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# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

MAY 2024

## NORTHEAST DENVER

### Running Clubs Dash to Popularity Post-Pandemic



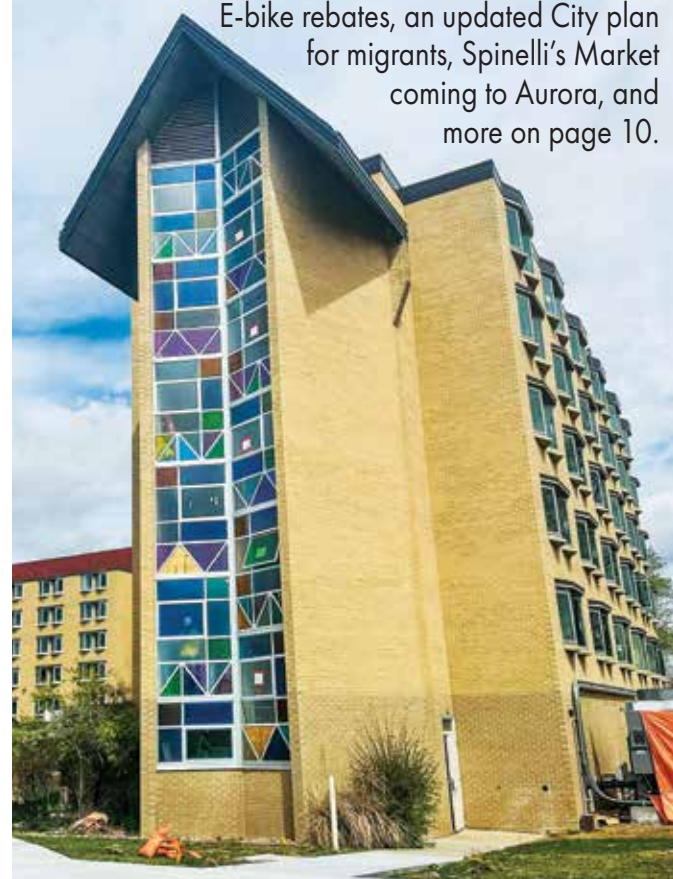
Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Runners from Runners Roost in Quebec Square pace each other as they take to the paths across the Central Park regional park. Joggers gather Mondays after work not only to run together but also to de-stress, swap training tips, and share snacks at the store post-run. About two dozen runners turn out most weeks.

Running clubs have sprinted forward in popularity nationwide, and Denver is no exception. Locals have their pick of clubs, such as Runners Roost Central Park Club, Black Men Run Denver, Latinos Run Denver, and Colorado Columbines Women's Running Club. Joggers seeking sips with their jaunt are flocking to clubs organized by Glissade Coffee Company and Cheluna Brewing Co. *Story by Sarah Huber on page 8.*

### Apartments to Open at Mosaic Campus Plus More NE Updates

E-bike rebates, an updated City plan for migrants, Spinelli's Market coming to Aurora, and more on page 10.



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch



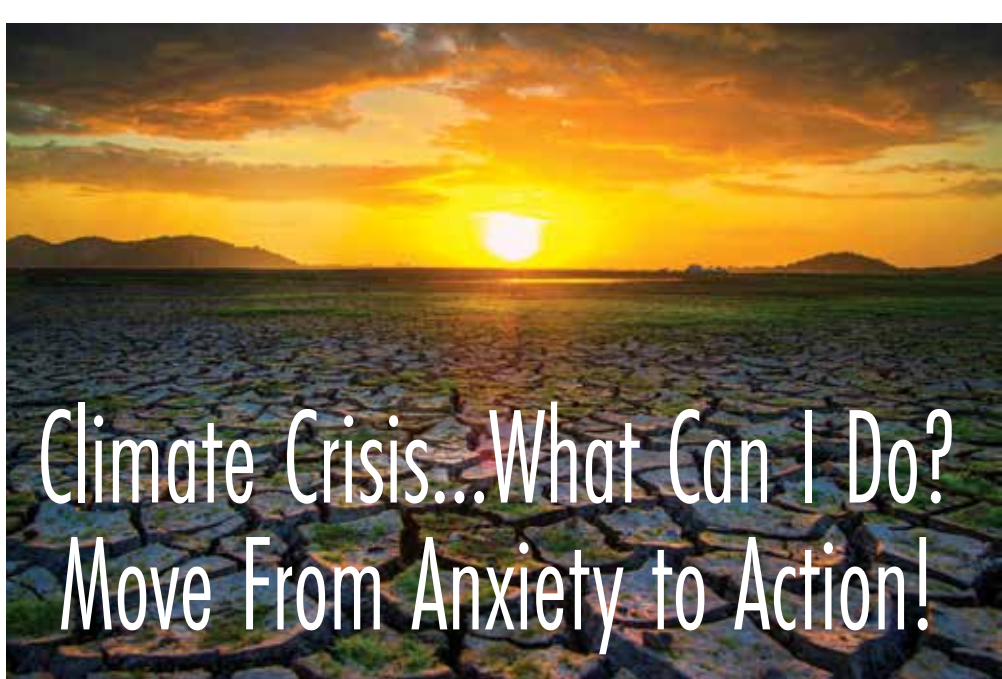
Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

