



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Pull-out Voter Guide Starts on Page 9

On Feb. 9, Regis University hosted a Denver mayoral debate that was sponsored by CBS and included all 17 candidates. This is the largest field of mayoral candidates in over 40 years, and on April 4 Denver voters will decide which candidate can best lead the city and address our issues.

Ballots will be sent out on March 13 for the 2023 Denver election. This is the first mayoral race with an open seat in 12 years, and this is the first City Council election since the district boundaries were redrawn. Information about the election and statements from the candidates can help voters decide the leaders of our city and the direction of our communities. *Our election pull-out coverage by Brian Heuberger starts on page 9.*



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Girl Scouts Dream Big in Lowry

A new Girls Scout Dream Lab is opening mid-March in Lowry's Boulevard One development and is a pilot for the scouting program nationwide. The 4,000-square-foot center has meeting space, a stage, podcasting studio, science lab, and simulated camping area. Girl scouts from Troop 66735 got a sneak peek of the faux fire pit. Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 6.



Photo from the movie Everything, Everywhere, All At Once

Annual Oscar Review

On March 12, the Academy Awards ceremony will bestow the Oscar trophy to the greatest film performances in 24 categories. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is one of 10 films nominated for Best Picture. Story on page 18 by Indie Prof.

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Bird Sightings

Generously donated by George Ho



Flying Sandhill Cranes.
Length: 47.2 inches
Weight: 119.9-172.8 ounces
Wingspan: 78.7 inches

Sandhill Cranes

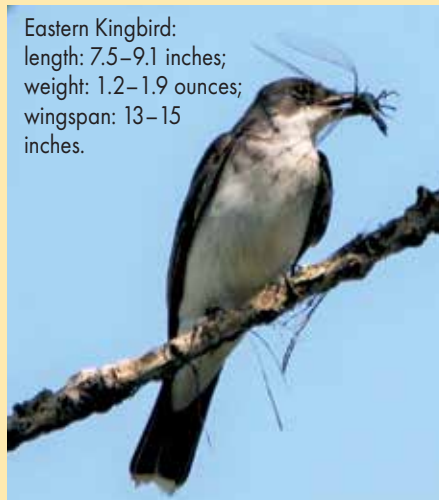
Sandhill Cranes are large, tall, gray birds with broad wings and long legs. The bulky body tapers into a very long but slender neck. The head is relatively small and the straight bill is longer than its head. The neck and legs are fully extended during flight. The crown is red in the adult and rusty brown in juvenile birds.

They are best known for their exuberant courtship dance where they leap in the air with wings spread while calling out. Their spring gathering of over a quarter of a million birds on the Platte River in Nebraska is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on the continental United States. It is common in Denver to hear their loud and rolling calls, which direct our gaze up to witness flocks of flying cranes during Spring and Fall migrations.



Cranes stop over at Lake Ladora of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge during northward Spring migration.

Eastern Kingbird:
length: 7.5–9.1 inches;
weight: 1.2–1.9 ounces;
wingspan: 13–15 inches.



The Eastern Kingbird, seen here with a dragonfly in its beak, is dark gray on its head, back, and wings, and white on its throat, breast, and belly. The tail has a squared tip that is white.



The Western Kingbird is yellow and light gray. It has a pale gray head and a whitish gray chin and throat that blends into a bright lemon-yellow belly. The wings are quite dark and the tail is black with conspicuous white outer feathers. Length: 7.9–9.4 inches. Weight: 1.3–1.6 ounces. Wingspan: 15–16.1 inches.

Eastern & Western Kingbirds

Both Western and Eastern Kingbirds are warm weather visitors in the United States. We see both in the summer months in Denver where they also breed. They are insectivores belonging to a large group of birds called flycatchers. Both like to forage by watching from a perch and then flying out to snap up insects in mid-air. They also hover and then drop to the ground to catch the insects or feed on berries. The Eastern Kingbirds winter in South American forests and their diet changes to fruits and berries predominately, while the Western Kingbirds migrate south into Mexico and Central America, including Southern Florida.



Eastern Kingbird



Eastern Kingbird

Bird Walks

March 4 and April 1. 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/bird-watching. 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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Parisian Cuisine in Park Hill

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

A taste of Paris has arrived in Denver's Park Hill neighborhood, channeling the Place Vendôme, an historic square in Paris where locals gather. Bistro Vendôme, a beloved restaurant in Larimer Square for the past 20 years, plans to continue its goal of being a place where neighbors go for a charming atmosphere and delicious meals.

Bistro Vendôme relocated to 2267 Kearney Street in February, in the space Tables Restaurant had occupied for 17 years. The Bistro's downtown lease was up and, although the new landlords of Larimer Square wanted the restaurant to stay, plans to gut the building meant it wouldn't have been able to re-open for three years.

"That didn't work for us but, as they say, one door closes and another door opens," says Chef Jennifer Jasinski, co-owner and co-founder of Bistro Vendôme.

Diners familiar with the downtown Denver location will note different elements in the Park Hill incarnation, including the colors and décor. The new space seats up to 119 inside and on the patio. There is a larger bar space that seats 10 for both drinking and eating, a private dining room for families to have parties, and an upgraded video projec-

tion system for the popular Monday Movie Nights that pairs dinner and a French film. Speaking to *Front Porch* before the restaurant officially opened, Jasinski said the new location would have "that nice, warm, comforting bistro feeling but its own feeling. It's all windows and we had the courtyard at the old Bistro, which we don't have here. I definitely think it will be different but equally positive. And it will absolutely feel French."

Approximately 60 percent of Chef Jeremy Wolgamott's menu is new. The restaurant is still offering and honoring French classics such as Moules, Pâté Vendôme, and Steak Frites. But it is also adding new items, including dinners for two such as Half Duck à l'Orange and Whole Striped Bass En Papillote.

The cuisine of France is currently enjoying increased popularity in Colorado, with several new restaurants opening up after years of there being only a few, including Bistro Vendôme's two-decade legacy. Jasinski chalks that up to the classical nature of the food.

"Our little Bistro Vendôme in Larimer Square did really well serving classic French food in a relaxed environment through all the culinary turmoil around us," says Jasinski. "French technique is the basis for so many other cuisines. Maybe chefs and

restaurateurs are rediscovering the pleasures of French food that we've celebrated all along."

Moving out of Larimer Square means no longer being across the street from Rioja, the first restaurant Jasinski opened. Being so close together enabled the two restaurants to help each other out if something was needed. Her parent



Left-to-right: Bistro Vendôme's Co-Owner and Culinary Director Tim Kuklinski; Chef, Co-Owner and Co-Founder Jennifer Jasinski; and Co-Owner and Co-Founder, Beth Gruitch.

company, Crafted Concepts restaurant group, also owns Ultreia and Stoic & Genuine, located at Denver Union Station.

The Larimer Square location also provided business from convention and theater traffic. But Jasinski isn't concerned about losing that, feeling that the Park Hill neighborhood is an underserved area in need of more restaurants.

"I think our strategy (here) is what it is anywhere—have a really good product that people love and give them a place where they *want* to go and drive to," she says. "Yes, we don't have that walk-in convention business or the theater crowd but we're ready for more families. We're trying to look at everything as an opportunity," says Jasinski. "Of course, we'll miss the old place but we're looking at the positives."

Jasinski loves the Park Hill neighborhood and felt good about moving into the spot that Tables Restaurant had occupied for so long.

"The previous owners have a really good reputation and it was a very well-loved spot. We liked that about it—that there was a

positive energy versus sometimes people buy restaurants that have been three restaurants in the past and they all failed. We liked the positive vibe—it seemed right," she says.

What Jasinski and her partners didn't want to do was to come into the situation "with ego," as she puts it, by assuming what diners want, instead saying that they'll listen and evolve to the needs of the neighborhood.

The chef and entrepreneur credits her decades of success in the restaurant business to tenacity, providing great experiences, and understanding the nitty gritty of making it work. "Any restaurant that makes it will tell you it's about good food, good hospitality, and people who know how to run a business," says Jasinski.

As for this new location of Bistro Vendôme, which is the first time Jasinski has relocated one of her restaurants, she and her team are looking forward to meeting their new neighbors.

"We're hoping that people come in and we'll do a good job and they'll say 'Yay, we have a new favorite restaurant to go to!'"

Bistro Vendôme is open for dinner every day and for brunch on Saturday and Sunday.
<https://bistrovendome.com>



The bar at the Park Hill location of Bistro Vendôme, near completion in this picture, can accommodate up to 10 people for drinking and dining, offering more room than the Larimer Square spot.

Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch

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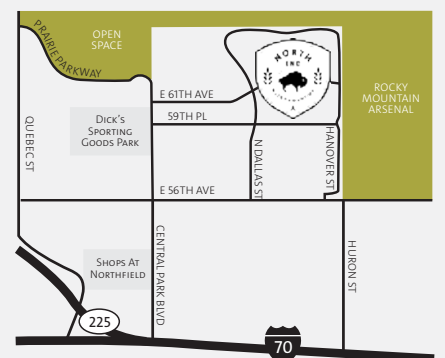
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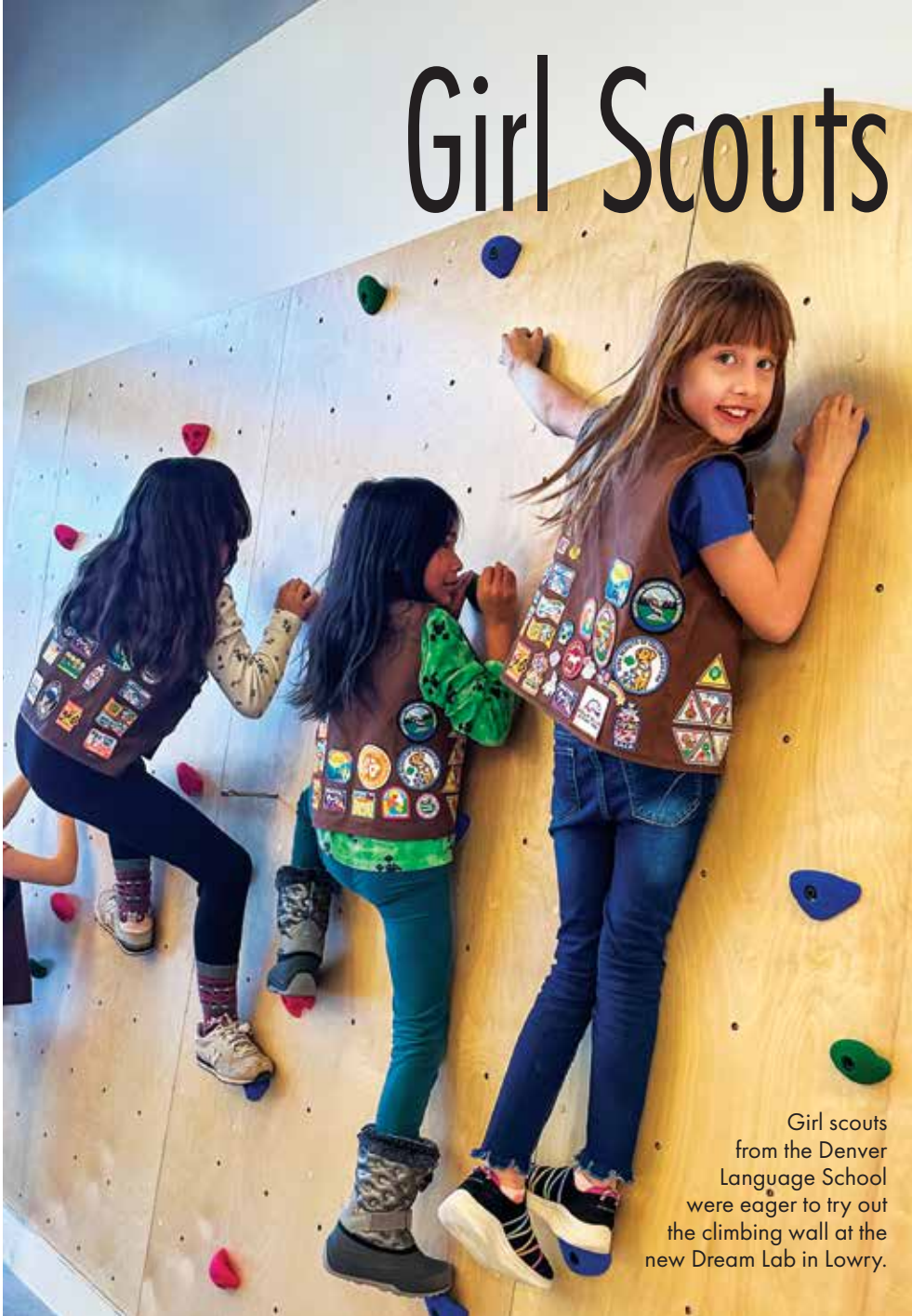


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Girl Scouts Dream Big in Lowry



Girl scouts from the Denver Language School were eager to try out the climbing wall at the new Dream Lab in Lowry.



An artist rendering of the 4,000-square-foot facility, located on Quebec Street in the Boulevard One development, features lots of vibrant colors and large windows to let in light.



The first-of-its-kind Girl Scout center has space for troops to hold meetings, earn badges, record podcasts, conduct science experiments, and simulate camping. It also has a small boutique.

Renderings provided by Girl Scouts of Colorado

By Mary Jo Brooks

A first-of-its-kind Girl Scouts Dream Lab is set to open in Lowry in March and will offer girls opportunities to complete science projects, perform on stage, produce podcasts, simulate camping, and much more. The 4,000-square-foot center is located in the new Boulevard One development along Quebec Avenue.

Girl Scouts of Colorado CEO Leanna Clark says the Dream Lab was designed by girls scouts for girl scouts and will fill a need that became apparent in recent years. “It’s become more challenging in the post-Covid world to find spaces for troops to meet. This will be a place where troops can gather, they can meet other girl scouts, and they can gain skills that might be hard to get elsewhere.”

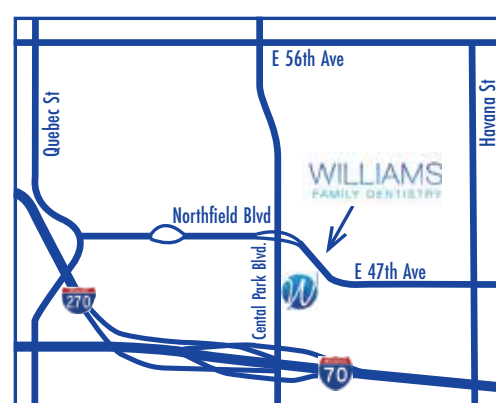
The Lowry site was chosen because the neighborhood has a higher-than-average diversity index. The lab is located within 10 miles of 17 percent of its existing members and affords access to another 80,000 girls in the area. “It lets us reach our current members as well as girls who haven’t been exposed to scouting so we can bring them into the fold.”

Clark hopes that the lab will help tackle another problem that was created by the pandemic: waning membership. Before the pandemic, there were 20,000 girl scouts in Colorado. Now there are 16,000. “We declined during the pandemic because—like everybody—we couldn’t meet in person. But we’re starting to climb back up,” says Clark.

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Several of the girls in Troop 66735 said they were excited to record podcasts in the Dream Lab and get the chance to meet other girl scouts. Front row (left to right): Iris Ahmed, Aurelia Erickson, Analise Davidge, Mila Nicolaescu, and Anabel Williams. Back row: Allie Sullivan and Gemma Vidal.

Meredith Genova Nicolaescu leads a troop of girls who attend the Denver Language School. She's thrilled about the new center. "We really struggle to find meeting space. We normally meet outside in Crestmoor Park, so having access to the Dream Lab will be wonderful." She thinks the center will help energize leaders and scouts alike. "I think it will foster more connections across troops in the Denver Metro area. It will also be wonderful for girls of different ages to interact," says Nicolaescu. "In order to earn awards, older troops need to teach younger troops, so this will more easily enable that kind of mentoring."

Nicolaescu's scouts are also excited. Her 9-year old daughter Mila is looking forward to using the podcast station. "I want to podcast my thoughts and what I think about the world and my school." Nine-year-old Aurelia Erickson also wants to make a podcast. "I want to interview people about animals and science." Eight-year-old Anabel Williams says she's looking forward to the social aspect of the Dream Lab. "I want to meet new friends and have experiences I maybe couldn't have had before."

The Lowry Dream Lab is a pilot project that the Girl Scouts plan to replicate across the state and throughout the nation. Construction was funded by a portion of the revenues from the sale of Magic Sky Ranch near Red Feather Lakes. The space is designed around the four pillars of scouting: STEM, outdoor experiences, life skills, and entrepreneurship. It is decorated with bright colors and vibrant images of girls. Even the ceiling tiles were designed to be more acoustic for the higher pitch of girls' voices.

Clark hopes the Dream Lab will increase awareness about Girl Scouts, but also serve as a community hub for the neighborhood. The Dream Lab will be available for groups to rent, and she also plans to hold a monthly special event on the second Sunday for all ages and genders. "Maybe in December we'd build gingerbread houses or in November we'd do something around gratitude."

One other benefit of the Dream Lab is that it holds office space where staff can work. "We're excited about working in a space where you're exposed to the mission every day as the girls come in and out," says Clark. "It's going to be inspirational for all of us and it will give us a place to bring donors. People will see up close what Girls Scouts is all about. We do sell cookies, but that's not all we do."

An official grand opening celebration will be held on March 12 from 10:30am-1pm and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information visit www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org.



Girl Scouts of Colorado CEO Leanna Clark says she hopes the Dream Lab will encourage more girls to join scouting. Pandemic restrictions in 2020 meant that troops couldn't meet in-person and summer camps were canceled. As a result, the number of girl scouts declined in Colorado from 20,000 to 16,000 members.

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2023 Denver General Election Pull-Out Guide

By Brian Heuberger

By April 4, Denver voters will make their decisions to determine the mayor of the city, the councilmembers of their districts, and the fate of the Park Hill Golf Course. The scope of the mayor's race in this election cycle is especially rare for the city. With Mayor Michael Hancock being term-limited, this is the first election cycle in over 12 years in which this position is entirely vacant. And with 17 candidates vying for that open seat, this is the largest field of mayoral candidates that Denver has experienced in more than 40 years. Most candidates agree that the three most prevalent issues in the city relate to affordable housing, the homeless population, and crime rates. However, since the candidates often differ regarding their perspectives on the topics and solutions to the problems, the choice Denver voters make could have a substantial impact on the issues that get prioritized and the policies that get implemented.

