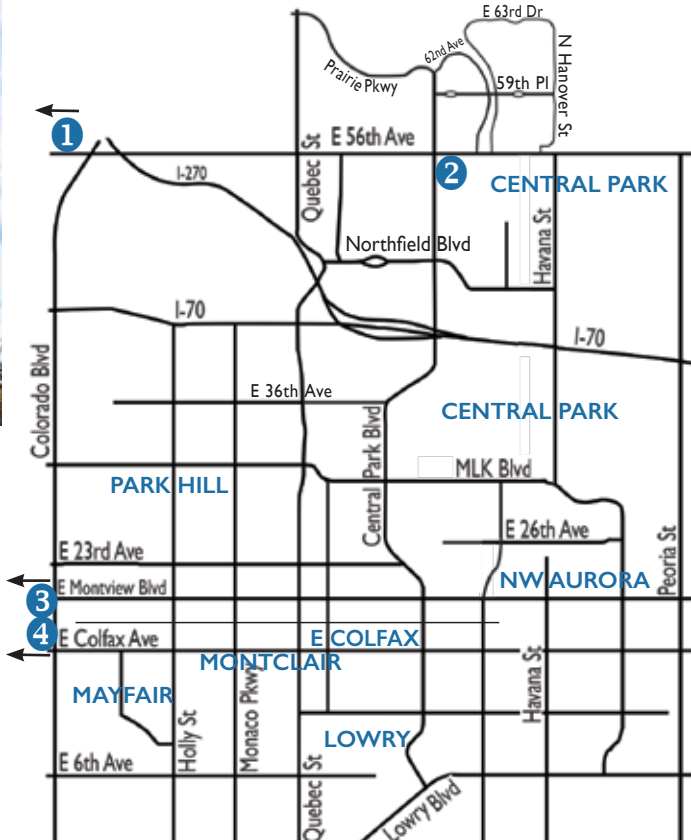
The repair projects at Suncor might be noticeable for the surrounding neighborhoods in Commerce City and Northeast Denver. “Flaring continues to be needed as we prepare equipment for maintenance,” says Garcia. “While we work to repair and then re-start different areas of the refinery, there may also be noise and traffic related to our operations.

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...NE News Updates



We are taking precautions to ensure these disruptions are kept to a minimum.”

Suncor is hopeful that the closure will not necessitate terminating any employees or reducing its staff. “No layoffs have occurred or are planned during this period,” says Garcia. “In fact, we will likely see increased numbers of people on-site to conduct evaluations and repairs.”

In the past, the refinery has also generated criticism for its exorbitant greenhouse gas emissions. The high emission rates can contaminate the air in nearby communities, impair the health of Northeast residents, and spread pollution throughout the Front Range. The gas emissions have also recently involved Suncor with an EPA investigation into the state’s oversight. On Dec. 28, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it was investigating flawed oversight practices in which Colorado issued permits to polluters even when those companies exceed the federal limits on gas emissions. Although this is a broad investigation into how the state handles all air polluters, the EPA is also specifically focusing on how Colorado treats Suncor when issuing permits to the company or regulating emissions from the refinery.

2 Northfield HS Principal Announces Retirement

Northfield High School Principal Amy Bringedahl announced that she will be stepping down from her leadership position at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Bringedahl began serving as the Northfield principal in 2016, just one year after the school opened and the founding principal resigned. In a letter to the Northfield High School community, Bringedahl emphasized that she enjoyed collaborating with the staff and parents while helping the school emerge as “one of the premier

high schools in the state.” During her tenure, Bringedahl enabled Northfield to receive an International Baccalaureate accreditation, implement a comprehensive arts program, increase the athletic program to 24 certified sports, and grow the population to nearly 1,900 students.

The search for the next Northfield principal has already begun. The Collaborative School Committee and the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone will work together to search for the new leader. They are seeking candidates who can reinforce the strengths of Northfield, and the school plans on hiring a finalist by the middle of February. The finalist will then work as an apprentice through the next school year while Bringedahl prepares the new principal for the position and assists the transition process for the school.

3 Groundbreaking for Nature Play in City Park

City officials broke ground on Jan. 24 for a four-acre, multi-sensory natural play area south of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. The area will represent the different ecosystems found in Colorado and will include restoration of an historic waterway. The \$7.9 million project is a partnership between the museum and Denver Parks and Recreation. The space was designed with input from the community and will include sculptural play elements that look like Colorado wildlife, a 20-foot tall bighorn sheep climbing structure, and native plants that are found throughout the state. The project is slated to be completed in late 2024.



Courtesy of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

4 East High Hockey Coach Wins Coach of the Year

Leading the Denver East Angels hockey team to both a state and national championship in 2022, coach John Kopperud was named Colorado Coach of the Year. The award was granted to Kopperud by Mile High Sports because of the transformational effect he had on the young hockey team. In his seven years as coach, he turned a lackluster team into an elite program by instilling the players with determined attitudes and by injecting the program with a competitive environment.

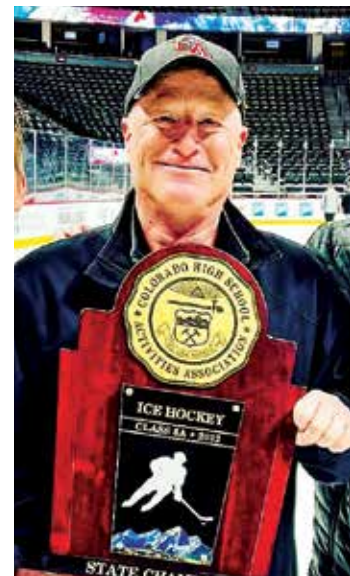


Photo by Lisa Paterson

Head coach John Kopperud after the East Angels varsity hockey team won the state championship game.

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NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY 2023

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Do you have a special talent that you would like to perform for your community?

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"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.



MEET THE CANDIDATES! CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, February 22

6-8 PM

The Cube (8371 Northfield Blvd)



Space is limited! RSVP & submit questions by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/d8cpunrsvp.



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

Visit www.mca80238.com for more information.

IMPORTANT AQUATIC DATES

- February 15th: 2023 Aquatic Program information available on the website (mca80238.com)
- March 1st-31st: Membership Maintenance Month
- May 1st at noon: Party Pad & After-Hour Pool Rentals Open (June & July only)

ACTIVE MINDS: New Orleans: Biography of a City

Thursday, February 9th, 1-2pm. Sam Gary Library

Join Active Minds for a virtual visit to this iconic place. Often referred to as the "most unique" city in America, New Orleans is famous for its cuisine, French Creole influence, jazz music, and of course Mardi Gras! We will explore the colorful history, culture and people of the "Big Easy," including the unique challenges of living in a coastal city where nearly half the land is below sea level! Bring your colored beads and your jazz trumpet. It's the next best thing to being there!

ACTIVE MINDS: Turkey

Thursday, February 23rd, 6:30-7:30pm, Online

A failed coup attempt, and a flood of refugees have challenged the leadership of Turkey's President Erdogan. A strong U.S. ally during the Cold War, Turkey is now one of the world's largest Muslim democracies. Join Active Minds as we explore Turkey's past and current challenges, including its struggles with its Kurdish minority, its role in the rise of ISIS, and what appears to be its warming relations with Russia.

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



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