### Local Business Owners Brew Up a Community Connection

Owners Amy and Ross Koenigs toast to the future at Second Dawn Brewing Company in Aurora. The couple bought an old building near Stanley Marketplace to create a neighborhood brewery. It was a lot of hard work to get to where they are today, celebrating one year in business. Their passion is in the beer and creating an inclusive environment to bring community together. *Story by Linda Kotsaftis on page 6.*

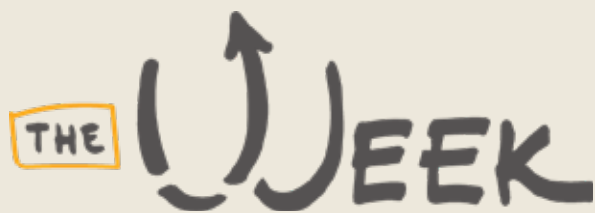
### Climate Crisis...What Can I Do?

Join us for a three-part series to educate, inform, and get inspired to take action! We can effect change when we work together. *More info. on pg 2.*



# Climate Crisis...What Can I Do? Move From Anxiety to Action!

Front Porch and the Master Community Association (MCA) present:



**May 7:** Learn the reality of what is happening to our climate

**May 8:** Understand the situation and how to change course

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**MCA**

**The Cube**  
CENTRAL PARK

## Linda Kotsaftis Named Editor of Front Porch

Longtime Denver journalist Linda Kotsaftis has been named Editor of *Front Porch* newspaper. Most recently, Kotsaftis served as the chief content officer at Rocky Mountain PBS, where she oversaw news strategy and production across its digital, social, and broadcast channels.

"I'm excited to join the *Front Porch* team where there has always been a focus on community-centered journalism. I believe in sharing the voices of our community and creating an equitable path for those voices," says Kotsaftis. "Everyone has a story and we have a great opportunity to make people feel heard and seen."

Prior to her work at Rocky Mountain PBS, Kotsaftis worked for more than 20 years as a news manager and producer at KUSA-TV Channel 9News.

A graduate of the University of Denver, she and her husband, journalist Mark Harden, live in Central Park and have two grown children.

*Front Porch* is delivered free-of-charge to more than 24,000 households in the Central Park, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, and East Colfax neighborhoods. Carol Roberts and Steve Larson remain publishers of the monthly newspaper.

Kotsaftis can be reached at 303-526-1969 or email her directly at [editor@frontporchne.com](mailto:editor@frontporchne.com).



## Bird Sightings

Generously donated by George Ho

### Songs of the Season

For many birds, spring migration and breeding season are in full swing. Some birds are more often heard than seen including two elusive, chicken-like birds, the sora and the Virginia rail, and the smaller yellow-breasted chat.

The sora is gray and brown and has a small bright yellow bill and a black mask and throat patch. The long toes help the bird walk on top of floating vegetation. The unique call of the sora is a descending whinny that lasts two to three seconds. The loud call across the wetlands is to defend its territory and to keep in touch with other birds.

The Virginia rail is rusty overall with a gray face, dark streaking down the back, and white undertail feathers. The long bill and legs are reddish. The bird appears thin head-on, giving rise to the common expression "thin as a rail," but it looks full-bodied from the side. Its song is a repeated tick-it, mostly at dawn and dusk.

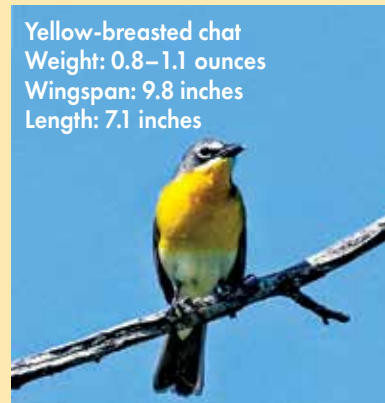
The male chat is olive-green on its back and wings with a bright yellow breast and bold face markings, and its lower belly is white. It has a large repertoire of calls and songs, and is most noisy at dawn and dusk. The whistles, cackles, rattles, squawks, gurgling, and popping sounds are strung together and repeated in various combinations. Typically secretive and well-hidden, the males become more brazen during spring and sing from exposed perches to attract their mates and protect their territories.