Redistricting Changes

This will also be the first City Council election cycle after the redistricting process. Every ten years, the City redraws the boundaries of the council districts according to the new data from the U.S. Census. Population rates or density changes can modify the placement of the lines and the neighborhoods in the districts.

Certain boundary changes occurred in Northeast Denver neighborhoods. District 5 encompasses the communities south of Colfax, including Montclair, Mayfair, and Lowry. But a shift occurred with East Colfax, which previously was a part of this district but has now entirely joined the District 8 neighborhoods. District 8 envelops the majority of the territory covering Central Park, Park Hill, Montbello, and now all of East Colfax.

Another change facilitated by redistricting involves the placement of Park Hill. Northeast Park Hill is remaining in District 8 alongside Central Park. But South and North Park Hill have moved into District 9, which stretches through North Denver and Five Points. Additionally, Denver has two at-large council seats that cover the entire city, and the top-two candidates who get the most votes will be awarded those at-large positions.

Ballots Are Sent March 13 — Election Day Is April 4

The ballots will be sent out to all households on March 13, but many races might not be decided on the April 4 Election Day. With the exception of the at-large seats, Denver requires all city council and mayoral candidates to get over 50 percent of the votes to be declared the winners of their races. If no one in a given race achieves a majority in the general election, the top-two candidates will face each other in a June 6 runoff election.

Front Porch Guide to the Ballot

The following guide provides the complete list of candidates for the mayoral, Northeast city council, and at-large city council races. A random raffle conducted by the City determined the order of the candidates on the election ballot, and this guide presents the list of candidates according to the order in which they will appear on the ballot. *Front Porch* contacted every candidate and obtained written responses to provide information about their backgrounds and to express their statements for the readers. The bios have been written by *Front Porch*, the statements were issued by the candidates, and equal word counts have been granted to each participant.

The statements provided by the mayoral candidates are in response to the question: "What would be your goals for the city or your priorities as mayor?" Similarly, the statements issued by the city council candidates reflect answers to the question: "What would be your goals for our communities or your priorities as councilmember?"

Mayoral Candidate Statements



Lisa Calderon—Calderon is the Executive Director of Emerge Colorado, which helps Democratic women train to run for political office. She advocates to reform the justice system, protect abuse victims, reduce mass incarceration, and train police in best practices.

I'm running to decentralize city government, put services into our neighborhoods, and co-govern with community stakeholders. As mayor, I will create publicly-funded



City council member Debbie Ortega, who is running for Mayor of Denver, offers a rebuttal to one of her running mates at the Mayoral debate on February 9 hosted by Regis University.

affordable housing, serve our unhoused neighbors with real solutions, reject the false binary between over-policing and community safety, and build a Denver in which everyone can afford to live, work, and enjoy.



Trinidad Rodriguez—Rodriguez implemented affordable housing projects while working as a public banker for the city. He served on boards for Blueprint Denver, the Denver Housing Authority, and the Downtown Denver Partnership.

On homelessness, we must commit to voluntary and involuntary treatment for unhoused folks who pose a threat to themselves or others. On safety, we must grow our police ranks to be proportional to the size of our city. And on affordability, we must increase the supply and diversity of housing while also investing in education for improved attainment of higher-paying jobs.



Aurelio Martinez—Martinez was raised in Curtis Park. Studying business at Metropolitan State University empowered him to work as an engineer at IBM and to then open his Martinez Business Center in Denver.

Denver's been broken for quite some time. With major issues that require major attention, it will take a mayor that will and can make the tough decisions for the betterment of the people that live, work, and operate small businesses in Denver. With me, you are guaranteed to have a mayor that is not part of the status quo.



Thomas Wolf—Since moving to Denver in 1999, Wolf has worked as an investment banker while devoting time to public service and fighting for progress as a community activist.

Encampments are our root problem and require tough love. Encampments are destroying Denver physically, mentally, and financially. If you have seen, smelled, or heard an encampment, I am sure you can join me in acknowledging this as a humanitarian crisis. Shelter is the answer, provided by your city within its surplus buildings. To not shelter Denver's neediest is inhumane and inexcusable.

Al Gardner—Gardner is an IT professional and technological consultant. Gardner did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.



Terrance Roberts—In his youth, Roberts was a Park Hill gang member as addressed in the documentary, *The Holly*. But over the past two decades, Roberts has emerged as a civil rights activist who advocates to prevent crime, protest injustice, improve communities, and reduce inequality.

Denver will build and retrofit more public housing. Affordable housing, which is owned by billionaire developers, has been the focus this last decade. Denver needs a democratized public banking system for additional income to pay for more housing. Denver will become a 24-hour world-class city with two-term mayors.



Kwame Spearman—Spearman grew up in Montclair and graduated from East High School. After studying business at Columbia, Yale and Harvard, he became CEO of the Tattered Cover Bookstore and helped it grow into four new locations.

What I appreciate about our city is the vibrancy of our neighborhoods. To keep our city great, we need to give all of our neighborhoods a voice. We have to work to prevent and limit crime in our neighborhoods and no longer allow people to exploit our homeless policies by choosing to live on the street.

Renate Behrens—As an immigrant from Germany, this is Behrens's first time running for office. Behrens did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.



Chris Hansen—Hansen worked as an engineer before being elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2017 and then the Colorado Senate in 2020. He represents east-central Denver neighborhoods, and he currently serves on the Appropriations Committee.

With my private and public sector experience, I can deliver a safer, more affordable, greener Denver. I'm frustrated because Denver is not working and I plan to build a city that works. I've delivered results for Denver for the last seven years at the Colorado Capitol, and I've delivered results as a private sector leader.



Mike Johnston—Johnston was a school principal at an urban high school, an education advisor for President Obama, and a State Senator for Northeast Denver from 2009-2017.

I'm proud to be the only candidate who has released comprehensive, fully paid-for plans to end unsheltered homelessness, make housing more affordable, improve public safety, and create equity in all Denver neighborhoods. Denver needs a Mayor who has a big vision for our future, a demonstrated track record of delivering transformational change, and the expertise to lead an 11,000-person organization. I believe I am that candidate.

James Walsh—Walsh is a history professor at the University of Colorado Denver and an activist for social progress. Walsh did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.



Ean Thomas Tafoya—As a human rights advocate, Tafoya helped pass citywide initiatives and statewide policies to protect the air and improve our water. He is currently a Community Scholar at the DU Interdisciplinary Research Institute of (In)Equality.

I've dedicated my life to advancing environmental, economic, and racial justice in Denver. I've shown up as a community organizer, a teacher, an artist and in three branches of government. We need a Mayor who knows the day-to-day struggle residents go through and has the know-how and willpower to fight for working families on every policy. (continued on p. 10)

2023 Denver General Election Pull-Out Guide Continued

(continued from p. 9)

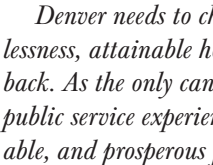
Andy Rougeot—Rougeot was an Officer in the United States Army, and he is the only Republican running in the mayoral race. Rougeot did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.



Leslie Herod—In 2016, Herod was the first LGBTQ Black woman elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. Her district covers most of Northeast Denver, she created the STAR mental health responder unit, and she is the chair of the Appropriations Committee and the Joint Budget Committee.

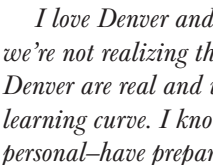
I am running for mayor because Denver is ready for a change for the better. Denver needs a bold leader who puts people over politics and brings those people together to create real, lasting solutions. I have the experience and the record to do just that.

Robert Treta—In 1996, Treta moved to Denver and started his own building company. Treta did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.



Debbie Ortega—Ortega served on the Denver City Council from 1987-2003. She then worked as Executive Director for the Denver Homeless Commission, served on boards for affordable housing and crime prevention, and was elected again to an at-large city council seat in 2011.

Denver needs to chart a new course: challenges with homelessness, attainable housing, and community safety have set us back. As the only candidate in this race with four decades of public service experience, I am running to create a safe, affordable, and prosperous future for the city we all love.



Kelly Brough—As the Chief of Staff for Mayor John Hickenlooper, Brough established Denver's 311 system and balanced the city budget. As the first woman CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, she focused on creating new jobs and supporting small businesses.

I love Denver and I believe in its promise. Unfortunately, we're not realizing that promise today. The challenges facing Denver are real and urgent. We can't afford a leader with a learning curve. I know that my experiences—professional and personal—have prepared me well to be Denver's next mayor.

City Council Dist. 8 Candidate Statements Central Park, Northeast Park Hill, East Colfax, and Montbello



Christian Steward—Steward is a policy advocate, community activist, and published poet. Professionally, he implements projects and delivers services for Northeast Denver while working as a Community Connector for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

I plan to create cohesive neighborhood coalitions to identify creative city laws that address housing, rent prices, and our unhoused populations. I would advocate for modernizing city processes by: Streamlining the recruiting and hiring of city employees, bolstering efficiency of city permit applications, decreasing the time for accounts payable, simplifying contracts for local businesses, and increasing wraparound services.