**Sora**  
Weight: 1.7–4 ounces  
Wingspan: 12–14.5 inches  
Length: 8–10 inches



**Virginia rail**  
Weight: 2.3–3.4 ounces  
Wingspan: 12.6–15 inches  
Length: 8–10.6 inches



**Yellow-breasted chat**  
Weight: 0.8–1.1 ounces  
Wingspan: 9.8 inches  
Length: 7.1 inches

**Bird Walks** May 4 & June 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 [blufflake.org/birdwatching](http://blufflake.org/birdwatching). All are welcome. Bring your own binoculars, or borrow a pair from your guide. 11255 MLK Blvd. Search [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) for "Bird Sightings" to see all the past bird stories and photos from George Ho.

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# A Wonder Wander Walk at Bluff Lake

Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch



Top Left: As a group walks down into the Bluff Lake Nature Center, they are asked to slow down and look around. Top Right: Two of the youngest walkers take time to sit by the creek. Bottom Left: Volunteer nature coach Sheri Peterson asks the group to take time to zoom in on their surroundings.

By Linda Kotsaftis

It's not that easy to slow down along MLK, Jr. Blvd., but that's just what you'll need to do if you head to Bluff Lake Nature Center for "Nature Wonder Wanders." On the first Friday of each month, volunteer and certified nature coach Sheri Peterson leads the walks.

She doesn't call them nature walks, "because people assume that they're going to get to know nature. And I'm not going to introduce you to the bush as a sagebrush bush. I'm going to introduce you to the bush to meet at a soul level or spiritual level."

Peterson encourages the group to slow down and "leave all the chaos out there."

For the next hour, a group of 10 of us *did* slow down. We silently walked the ramp down to the lake area and shared our experiences at the bottom. People talked about hearing their feet touching the ground.

Walkers are encouraged to share their thoughts, but there aren't any right or wrong answers. It's about "360 awareness," Peterson says, and seeing nature with childlike eyes.

We walked further to the stumps by the creek and spent time listening to the sounds around us. For the adults in the group, it was a time of contemplation, while for the kids, it was a time to devote to the sounds of a trash can that talks when items are put inside.

Peterson hopes participants take home some gratitude for an element—water, fire, earth, wind. She invites people to stay and spend more time. Some did, while the rest of us returned to the chaos of life after taking time to slow down, even for just an hour.

Nature Wonder Wanders, and other walks at Bluff Lake Nature Center, are free to the public. Details are listed on the center's website at [www.blufflake.org](http://www.blufflake.org).



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# Local Business Owners Brew Up

By Linda Kotsaftis

He brews the beer that goes in the can. She creates the beautiful imagery on the outside of the can. Amy and Ross Koenigs met on a Frisbee team, married in 2016, and one year ago opened Second Dawn Brewing in Northwest Aurora, a brewery that works to bring people together. “No matter who you are, there’s a seat for you here, both literally and metaphorically,” Ross says. “I think it’s just what we’ve done, and I use ‘we’ as in everyone here on staff. It’s remarkable to see the community and culture here and experience of this place.”

Connecting with the community has been on their minds since they first saw the

building, located a block from Stanley Marketplace. “I think we’re a good asset to the neighborhood, but we are a gentrifier,” says Amy. “So how do we gentrify without displacement? How do we

make everyone feel welcome here, knowing that there’s quite a big difference between Central Park and where we are? It’s in our business plan—how are we showing up and how are we welcoming?”

The Koenigs focus on the welcoming mission. Most of their customers are from the nearby area and they want to make sure the space feels inclusive. A section of the taproom bar is built at an accessible height, and the Koenigs hope to better serve non-English speaking customers by developing Spanish-language menus. Theme nights

servicing an array of communities are evolving as are alcohol-free options.

Being part of the community is one of the reasons Ross knew he wanted to be a brewer. He says there’s nothing like the feeling of “pushing a pint across the bar and having somebody take a sip and say, ‘that’s really good.’”

Ross has been working in the beer business for 20 years. Growing up in Milwaukee, he spent the summer between high school and college delivering kegs of Budweiser. After spending time on potential career paths, he changed course and enrolled in the University of California Davis Masters Brewing Program.

He eventually ended up at New Belgium Brewing in Fort Collins, researching and developing some of its well-known beers such as the Voodoo

Ranger line.

Amy’s background is in design, with a brief time at Cosmopolitan and Esquire magazines in New York. She realized she wanted to do something good for the world and started working at a nonprofit, then started her own freelance design work. Moving to Fort Collins turned out to be



There are several types of seating areas at Second Dawn—the interior and exterior are always changing to meet the needs of customers.

good timing, joining that Frisbee team where she met Ross.

The couple knew they wanted to move to the Denver area. While some people were working on puzzles during the pandemic, the Koenigs were solving a puzzle of their own—how to start a brewery. Amy says the business had been “Ross’ dream forever,” so they took a leap of faith.

The Koenigs found a building that housed an auto body garage and apartments that had the right industrial look and space for brewing. There was an electrical power structure already in place, but Ross admits that “it took quite a bit of



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# a Community Connection

imagination” to see a brewery in the space. And it took the right partners to make the vision come alive. Amy credits architect Kaci Taylor.