Tyler Drum—Drum has worked for the Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation, the Jewish Community Center, and the Democratic Party of Denver.

I am running for office because historically Central Park has their needs more intently focused on by the City Council at the expense of the marginalized neighborhoods of District 8. While bike paths and safe streets in Central Park are important, our City Council person must also focus on the food deserts in the district and resist luxury developments that are displacing the people in Montbello, Park Hill, and especially East Colfax.



Leslie Twarogowski—Twarogowski fulfilled a career of civic engagement by serving as President of the Parks Board, representative for the Park Hill RNO, and Director of the Federal Boulevard Business Improvement District.

For District 8, I'd like to see safer routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, and I feel it's necessary to strengthen safety on our buses and light rails. I'd like to find space in our district for alternative forms of housing, including community land trusts and tiny home villages, as well as expand policies that stabilize the residents at risk of displacement.



Shontel Lewis—Since being elected to the RTD Board in 2018, Lewis has helped facilitate strategies for the agency while serving on its Civil Rights Committee and as Chair of the Performance Committee.

I believe the Health of our city is the Wealth of Our City. We should prioritize social determinants of health—affordable housing, healthy food, quality health care, education and job training, community resources, frequent and effective transit, and a flourishing culture. As your next City Councilor, I am committing myself towards making District 8 the healthiest District in Denver.



Brad Revare—Volunteering at the statehouse inspired Revare to work in the non-profit sector, write legislation for local communities, and serve on boards for Central Park United Neighbors and the East Colfax Steering Committee.

When I'm elected, my priority will be to listen, learn, and then lead. You shouldn't need to be a millionaire to live comfortably in Denver. As I've listened to District 8, they tell me they want Denver leaders to deliver on affordable housing, community resources that lower the cost of living, and amenities that allow every family to thrive.

City Council Dist. 5 Candidate Statements Mayfair, Montclair, and Lowry







Amanda Sawyer (Incumbent)—Sawyer passed policies to rezone neighborhoods for ADU housing, protect workers from wage theft, mitigate traffic on city roads, and reduce crime by removing guns from the streets.

I ran for office to amplify the voices of our neighborhoods, and have worked hard over the past four years to advocate for the issues you care about, including crime, traffic, affordability, homelessness, and quality of life. I've worked to build bridges and implement solutions to the challenges facing our city, and I look forward to continuing this work in my next term.



Michael Hughes—Hughes owns a business that offers mediation and strategic planning services. He teaches conflict resolution at DU and heads the West Corridor Transportation Management Association.

The last four years have moved us farther from Blueprint Denver's vision: We are not safe from crime. We are far from the goal of preventing car crashes.




DARREL WATSON

MAKING CITY GOVERNMENT WORK FOR DISTRICT 9

DARRELL WATSON'S VISION FOR DISTRICT 9

"Our neighbors in NE Denver know that we are facing a housing crisis: housing is too expensive compared to income, it is not located where people want to live, and there isn't enough of it. As a founding board member and chair of the Housing Stability Strategic Advisors Board, we collaborated with community members, the Department of Housing Stability and elected officials to pass the first affordable housing mandate in the state. I will collaborate with other municipal leaders regionally to pass similar common-sense affordable housing policies. We need a councilperson who will collaborate with – not alienate – government agencies, the business and nonprofit sector, and the community to expedite the building and retention of affordable/attainable housing, and to do it through the lens of equity."

LEARN MORE AT [WATSONFORDENVER.COM](https://www.watsonfordenver.com)



We have failed to bring transportation and land use together. Finally, the city is failing at basics of trash services and snow removal. We are better than this. It is time for change and for new leadership.

City Council Dist. 9
Candidate Statements
North and South Park Hill, North Denver,
and Five Points



Candi CdeBaca (Incumbent)—CdeBaca worked as a Policy Fellow in Washington D.C., served as a community activist in Northeast Denver, and was elected to the City Council in 2019.

My vision for my role is to re-center the voices of people who are typically silenced or ignored. I believe that housing should be a human right, food should be a utility, utilities should be municipalized, and the economy needs to be re-imagined in a way that halts the exploitation of land, labor, and resources for profit. I value co-governance, transparency, courage, and collective liberation.



Kwon Atlas—Atlas has worked as an aid for State Sen. James Coleman, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, and Denver Mayor Michael Hancock. He also founded the Five Points Atlas, which covers community news in its many neighborhoods.

I will make Denver a safe, clean, and affordable place to live. Denver's homeless encampments must be drastically reduced. We must invest in community policing and enforce laws to protect our community. More resources should be made available to youth to prevent violence and promote education. We will make more energy-efficient resources available to our community.



Darrel Watson—Watson's business promotes social inclusion in public institutions. He developed policies while serving for the Housing Stability Strategic Advisors, the Denver Game



Three Northeast Denver politicians are vying for job of Mayor. From left to right, Mike Johnston, Leslie Herod and Chris Hansen all debated and talked about what they would do as mayor of Denver at the Mayoral debate on February 9 hosted by Regis University.

Plan for a Healthy City, and the Denver Biased Policing Task Force.

We are at an inflection point in Denver. Housing is too expensive compared to income, it is not located where people want to live, and there isn't enough of it. I have and will continue to focus on affordability in Denver, ensuring that our teachers, firefighters, and civil service workers can live in the city they love.

City Council At-Large
Candidate Statements



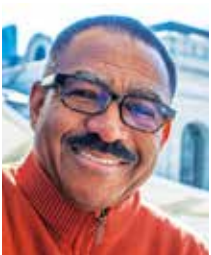
Travis Leiker—Leiker lives in Central Park and spent 20 years in the public sector with leadership roles in organizational management, public policy, and higher education administration.

Denver needs to get on the right course, and we need leaders who can get processes moving quickly. We can achieve Denver's housing needs through smart zoning/land use, transit-oriented development, thoughtful urban design, and improved city processes. Homelessness is a regional issue that requires data, best practice, and better management. We can tackle crime through smarter policing strategies, more training, wise staffing, and restoring community relationships.



Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez—Gonzales-Gutierrez was raised in North Denver, graduated from CSU, and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2018. She serves on the Finance Committee, and the Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee.

For the past 20 years, I've worked with children and families in Denver, helping them get access to basic services like housing, food, and treatment. At the State Legislature, I've passed over sixty bills to lower the cost of housing, build power for workers, and strengthen protections for renters. Now, I'm focusing closer to home.



Penfield Tate III—Tate worked in numerous administrations for the Denver Mayor and Colorado Governor Offices. He had a legal career specializing in civil rights and public finance, and he then embarked on a political career by serving in the Colorado House and Senate from 1997-2003.

I will use my community, executive, legislative and legal experience to solve our housing crisis, protect our open spaces and environment,

improve public safety, and expand public transit options for all neighborhoods. I know how to build consensus among diverse interests—residents and policymakers alike—in the City and regionally.



Sarah Parady—Parady began her legal career defending vulnerable tenants, and in 2014 she founded a Denver law firm that specializes in workers' rights. She has won cases that address discrimination, wage theft, workplace conditions, and equal pay.

I've been representing working people in the courtroom for a decade. Right now, we need city leaders who are there to fight for our health and safety and wellbeing. My first priority is to tackle housing affordability from every angle so that people stop being displaced from Denver. It's time we invest in each other.



Jeff Walker—Walker has fulfilled a 20-year career in public service by serving on various boards and committees, including the RTD Board of Directors, the Blueprint Den-

(continued on p. 12)

VOTE SHONTEL FOR DENVER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

Shontel Lewis

PEOPLE over POLITICS

Election Day is APRIL 4 2023

PROGRESS FOR THE PEOPLE

Shontel is ready to bring her extensive experience in **housing, education, public health, public safety, homelessness, and transportation** help District 8 to become the healthiest place to live in the City and County of Denver.

THE HEALTH OF OUR CITY IS THE WEALTH OF OUR CITY.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

TRANSPORTATION

CLIMATE JUSTICE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY

ShontelforCouncil.com

Paid for by Shontel for Council

GREEN vs. CONCRETE

NO
ON 20

Same
Old
S#!+

DEVELOPERS CAN'T BUY DENVER

Protect Denver's
Vanishing Green Space!
VOTE NO ON REFERRED
QUESTION 20
Don't Be Fooled—It Doesn't Have
To Be A Golf Course!

The City and its “client,” real estate developer Westside Investment Partners, have deceptively offered a false choice between golf or development. Referred Question 2 O is a deliberate attempt to mislead voters by convincing them to give away the City-owned Park Hill Golf Course land perpetual open space and recreational conservation easement to the developer—a gift from Denver taxpayers worth at least \$60 million. Once green space is gone, it's gone forever.