Covid-19 supply chain issues delayed the intended opening in 2022. And a delay in the start of Xcel Energy service “was particularly devastating because we were hoping to open in the

summer, and then it was late summer, and then it was fall, but then it felt pretty certain that we were going to open in the first couple of weeks of December,” Amy remembers. They finally opened their doors in February 2023. It was a year of learning and a lot of hard work. There’s also the “emotional pressure of wanting this to be successful so badly after having a vision for it, she adds. “But it’s also more rewarding” than she had thought.

The Koenigs credit their staff for taking on new responsibilities to help ease the workload. They credit each other for keeping their work and home partnership working so well. They have different lanes: the business one and the marriage one.

“I need to say this to you as a business partner,” Amy says, describing conversations with Ross. “Or, I’m going to say this to you as a wife. There are very different things that you need out of those conversations and different things that I need him to hear in those conversations.”

She adds, looking at Ross: “I was so thankful we each had someone who understood what we were going through. It’s like the tears we were shedding were the same.”



Above: What 2302 Dayton Street looked like when it housed an auto body garage. Right: The inside of the building as it looks today.



Front Porch photos by Christie Gosh

Together they’re working to find a better work-life balance. “It’s at a certain point where working more hours does not yield all that more extra benefit to the business,” Ross says, “and so we’re giving ourselves opportunities to recharge.”

As for the future of Second Dawn, distribution and introducing people to the brand are key. Ross gives “a ton of credit to Amy” for creating memorable images for the brewery and beer cans. His responsibility, he says, is to “put a good beer in the can and hopefully, when people pick it up and whether it’s out in the world or in here, they really enjoy it and want to come back.”

It also helps to be ready to pivot, they say. A short-lived margarita seltzer was a miss, while a holiday-themed seltzer—Room for Seconds, which “tastes like Thanksgiving”—was a surprise hit.

Room for Seconds, Wolf of the Woods...beer and seltzer names and tastes are always changing. As for the name of the brewery, the couple admit finding a name was difficult.

Ross’ mom told the couple that Aurora means dawn in

Latin. And the Koenigs say a second dawn is when you get to start the best part of your day. They hope people spend that time with them.

Second Dawn Brewing is located at 2302 Dayton St. To find out what’s on tap, go to [www.seconddawnbrewing.com](http://www.seconddawnbrewing.com)

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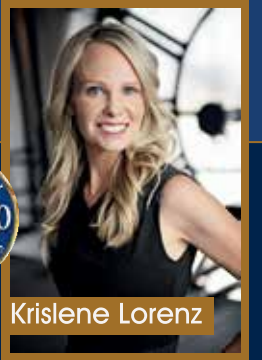


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# Running Clubs Dash

gan his own walk/jog program a year ago after taking a break from athletics to establish the business. “It makes my heart happy that people come to hang out with friends—consistently, on the run, before, and after. It’s the accountability, and it’s the camaraderie.”

The popularity of running clubs has exploded in cities across the nation in recent years, and Denver is no exception. Glissade Run Club is just one of several that has experienced significant growth. Cheluna Brewing Co., located in the Stanley Marketplace, organizes club runs each Tuesday at 5:45pm. Brewery owners Jennifer and Javi Perez founded the club in 2017 “as a way to build community and to carve our niche in the Colorado craft beer scene,” Jennifer she says. The group rebooted after the pandemic and today has about 30 runners and walkers.

Cheluna’s club members may choose from a more exerting workout or a neighborhood jaunt at their own pace, with the group breaking into distances of one to six miles. For club members, the finish line looks all the sweeter thanks to a post-run shared meal and discounted drinks at the brewery.

Some local runners have discovered the joys of communal running within specialized clubs, such as the Denver chapter of Black Men Run (BMR) and Colorado Columbinas Women’s Running Club. Raheem Sisson, captain of BMR Denver, says the club is an “awesome blessing” that connects “brothers



Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch

Members from Glissade Coffee Company’s run club take off on their Sunday morning run, which winds across paths through Central Park. Runners may pick routes ranging from a nearly two-mile run to a five-miler. Many participants stick around post-run for coffee and conversation.

By Sarah Huber

Last summer Central Park resident Brandy Margeson found the extra nudge she needed to regain her fitness post-Covid at, unexpectedly, a coffee shop. “I saw that walkers and joggers were welcome at the Glissade running club, so I showed up, and they were all so friendly that I kept coming,” she says.

Showing up was Margeson’s first step in a renewed fitness journey spurred on by club members who quickly became friends. After a few months of a walk/jog program, Margeson tackled the longest club route of five miles. “I kept reminding myself, ‘It’ll feel good when you’re done,’ and the other runners kept me accountable,” she recalls. These days she’s a club regular who cheers on newbie and inveterate runners alike.