- In the November 2021 301/302 election fight, Denver voters citywide—and especially in precincts around the Park Hill Golf Course land—supported preserving the Park Hill Golf Course land conservation easement and protecting its open space. BY A 2-TO-1 MARGIN!
- The Referred Question 2 O ballot language is deceptive and inaccurate. If the conservation easement is preserved, the Park Hill Golf Course land does NOT always need to be operated as a golf course.
- Build **AROUND—NOT ON** the invaluable Park Hill Golf Course land. Affordable housing should be built on land across the street next to the 40th and Colorado train station where extensive and dense mixed-use development will take place. There are also an additional 7 acres of vacant land next to the PHGC land.
- The City should use funds from Measure 2A Parks and Open Space (0.25% sales tax approved by voters to increase park land) to buy the Park Hill Golf Course land for its approximate \$5 million fair market value as encumbered by the conservation easement. Neighborhoods around the Park Hill Golf Course land need additional parks and open space.



YESOPENSOURCE.ORG

Paid for by Yes for Parks and Open Space, Harry Doby, Treasurer

City Council At-Large Candidate
Statements (continued from pg 11)

ver Task Force, the Denver Planning Board, and the Task Force to Re-Imagine Policing and Public Safety.
I'm running for City Council-At-Large because I want to serve the people of Denver with my decades of experience in transportation, land use, and public safety. The energy in Denver is like no other place I've lived. I'm excited to put in the work and keep the city moving forward.



Marty Zimmerman—Zimmerman is the founder of ZIM, the largest nonprofit consulting firm in Colorado. He helps nonprofits conduct research, obtain grants, and implement strategies. He also served as chair for Friends of Manual High School and for the Denver Mayor's Youth Commission.

I am running to use my experience working with 400+ nonprofits, building collaborations, incubating businesses, and impacting all aspects of our community to revitalize Denver. To do this, I will address affordable housing issues, grow our workforce, improve evaluation measures, and ensure that decisions are made with genuine community input.



Will Chan—Chan worked at the Denver Public Library while serving as leader of the New Americans Project, which promotes economic mobility for vulnerable residents, low-wage workers, and disenfranchised neighborhoods.

Denver has experienced rapid growth over the past few years and we have significant work ahead to prepare Denver for the future and protect families who are struggling to make ends meet. We need creative problem-solving to invest in housing availability, a next-generation workforce, critical physical infrastructure, and a revitalized system of social services that reduces poverty and improves the path to self-sufficiency.

Dominic Diaz—The 25-year-old Diaz graduated from East High and then joined the Denver Clerk and Recorder's Office to oversee election operations, financial disclosures, and lobbyist activities. Diaz did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.

Tim Hoffman—While serving in the Denver District Attorney's Office, Hoffman has prosecuted hundreds of cases to protect vulnerable populations or convict violent offenders. Hoffman

did not respond to our request for a statement or send a photo.

Referred Question 20:
The Park Hill Golf Course

Ballot Question 20 will let Denver voters decide whether the Park Hill Golf Course that closed in 2018 should be preserved as a public park or developed by Westside Investment Partners. Although a city conservation easement prohibits the land from being developed, Westside would like the city to lift the easement so the company can implement its project.

According to Westside's plans, the east portion of the golf course would be converted into a 95-acre regional park that would only be accessible for pedestrians and bikers. The west section along Colorado Blvd would provide a residential neighborhood with 3,000 units, and more than 25 percent of those homes and apartments would be affordable to rent or own. On 38th Avenue going east from Colorado Blvd., a pedestrian market called “Main Street” would stretch horizontally to provide a row of stores, bars, and restaurants. Main Street would also merge into the park so residents can combine the activities of eating at the restaurants, shopping at the stores, and playing in the park. Additionally, Westside is designating an open plot of land on 35th Avenue for a grocery store, but there are no official plans or guarantees that a grocery store will be constructed on the plot. Denver voters can expect to see campaigns for this ballot measure and to hear arguments from both sides. For Question 20, a “Yes” vote would cause the city to lift the conservation easement and allow Westside to initiate this development project. Supporters say that the project would supply the community with a park but also provide features they say Northeast Park Hill needs, such as food options for residents, affordable homes for families, and retail centers for businesses. However, a “No” vote would require the city to keep the easement in place and prevent Westside from implementing this project. Opponents contend that preserving the land as a large park would benefit Northeast Park Hill by adorning the aesthetic beauty of the neighborhood, enhancing the mental and physical health of the residents, improving the air quality of the community, and offering recreational activities for the families.

Give climbing
and ÜG a try!

1st Time Visit Special:
3 days for price of 2

Bring in this Front Porch ad to get FREE gear rental included in your 3-day intro pass throughout March

Located at Montview and Central Park Blvd

Ugclimbing.com/denver

ÜBERGRIPPEN
INDOOR CLIMBING CRAG

NE Denver Pooch Painter

Photos courtesy of Johanna Querry Smith



Central Park resident Jon Capacci received these portraits of his dogs, completed by Johanna Querry Smith, from his wife last Christmas.

By Sarah Huber

Central Park resident Johanna Querry Smith was busy running a natural skincare company out of her home when, “on a whim and for the joy of it,” as she recalls, she picked up a paintbrush and nimbly depicted two of her dogs on canvas. Smith’s vibrant use of color and her whimsical, energetic style soon caught the attention of friends and neighbors, and last September she unexpectedly launched her second business, this one as a painter of dog portraits. Her success in both ventures has “been a surprise and a gift,” she says. “I wasn’t formally trained as an artist, and

I had zero experience starting a skincare business. But I’ve always believed in forging my own way through hard work, passion, and a deep love for what I do.” Thanks to word of mouth, Smith has already received more than 50 commissions for dog paintings, and several of her pieces now animate the walls of Northfield Veterinary Hospital. Smith’s dog portraits, all painted with acrylics on canvas and reflecting a variety of breeds, are strikingly accurate yet playfully abstract. “I love bright, happy, fun colors,” Smith says. “My paintings are full of positive energy and smiling dogs.” She aims to “capture a dog’s

personality,” with the final, vivacious “artwork representing the special love people have for their dogs and the love dogs have for their owners.” Smith commences each painting by having a conversation with the dog’s owners. “I want to know everything about the dog, its preferences, what it enjoys,” she says. “Then I ask for photographs of the dog from all angles, so I can capture the essence of the dog.” Many of her paintings are completed in memoriam. “The owner and I often end up in tears,” Smith notes. “But they are happy tears, knowing they can take home this painting to hang on their wall, with the dog just emerging from the canvas with love.” The eyes of a dog “unlock the love connection on canvas,” Smith explains. “My favorite aspect of paint-

ing dogs is capturing their heart and soul in their eyes. It’s a beautiful way to keep a dog’s memory and spirit alive.” Smith says that she has been on a mission “to bring the love and the joy” since graduating from the University of Colorado Boulder and taking a job as an elementary school art teacher. She taught for 18 years before pivoting to skincare, which she says was “another way to make a difference for good in the world.” For two years she researched skincare formulas and scents, experimented in her kitchen, and built her brand, GLOW for a cause. Today Smith’s products are carried in beauty subscription boxes internationally, as well as sold in boutiques throughout the United States and via her website. The name of her brand, “GLOW for a cause,” is significant: “The ‘cause’ part is about helping a number of small nonprofits that I am closely connected with,” she says. It’s no surprise that organizations supporting animals are especially important to her: Smith supports the local nonprofit HoBo Care Boxer Rescue as a financial backer, as a boxer foster mom, and as an adoption coordinator.

“Some of the dogs who I’ve fostered have had trauma in their lives before being rescued,” says Smith. “Through learning to be patient with them and finding ways to help them work through that, I’ve grown as a person. We can understand people through understanding dogs, and that’s a connection I bring to my artwork.” She continues, “The bottom line in my work and in my paintings is creating joy and love. I want to pour that into each piece because joy

and love are what dogs give to us.” To learn more about Smith’s art, visit her website at www.metalandgrace.com.



Some of Smith’s favorite subjects are Labrador Retrievers. She enjoys playing with color to depict the personalities of the dogs she paints.



Brad Will Fight For:

- ★ Affordable housing
- ★ Accessible childcare
- ★ Streets designed for kids, families, and seniors

Ballots must be received by the Denver Elections Division by 7 p.m. on Election Day, April 4, 2023.

If you choose to return your ballot by mail, send it back no later than March 27.

PAID FOR BY BRAD FOR DENVER. Registered Agent Jason Lundberg

“All of our kids deserve to grow up in a place where they’re treated fairly, no matter where they came from or what they look like.

“That’s why I quit my corporate job to fight for fairness in our community. And that’s why I’m running to fight for you on the Denver City Council.”

-BRAD REVARE



BRAD REVARE
Denver City Council • District 8

A Dad Fighting for Fairness

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www.BradforDenver.com



Mar. & Early Apr. Events

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

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

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

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

3/4 & 4/1—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

3/6 to 3/9—Newsies Musical at McAuliffe International School. "Newsies" tells the true story of the newspaper boys' strike of 1899. All ages. 6:30pm at McAuliffe International School, 2540 Holly St. jennifer_carabetta@dpsk12.net

3/7 to 3/10—Adult Laser Cutting Jewelry Camp. 4 sessions that build on each other. 10–11:30am. Must pre-register. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/8 Wednesday—Mayoral Candidate Forums, Two Options! 3:30–5pm at Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. (303) 519-1217 or 5:30–7:30pm at Swigert International School, 3480 Syracuse St. RSVP at bit.ly/cpunmayor

3/9 Thursday—Active Minds presents Turbulent Waters: Conflict in the South China Sea. Join us for a closer look at this delicate situation. 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. activeminds.com

3/11 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Get an up close look inside select aircraft. 10am–2pm. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Denver.