For Sean Harwin, the entrepreneur behind Glissade Coffee Company, Margeson’s success story epitomizes not only why he started the club but, even more, why he launched the coffee shop and cafe. “There are very few

times in life where you get to tangibly make an impact on the community you live in,” he says. “We are intentionally creating the opportunity and space for community to exist and for people who are interested to be a part of it.” After all, “being human is really hard, and when you get to spend time with other humans, it can make it easier.”

Since June, when the run club kicked off only three months after the coffee company first opened, the club has soared from 35 runners to up to 90 participants. On Sundays at 8am and Wednesdays at 6:30am, club members take off from the coffee shop, located near Stanley Marketplace in Aurora, and wind across Westerly Creek toward the Central Park

regional playground before circling back for coffee and conversation.

“To be as inclusive as possible,” Harwin explains, Glissade features three routes ranging from almost two miles to the five-miler Margeson now runs with zeal. “We are a non-competitive club and have lots of pups and strollers,” says Harwin, who himself is an endurance athlete who be-

*“We swap tips on running, and if people are training, they can push themselves a little more...together.”*

—Runners Roost manager Luke Siekmeier



The Cheluna Brewing Co. Run Club circles up before every run. Joggers and walkers may choose from a few mileage options, then gather at the finish line for a shared meal and discounted drinks.

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# to Popularity Post-Pandemic

who get each other.” He notes, “Sometimes people don’t want to talk about the racial division we struggle with, but with BMR, we can be ourselves, support each other.” The volunteer-led chapter offers trail runs or city 5Ks at least five days a week.

BMR Denver, under the umbrella of the international BMR nonprofit, has jumped from a handful of members in 2020 to 48 active members. In April, the club introduced the Unity Collaboration Run Initiative, alongside Latinos Run Denver and Black Girls Run Denver, with a downtown celebration sponsored by REI and Upswell Studios. Going forward, the three chapters will hold monthly joint runs. “Anyone is welcome,” Sisson says. “We’re spreading a message of unity, love, and acceptance and making sure everyone has someone to run with.” To that end, members from BMR Denver join Glissade’s Sunday runs most weeks before enjoying coffee “as a partnership of runners,” says Harwin.

“We call ourselves ‘no man left behind,’” Sisson says. “We’re much more than a run club.” The BMR Denver chapter, which includes Sisson’s 12-year-old son through members into their late 60s, gathers frequently for non-running activities such as family picnics, ball games, and bike rides. “Many of us got into running for health reasons too,” Sisson observes, as heart disease is the number one cause of death among African American males.

For Serena Sampat, a Colorado Columbine Women’s Running Club board member, joining a group of like-minded runners was crucial to her “finishing a half marathon in a way that was a lot more fun,” she says. Colorado Col-

umbines has 160 active members and plans Saturday and Sunday running and walking events, in addition to an annual destination trip to a race. “I think I’ll be a Columbine forever,” Sampat says. “Even if I’m just

walking, I can enjoy the companionship.”

Athletes seeking more competitive runs may turn to clubs hosted by Runners Roost stores throughout northern Colorado. Runners Roost’s Central Park Club meets on Mondays at 5:45pm for a 5K. “We swap tips on running, and if people are training, they can push themselves a little more...together,” says manager Luke

Siekmeier.

Alec Vance, who runs with the Glissade club, holds a 2:50 marathon pace and is known for his speedy clip. Yet on Sundays,

he revels in the joy of running in community and cheerfully paces fellow club members. Referring to Glissade’s Sunday runs, he says, “In life, it’s important to have something to look forward to, and if you can get that on a weekly basis, you’ve hit the jackpot.”



Black Men Run Denver captain Raheem Sisson celebrates with fellow runners at their Unity Collaboration Run Initiative downtown last month. Photo courtesy of Black Men Run Denver

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# ...NE News Updates

if they buy from certain retailers.

MacKenzie Hardt, owner of Hardt Family Cyclery in Northwest Aurora, says the new program discriminates against small independent shops like his because store owners have to front the money for the discount and then wait a year to be repaid by the state. He says he can't afford to do that. "We're anticipating a 10% reduction in business because of this program," says Hardt.

Ari Rosenblum, with the state's energy office, says the Department of Revenue is setting up a process where retailers can be reimbursed quarterly in 2025. The new program replaces a state initiative that began last year in which moderate and low-income residents received \$500 or \$1,100 discounts on e-bikes. For more information, visit <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/ebike-tax-credit>

## 3 Spinelli's Market Coming to Aurora

Italian sandwiches and ready-to-heat foods will soon be available at the new Spinelli's Market East on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Neighbors who have been traveling to the Spinelli's Park Hill location for years will now have another option for lunch or dinner. The market will carry the shop's familiar sandwich menu along with take home dishes like lasagna and eggplant parmesan and some pantry essentials. The Aurora market is expected to open later in May.