3/15 Wednesday—Suffragette Tea Party. Pour your own soy candle in a thrifted teacup then enjoy selected short documentaries about famous suffragettes. 11am–12:30pm. All ages. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

3/17 Friday—Spring Cleaning Art Supply Swap Bring in new or gently used craft supplies and swap to get some great new supplies for crafting. 2–5pm. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

3/18 Saturday—Uncovering Denver's History of Segregation Part 2: Neighborhood Organizations and Segregation in Denver. 11am–12pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

3/18 Saturday—A Dream of Justice: The Story of Keyes v. Denver Public Schools with Author Pat Pascoe. 1:30–3pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

3/26 Sunday—Central Park 5K. Central Park, 8801 MLK Jr Blvd. central5k.com

3/31 to 4/2—Park Hill Art Club Spring Show and Sale. Artist reception, Friday 4:30–8pm; art show and sale Saturday and Sunday 10am–4pm. Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview Blvd. parkhillartclub.org

METRO EVENTS

3/3 & 4/7—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa Fe. 5:30–9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

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

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

3/8 Wednesday—Celebration of International Women's Day. Free admission and guided tours every half hour from 10:30am–3:30pm. Center for Colorado Women's History, 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

3/9 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

3/11 Saturday—St. Patrick's Day Parade. Starts at 9:30am. Begins on Wynkoop at 19th, turns down 17th St in front of Union Station, then turns NE down Blake St proceeding all the way up to 27th. denverstpatrikssdayparade.com

3/11 to 3/19—27th Annual Denver Jewish Film Festival. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S Dahlia St. jccdenver.org

3/14 Tuesday—In Pie We Crust Tea. In celebration of Pi(e) Day, we will be serving delicious locally made pie alongside our signature Lady Evans Tea. 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

3/15 Wednesday—The Once and Future Hope of Dearfield. Boulder businessman O.T. Jackson founded the African American farm colony of Dearfield in 1910. 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

3/16 Thursday—1340 Penn: Escape the Titanic. A different kind of escape room experience. 6–8pm. Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. historicroomdenver.org

3/16 Thursday—Abstract Expressions: A Performance Lecture. Free for members, \$5 for the public, and registration is required. 6–7:30pm. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

3/17 to 3/19—47th Annual Denver March Pow Wow. Denver Coliseum. Tickets sold at the door. denvermarchpowwow.org

3/20 Monday—Nat Geo: Archaeologist Alicia Odewale. Uncovering stories of resilience in the hundred years since the attack on Black Wall Street in Tulsa. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

3/22 Wednesday—Exhibit Opening and Reception: Vision and Resolve: Anne Evans a Cultural Changemaker. At the Center for Colorado Women's History. 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

3/24 to 3/26—Denver Home Show. National Western Complex. For tickets and \$2 off, go to homeshowdenver.com

3/31 Friday—Children's Diabetes Foundation 45th Annual Brass Ring Luncheon & Fashion Show. Benefiting The Guild of the Children's Diabetes Foundation. Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, 1550 Court Pl. childrensdiabetesfoundation.org

4/1 Saturday—Blaxplanation. A Community's Response to Gang Violence in NE Denver; a continuing conversation. 1–5pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

4/1 Saturday—Ski to Defeat ALS Awareness Day. Register early to save and start fundraising. 2861 Eldora Ski Road, Nederland. web.alsa.org/ski

4/1 to 4/2—Rocky Mountain Train Show. Admission is good both days. National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St. rockymountaintrainshow.com

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

Saturdays—Chess Club for 18 and Under. 3–4:30pm. Ideal for ages 5–18. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 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

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

3/11 Saturday—Family Program: Global Recycling Day. 10:30am–12:30pm. Join us for family artmaking. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

3/12 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

3/12 Sunday—Sensory Friendly Morning at The DAM. For kids with neurodiversity or sensory processing disorders and their families. 9am–12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

3/18 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

3/19 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids. 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

3/19, 3/22 & 3/25—Art Crawl: Making Faces. 10:30–11:15am. For caregivers with infants–14 months. Registration required. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

3/25 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

3/26 Sunday—Teen Jam Session. Youth-led and free for musicians aged 13–18 who are looking to explore their live jamming skills. Donations accepted. 11am–1pm. 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

3/30 Thursday—Create a Cell Phone Sticker with Your Initial. Cut out a vinyl design incorporating your initial. Ideal for ages 12 and up. 2–5pm. Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave. denverlibrary.org

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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. Free admission on March 8, International Women’s Day. Operated by History Colorado as the Center for Colorado Women’s History. History Colorado members are free. 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

The Children’s Museum. Reservations recommended at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Mar. 26. 10am to 5pm. Children ages 17 and under are always free. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day Mar. 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 Mar. 15. 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 Apr. 9. 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. mcadenvr.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

3/3 to 3/12—The Belle of Amherst. Featuring Jessica Robblee as Emily Dickinson. Buntport Theater, 717 Lipan St. cloverandbeeproductions.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



Gobs O’Phun St. Patrick’s Day concert.

Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

3/10 to 3/19—Colorado Ballet Presents Cinderella. The beloved rags-to-riches tale makes its grand return to delight all ages. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 1385 Curtis St. coloradoballet.org

3/10 to 4/2—Toni Stone. A play about the first woman to play professional baseball in the Negro League and in any men’s league. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

3/11 Saturday—Jake Blount and Kaia Kater at Swallow Hill. 8–10:30pm, doors open at 7pm. 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

3/11 to 4/15—Amerikin. Charged. Relevant. Unexpected. Curious Theatre, 1080 Acoma St. curioustheatre.org

3/12 Sunday—The White Chip. A reading of Sean Daniels’ wise and witty play about recovery. Virtual performance on 3/16. Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, 721 Santa Fe Dr. storiesonstage.org

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

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

Through 3/12—Ovation West presents “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change.” Center Stage, 27608 Fireweed Dr, Evergreen. ovationwest.org

3/14 to 3/19—Fiddler on the Roof. A fresh and authentic vision to this beloved theatrical masterpiece. Buell Theatre. denvercenter.org

3/15 Wednesday—DYAO and CSO Side-by-Side. A shared vision of music education between the Colorado Symphony and the Denver Young Artists Orchestra. 1000 14th St Unit 15. tickets at coloradosymphony.org/6343

3/17 Friday—Gobs O’Phun 29th Annual St. Patrick’s Day. 8–10:30pm, doors open at 7pm. 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

3/17 to 4/2—Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Carousel”. A tale of the power of love with a book of songs that have stood the test of time. Lakewood Cultural Center, 470 S. Allison Pkwy, Lakewood. lakewood.org

3/17 to 4/23—tick, tick...BOOM! Celebrating the power of finding your voice and holding on to a dream. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

3/21 to 4/2—1776. The Tony Award-winning Best Musical catapults to a blazing new life in a thrillingly new production. Buell Theatre. denvercenter.org

3/22 Wednesday—Leila Josefowicz, Violin and John Novacek, Piano. Avery Fisher Prize violinist and Grammy-nominated pianist. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. friendsofchambermusic.com

3/23 to 3/26—Good Actors. A one-woman play written and performed by Sommer Browning. Buntport Theater, 717 Lipan St. buntport.com

3/25 Saturday—Acappellooza 2023. A fun-filled competition among the Denver area’s top a cappella groups. 7:30pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

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

3/26 Sunday—The Shakespeare Sequels. An evening of short plays and stories about Shakespeare and his famous characters, sequels, reboots, and reimaginings. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. onenightstandtheater.org

3/30 Thursday—Cleo Parker Robinson Celebration with the Colorado Symphony. A tribute to the company’s namesake, founder, and visionary. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

3/31 to 4/7—The Color Purple. The musical adaptation of Alice Walker’s award-winning novel. Wolf Theatre. denvercenter.org

Through 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

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. Info at 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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Front Porch – NE Denver

15

March 2023

...NE News Updates

By Brian Heuberger

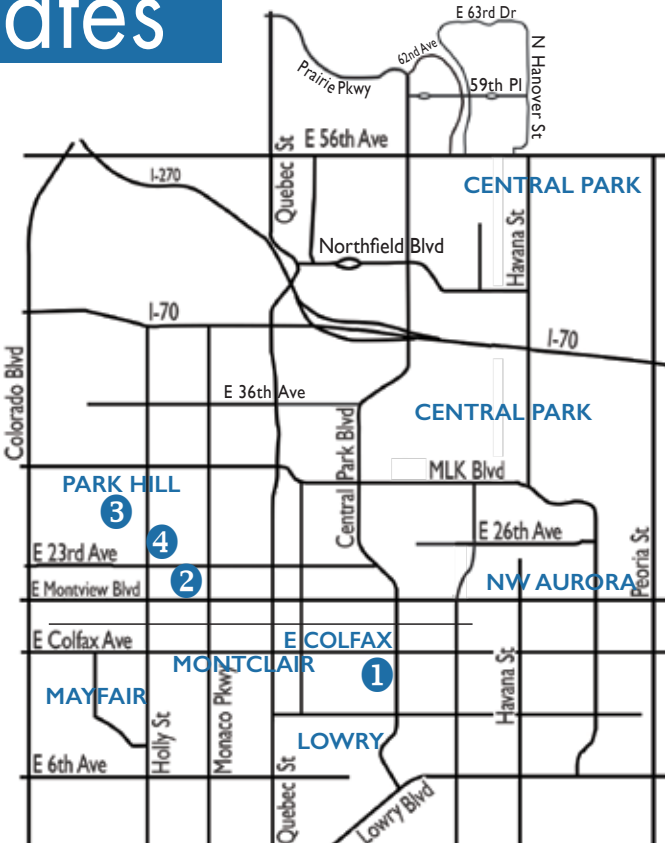
1 Participatory Budgeting Ballot Results

The winners of Denver's first-ever participatory budgeting ballots were announced in February. The new Participatory Budgeting Program enabled Denver residents to vote on how a portion of the budget would be spent and which projects on the ballots would be implemented. \$2 million was allocated from the Denver budget for the program, with \$1 million being awarded to projects on a citywide ballot and the other \$1 million being divided among three separate neighborhood ballots.

Most Northeast Denver neighborhoods were permitted to vote on the "East ballot." Four infrastructure projects were placed on the ballot, and all residents living in NE Denver and all students attending school in its neighborhoods were eligible to vote online for their favorite projects, regardless of age level or immigration status.



Located on 13th and Yosemite, New Freedom Park is often enjoyed by the diverse immigrant groups living in the East Colfax neighborhood. Now the park will be getting grills, shades, and chess boards.



The four options on the East ballot included providing water fountains in neighborhood parks, improving sidewalks along major streets, upgrading the features of New Freedom Park, or adding bike paths along 12th and Quebec. \$300,000 was provided from the Denver budget to fund the winning project, and Northeast residents were allowed to vote throughout the fall of 2022 until the polls closed in late November.

The winner of the East ballot was the project to upgrade New Freedom Park. Located in the East Colfax neighborhood, this project will allow the city to install several new features in the park, including chess boards, barbecue grills, drinking fountains, shade structures, and playground amenities.

Residents in Northeast Denver were also able to vote for projects on the citywide ballot. Eight infrastructure projects were included on the citywide ballot, and \$1 million from the Denver budget will be used to fund the four projects that received the most votes. Forty percent of the money will be spent widening the sidewalks around Athmar Park, while \$225,000 will fund three new shower trailers for homeless individuals, and \$200,000 will be spent on building five new tiny homes for unhoused families. Additionally, the remaining \$175,000 will help Denver cultivate new community gardens throughout the city and renovate existing gardens in various neighborhoods.

2 Oblio's Pizzeria Has a New Owner

Twenty-seven years after founding Oblio's Pizzeria, original owner Dawn McKay has sold her Park Hill restaurant to Denver-native Drew Leach. The 34-year-old Leach has been working in restaurants in Colorado and California for the past 15 years. He says that eating at Oblio's as a kid made this a nostalgic restaurant to purchase.



Oblio's Pizzeria has been a staple for families in the Park Hill neighborhood. Located at 6115 E. 22nd Avenue, McKay and her family offered unique pizzas and hosted neighborhood events. Unfortunately the pandemic confronted the McKay family with severe financial struggles. Reduced numbers of customers and rising costs were detrimental, and in 2021 they launched a GoFundMe campaign to avoid closing the business. The neighborhood demonstrated its support for Oblio's by helping to raise approximately \$40,000, but this was not enough to sustain the business and in 2022 McKay opted to sell the restaurant.

New owner Drew Leach says that he does not plan to make drastic changes to the atmosphere of the restaurant or the items on the menu. Oblio's will keep the classic pizzas that it has always offered, but will also add new pizzas to expand the menu. The pricing is perhaps the biggest transformation, as the 16-inch pizzas that were previously over \$20 will now be priced down into the teens. Leach also plans on expanding the hours by serving lunch on weekdays and by staying open later on weekends. Regarding the interior, renovations will include increasing the seating to accommodate more customers, adding white tiles to brighten the restaurant, and building a bigger bar to extend it outside.

3 Therizo Café is now Copper Door Coffee

The permanently closed Therizo Café in Park Hill has been purchased and reopened by Copper Door Coffee Roasters. Copper Door was formed in 2006 by Park Hill resident Sinjin Eberle as a wholesale business operating from his garage. But in 2014 Hannah Ulbrich—a fellow Park Hill resident—purchased Copper Door, began opening in-store coffee shops, and grew



the company into a multi-million dollar business. As Denver's only entirely female-owned coffee roaster, Copper Door also prioritizes supporting women throughout the coffee industry. Over the last decade, Ulbrich has helped Copper Door continually expand, and this Park Hill shop at 2890 Fairfax Street is its 5th location in the Metro area. One change that accompa-



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nies the new menu is that the coffee shop will no longer serve beer or wine. However, Park Hill is now the only Copper Door location that serves a special Kombucha drink that features fermented tea, flavored juice, and healthy vitamins.

4 Newsies: A School Musical by McAuliffe Students

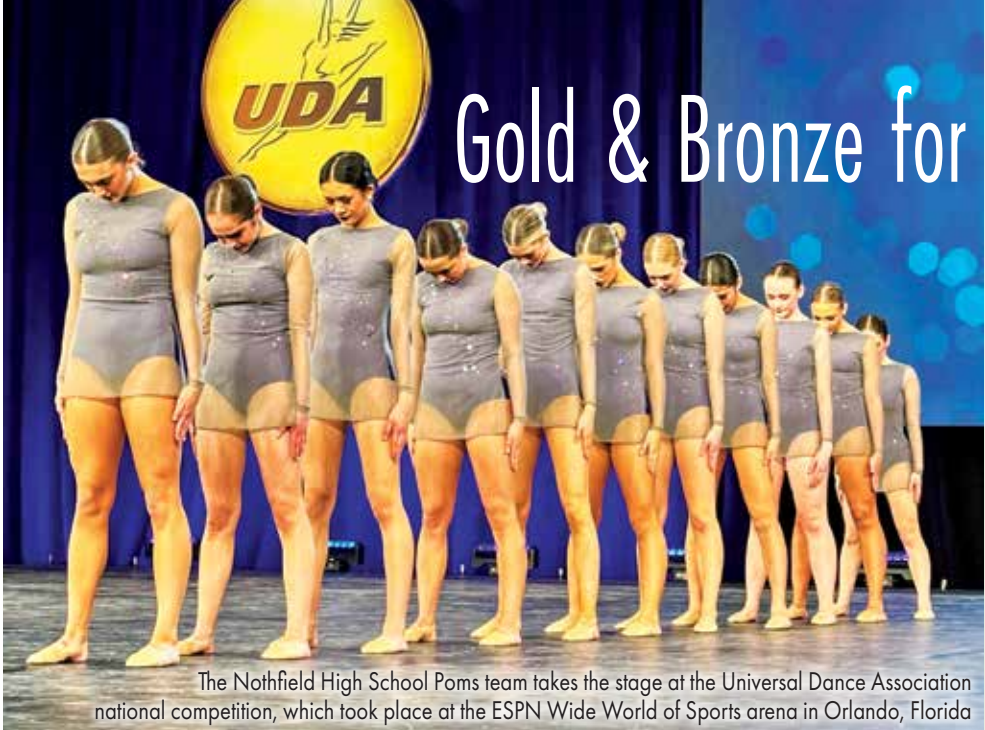
The theater program at McAuliffe International School is preparing to showcase its first-ever all-school musical. Over 90 students are performing in a production of *Newsies*, and the musical will run from March 6 through March 9. The McAuliffe production derives from the hit 1992 musical film of the same name. Based on the Newsboys' Strike of 1899, the musical tells the true story of poor newspaper delivery boys in New York City going on strike and refusing to deliver papers after being exploited by newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, whose name would later be associated with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize award in the journalism industry. The cast of the original movie included Christian Bale, Bill Pullman, and Robert Duval. In 2012 the film was adapted into a Broadway musical, and the production won two Tony Awards for Best Choreography and Best Original Score. Now the students at McAuliffe will play the memorable characters from *Newsies*, tell the inspiring story of the strike, and showcase their musical and theatrical skills for neighborhood audiences.

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Gold & Bronze for Northfield Poms

money. “We can’t keep surviving off of bake sales if we really want to build the program into something bigger.” Alwin would like to ultimately see the creation of a freshman team and a junior varsity team that could feed into the varsity team. “The girls really gave it their all at the national competition. We were so proud of them,” says Alwin. “There’s so much potential there to do even more with more money.”

Training for the poms team is extensive. The girls practice dance four days a week along with an additional day of cross-training to prevent injuries. Segro says another way to expand participation may be to create two tiers: one team that focuses on game day performances and one that focuses on competition. “That way girls who are involved with a dance studio outside of school could come and show school spirit at the games, but they wouldn’t have to commit to the extensive training for competition.” Segro, a professional dancer who attended Denver School of the Arts, says she’s looking to hire an assistant coach for next year to give the team even more support.

By Mary Jo Brooks

It was nothing short of a Cinderella story for the Northfield High School poms team when it scored gold and bronze medals at the United Dance Association national competition in Orlando, Florida last month. The team scored first place in the varsity intermediate jazz division and third place in the overall varsity intermediate poms category. Aliza Savin is one of three co-captains of the team. “When they called our name for first place in jazz, it truly felt like a fever dream. We definitely did not come to nationals expecting to get first place, but winning is like a recognition of all of the hard work we put into this.”