## 4 All-Terrain Wheelchairs Available at Two Aurora Parks

More people will have access to Star K Ranch and the Plains Conservation Center using all-terrain wheelchairs that are now available at both parks.

Aurora's Open Space and Natural Resources Division wants to make sure everyone can enjoy nature and access trails. The Action Trackchair wheelchairs are free of charge and can be used year-round during open hours at the two parks. Rentals are limited to two hours and a reservation is



MacKenzie Hardt, owner of Hardt Family Cyclery, says the new statewide e-bike discount program discriminates against small business owners like him, who can't afford to participate.

File photo by Christie Gosch

required. Sign up for a time and location at [AuroraGov.org/TrackChairs](https://AuroraGov.org/TrackChairs).

## 5 Project Worthmore Meets Increased Demand for Food

The Yu Meh Food Share program at Project Worthmore has increased the amount of food it has given away by 50%. The organization, located in Northwest Aurora, helps refugees from more than 25 countries find resources in Colorado. The food comes from local businesses, non-profits, and Project Worthmore's farm.

During the first quarter of 2023, 20,000 pounds of food per month were donated to 1,000 individuals. For the first quarter of 2024, those numbers increased to 30,000 pounds of food per month for 1,200 individuals. The program is always looking for volunteers to sort, deliver, and help with the food market. Visit [www.projectworthmore.org](https://www.projectworthmore.org).



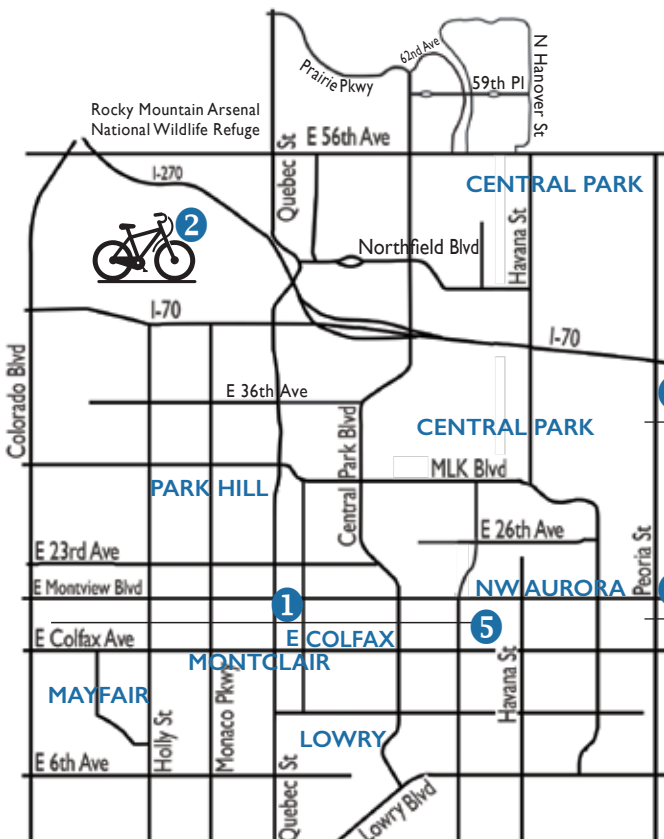
A family enjoys the open space and trails at Star K Ranch in Aurora using an all-terrain wheelchair. Photo from [www.auroragov.org](https://www.auroragov.org)

## 6 Updated Plan for Migrants; City Services Restored

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston announced a new plan to provide services to migrants while limiting the impact on City services. Johnston says the City will need \$45.9 million to fund the new Denver Asylum Seekers Program that will connect 1,000 migrants who are already living in the City's hotel shelter system with housing assistance and a work readiness program. He says his plan will largely be funded by not filling job

vacancies, which allows him to avoid what he calls the worst-case budget scenario.

Under the new plan, recreation centers and Denver Motor Vehicles offices will return to their original operating hours.



By Mary Jo Brooks and Linda Kotsaftis

## 1 Housing Units to Open at Mosaic Campus

Archway Communities has begun accepting initial applications for one, two, and three-bedroom apartments on the Mosaic Campus in Park Hill. The 154 income-qualified units are located in four dormitories on the former Johnson and Wales campus. The units are reserved for people who fall within the range of 30-60 percent of the area median income (approximately \$31,000 to \$63,000 for a family of three).

Georgeanne Barrett, Archway's director of communications, says two of the buildings will be ready for tenants by late June and the other two buildings by mid-July. "The dorms have been completely re-imagined to include kitchens," says Barrett. "There are common spaces for all residents to use and for community meetings." A ribbon cutting and community celebration is planned for the fall. For more information, visit [www.archwaycommunities.org](https://www.archwaycommunities.org)

## 2 New Statewide E-bike Rebate Program

On April 1, the Colorado Energy Office began a statewide e-bike rebate program that allows any Coloradan to receive \$450 off the purchase of a battery-powered bicycle



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came to our powerful screening of *Seven Winters in Tehran* on April 5 at The Cube. Stay tuned for more events. This month, we finish off the Oscar films, I add an Oscar-nominated doc, and for icing, I give you a great new TV series. Enjoy all.