The wins were especially remarkable given that the team is just five years old and the fact that they didn’t even have a coach for much of last year. Merritt Alwin, another co-captain, said winning nationals “has really been the best example that circumstance does not determine success.”

The team’s current coach, Amanda Segro, gives all credit to the girls. “These girls have a special

kind of heart and love and big energy,” says Segro. “They have an openness to learn and they’re really strong technically. But they’re also very close, so they really connect with each other.”

The Northfield poms team is part of Northfield’s spirit program, which also includes cheerleading. The poms program focuses on dance and performs at the high school’s football and basketball games. With just 11 members, the team is very small but coach Segro hopes that the program will grow, especially after the national wins. She says one of the challenges is a lack of funding. Currently the school district pays for coaching but travel, uniforms, and dance camps have to be paid almost entirely by the families of the girls. “Dance is very expensive. We’d love to be able to partner with a local business to sponsor these kids so we could bring more inclusivity,” says Segro. “I hate that some kids can’t do poms because they can’t afford it.”

Alex Alwin is one of the parent coordinators of the team. She agrees that the team needs to find sponsorship



Members of the Northfield poms team pose with their trophies. Front Row (left to right): Sarah Youngveitch, Avery Koch, Isabel Bauer, and Rosemary Rauchway. Back Row: Olivia Mako, Lilah Wilson, Sylvie Fayngersh, Merritt Alwin, Aliza Savin, Mary Ennis, and Hannah Kutnick. Top photo by Alex Alwin, above photo by Kara Veitch

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The annual Oscar column is here, so into the breach we go. Enjoy!

The Fablemans

The problem with being Steven Spielberg is always being compared to Steven Spielberg. When your filmography includes *Jaws*, *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Schindler's List*, among others, everything else you make gets compared to those films. *The Fablemans* is no different. Perhaps if someone else had directed this

semi-autobiographical tale, it would be receiving more acclaim. As a Spielberg film, however, it is just average. It is touching, funny, whimsical, nostalgic, and it displays the power of art to sustain us through tough times. The antisemitism plotline is also important, and now, as always, it carries particular resonance. Overall, I recommend this film, but I don't see a great deal of awards coming its way on Oscar night.



something, it turns on that something. And then it turns on it again. And then again.... I don't see this winning any awards at an American ceremony, but it should be on your must-see list. Now.

The Triangle of Sadness

If Fellini made a horror film, this might be it. This winner of the *Palme d'Or* at Cannes may be unknown to most American audiences, but it shouldn't be. This film will surprise, delight, shock, and ultimately sadden most viewers. It can be oblique and even childish at times, and that is part of the point. The film is about people, how we organize ourselves, how we treat ourselves, and what we really value. Just when you think the film is about

Elvis

Director Baz Luhrmann is an acquired taste, or maybe even an extreme one that you either love or hate. His films have also been divisive—*Romeo + Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge*, *The*

Great Gatsby—with audiences harboring strong opinions about them. One subjective quality, however, is his technical brilliance, and that is certainly on display here. His work with actors is also invigorating, and that ability shines here too. Austin Butler is luminous as the eponymous legend. I was thrilled by the film and loved the postmodern treatment of Elvis' life, but not everyone will have the same reaction. Watch and decide.

Babylon

This is a wild ride and an over-the-top film that is brilliant at times, disgusting at times, and a visual treat that takes you on a cinematic journey for the entirety of its 180 minutes. The opening sequence is emblematic of the whole film: an elephant is hauled up a small mountain on a dirt road in 1926. The destination is the mansion party of a film magnate and the elephant is the star attraction in a celebration full of sex, drugs, debauchery, depravity, and death. In short, it tells the story of Hollywood in the 1920s and the move from the silent cinema to sound cinema; the move from independent productions to studio control; and the move from an untamed monster to a pre-packaged formula that became Hollywood in the age of censorship. The acting is also very good, with an ensemble cast that is fascinating if not captivating. Therein lies the knock for the Oscar nod: it covers so much ground that the characters and story fall away. Perhaps that is why it wasn't nominated for best picture (although nominated in 3 other categories). It is visually stunning, technically brilliant, but unfortunately, it is occasionally distant.

Tár

As a friend mentioned to me, if this were about a man, it would be wholly uninteresting. But Cate Blanchett as a talented, self-possessed conductor who takes advantage of the people around her—harming them and abusing her position—makes it a fascinating portrait. The characterization is mesmerizing, and the film includes shining moments of secondary characters that effectively frame Blanchett. Make no mistake, however, this is a star vehicle. I also found it visually dull for much of the film even though we are engaged in the story. It might be the opposite of *Babylon* and for that reason, it is not my choice for best of this lot.

The Banshees of Inisherin

I can see a Best Original Screenplay Oscar for this film. I can also see a Best Actor award for a wonderful Colin Farrell and a



possible upset for Best Supporting Actor in Barry Keoghan. If you don't know the latter's story, look it up. The writing, acting, and directing are flat-out brilliant. My only hesitation with this film is that the visuals take second or third string in the lineup, and the film could have easily been made as a play. Plays and films are opposite mediums, with plays focusing on dialogue and films emphasizing visuals. This is still thoroughly captivating and expertly crafted; it is just not Best Picture material according to my criteria.

Top Gun: Maverick

This is sheer Hollywood fun—an action film that knows what it is and that delivers for the audience. It is well made, and it is crafted like classic Hollywood cinema from the 50s. It also kicks—the cinematography is dynamic, the sequences are enthralling, and we are literally flying around the sky with the cast throughout the film. This is great fun, and a film I could watch a few times. If you are of a certain age, it also has nostalgia as an added value. As an Oscar contender, however, that's another story.

Everything, Everywhere, All at Once

Michelle Yeoh is an international treasure and this wild, whiplash-inducing adventure through the multiverse shows her off to the world (again!). This film lays on the gas and never lets up, running us through the miraculous, the absurd, the ridiculous, and in the end, the poignant. The technical aspects are mind-bogglingly stunning, the acting is superb, the direction is brilliant, and the entire package is what I look for in a Best Picture winner.

Due to time and availability, I was unable to screen *Avatar* or *Women Talking*. I will post a review of the latter in the coming months. For the former, you'll have to make do with one of the other million reviews!

All Quiet on the Western Front—reviewed last month, so please read it there.

My choice for best picture: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

What I think will win: *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once*

I would be ecstatic with either, but I will not get my hopes up; this is, after all, the Oscars!

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.

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Sean Rodgers, AVVO review

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NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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MEET THE CANDIDATES! CENTRAL PARK MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, March 8

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



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Update household information—review your household members. Dependents (20 years and younger), additional adults (up to 2 per household), and au pairs can be added with qualifying information. Email resident verification (see website) to

signup@mca80238.com or bring documentation to the MCA office during office hours. *Please include your property address with all communication.*

Step 3

Update your family's photos—photos of all family members can be updated in person at The Cube during office hours, here: <https://www.mca80238.com/front-desk-hours>

MCA SHOWCASE

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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. **The last day to apply is March 15th!**

EGG SCRAMBLE

Saturday, April 1st 10am, Runway 35 Park

The Annual Egg Scramble will begin at 10:00am with the first scramble starting at 10:15am.

NEW FOR 2023!

The first scramble will be for children ages 6 and older (parents are not allowed in the scramble area for this age group).

The second scramble will begin

at 10:30am and will be for the age group 0-5 (parents are allowed in the scramble area).

Make sure to bring your own basket to collect eggs!

There will also be photo opportunities with the Easter bunny, activities and sponsor giveaways. In addition, there will be breakfast food trucks and a bar selling adult beverages.



ACTIVE MINDS: Turbulent Waters: Conflict in the South China Sea

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

The South China Sea is an incredibly strategic body of water located between China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. At stake is one of the busiest trade routes in the world as well as oil and fishing rights. Recently China has been pressing its claim to long disputed parts of the South China Sea, raising concerns as to what may happen as tensions rise. Join Active Minds for a closer look at this delicate situation.

ACTIVE MINDS: Say Cheese!

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

The history of cheese goes back as far as 6000 BCE, long before the Ancient Egyptians and Homer. There are thousands of varieties of cheese, with local flavor differences influenced by subtle factors such as the type of grass eaten by the cows. Join Active Minds as we trace this cheesy history, including an overview of how it is made and the major

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



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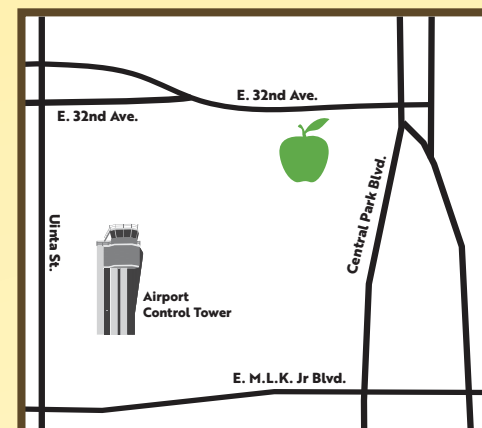
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