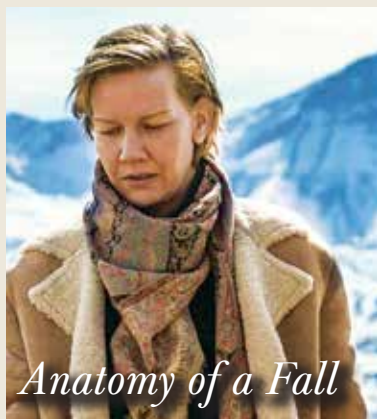
### Anatomy of a Fall

We have a case of extraordinary writing, directing, and acting with this brilliant film from writer/director Justine Triet. This is a rare gem that is so well-written that we don't realize until long afterward that we just watched a two-hour film primarily focused on dialogue. There isn't a lot of flash in the technical aspects—although the editing is quite good—but the ticket price here is for the sizzling writing and acting. Sandra Hüller is brilliant, again, as she was in *The Zone of Interest*, and the film is well worth the emotional investment it takes from you.

The story concerns a woman (Hüller) whose husband dies from an apparent fall outside their house. But is there more to it? As the investigation unfolds and we delve further into the couple's relationship, the story gets murkier and darker. Their son Daniel (the shining Milo Machado-Graner) is then dragged into the investigation/court case, and while heart-

breaking, his testimony is jaw-dropping and devastatingly insightful. The title of the film refers to the inciting incident of the film, but it can also refer to many relationships.

The film was not available for the Best International Feature category at the Oscars because it was not submitted for consideration by (its home country) France. Instead, France submitted *The Taste of Things*, which didn't make the final cut. *Anatomy of a Fall* would have been a formidable contender in that category (*The Zone of Interest* won), but it was nominated for Best Picture and Best Original Screen-



Anatomy of a Fall

play anyway. It won in the latter category, and deservedly so.

Available on Hulu and for rent on streaming outlets.

### Four Daughters

This is an interesting and intense film. It is the true story of a Tunisian family—a mother and her four daughters—that is cleverly rendered by

filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania. The story concerns the older two daughters who become radicalized into ISIL as young women, leaving their mother and sisters behind. The film itself, however, blends reenactments of the mother and daughters in a strange mix of reality and fiction that is perhaps more emotional than just

a straight retelling of the story might have been. We start there.

The mother of the family, Olfa Hamrouni, speaks directly about her experience during the course of the film, but she is also played by an actress at times

(Hend Sabri). Olfa explains early on in the film that some moments were just too difficult to re-enact and so the actress was employed. The two older daughters are also played by actresses: Nour Karoui as Rahma and Ichraq Matar as Ghofrane. The moment when (the real) Olfa meets the actresses playing her eldest daughters is severely emotional. On top of that, Olfa's youngest daughters, Eya and Tayssir, "play themselves" during the reenactments in addition to being interviewed throughout the course of the film. It's a lot to take in, it is extremely emotional, at times it is very uncomfortable, and the result is quite striking.

Recent documentaries have played with structure and format to tell the stories innovatively and creatively. It doesn't always work, but it does here. We laugh with the family, we cry with the family, and we hurt with the family. It is raw at times, it is obviously affected at times, and other times, it is just plain heartbreaking. The story itself could be just another tale of teen rebellion, but it takes a dark turn here without holding back accusations and blame. Was it the strict mother's fault that the girls were radicalized? Was it the fault of society? Government and politics? Or was it just another case of how girls and women around the world don't have a room of their own? Your turn to ask.

Available on Netflix and Amazon Prime, as well as for rent.



Manhunt

### Manhunt (2024)

This striking seven-episode historical drama on Apple TV+ tells the story of Lincoln's assassination and the subsequent manhunt for John Wilkes Booth. While I knew the outline of the story, I did not know the depth and breadth of the plot, which plunged our country into sorrow, despair, and—unbeknownst to many—the edge of chaos (once again). Showrunner Monica Beletsky based it on the book *Manhunt: The 12-day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson, and while it is not a documentary—it takes liberties with the characters, events, and actions—it follows the broad parameters of the events. In other words, this is *not* pure history. Still, the show delivers for entertainment and relevance.

Tobias Menzies stars as Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who, as Lincoln's friend and confidante, directs the search for Booth (Anthony Boyle). Both are formidable actors and supported by an excellent cast and a wonderful period-production that immerses us in the world of 1865. The writing is particularly sharp, and the actors rise to it at every turn.

Apple TV+ is fast becoming the home of excellent, top-tier productions with first-rate execution in every category: *Severance*, *Lessons in Chemistry*, *Silo*, *Sugar*, *Masters of the Air* are examples, and now, *Manhunt* joins the fray. Get lost in this one.

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

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# LOCAL EVENTS

May thru early June

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

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

## NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

**Fridays—Ageless Grace-Body and Brain Workout.** Simple seated exercises for all ages and abilities. 2–3pm. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**Saturdays—City Park Farmers Market.** 100+ local producers, live music, donation-based yoga and a run club. 2551 E Colfax Ave. [cityparkfarmersmarket.com](http://cityparkfarmersmarket.com)

**Tuesdays—Free Country Line Dancing.** Kick up your heels! 6:30pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. [stanleymarketplace.com](http://stanleymarketplace.com)

**5/3 & 6/7—Nature Wonder Walks.** Slow down, breathe, and reconnect. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 7am. 11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd. Free but must RSVP at [blufflake.org](http://blufflake.org)

**5/4 Saturday—Shakespeare in the Parking Lot: Romeo and Juliet.** With the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 2–3pm. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/4 & 6/1—Bluff Lake Bird Walks.** Two walks at 7:30 and 8am. 11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd. Free but must RSVP at [blufflake.org/birdwatching](http://blufflake.org/birdwatching)

**5/4 Saturday (Domingo 5 de mayo)—La Naturaleza Habla Español.** Disfrutar y explorar la naturaleza de Colorado con tu familia. 10:00 a 12:00 horas. 11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd. Gratis. [blufflake.org](http://blufflake.org)

**5/5 Sunday—Cinco de Mayo: Live Mariachi Band.** 11am–1pm. 8246 Northfield Blvd. The Shops at Northfield. [shopsatnorthfield.com](http://shopsatnorthfield.com)

**5/7 Tuesday—Advance Directives Fundamentals.** Learn to document your health-related wishes. 2–4pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/8 Wednesday—Past Lives Screening.** Free screening of the 2023 film with a discussion after. 5–7:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/9 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Leonardo da Vinci.** 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

at [shopsatnorthfield.com](http://shopsatnorthfield.com)

**5/11 Saturday—Asian American & Pacific Islander Festival.** Immerse yourself in the delicious food and arts of the local AAPI community. 144 West Colfax Ave. [allevents.in/denver/200026354106708](http://allevents.in/denver/200026354106708)

**5/11 Saturday—Javanese Gamelan Traditional Music and Dance.** Performed by The Art and Culture of Indonesia. All ages. 11:30am–12:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/11 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day.** A close look inside select aircraft. 10am–2pm. 7711 East Academy Blvd. [wingsmuseum.org](http://wingsmuseum.org)



May 12—Mom's free day at Wings Over the Rockies

**5/11 Saturday—Goat Yoga.** 10am, 12pm, and 2pm. 8246 Northfield Blvd. The Shops at Northfield. [shopsatnorthfield.com](http://shopsatnorthfield.com)

**5/11 & 6/2—Pollinator Art Workshop.** 9–11am. Wetland Loop Trailhead, 6102 East 52nd Ave. Commerce City. Register at [sandcreekgreenway.org](http://sandcreekgreenway.org)

**5/12 Sunday—Mom's Free Day at Wings Over the Rockies.** Bring the whole family—Moms get in free. 12–5pm. 7711 East Academy Blvd. [wingsmuseum.org](http://wingsmuseum.org)

**5/18 Saturday—Spring Fling at The Urban Farm.** Vegetable plant sale, crafts, music, and more family fun. 9am–1pm. 10200 Smith Rd. [theurbanfarm.org](http://theurbanfarm.org)

**5/19 Sunday—Mini Golf Classic Fundraiser.** Live music, prizes and more. FlyteCo Tower, 3120 Uinta St. Tickets at [centralparkbusiness.com](http://centralparkbusiness.com)

**5/20 Monday—Death Café.** Normalize conversations around death. 2–3:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/22 Wednesday—Nature Photography.** Learn to use a professional camera. 4:30–5:30pm. Sand Creek Park 2700 Peoria St, Aurora. Register at [sandcreekgreenway.org](http://sandcreekgreenway.org)

**5/23 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Genghis Khan & the Mongolian Empire.** 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

**5/25 Saturday—Everything Everywhere All at Once Screening.** Free screening of the 2022 film with a discussion after. 11:30am–2:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/25 Saturday—Explore the Greenway: Bug's Life.** Learn about Colorado's bugs and insects. 9:30–10:30am. Wetland Loop Trailhead, 6102 East 52nd Ave. Commerce City. [sandcreekgreenway.org](http://sandcreekgreenway.org)

**5/25 & 5/26—Denver Arts Festival.** Conservatory Green, 8304 E. 49th Pl. Wine and beer garden, kids' art zone, live music, free admission. [denverartsfestival.com](http://denverartsfestival.com)

**5/29 Wednesday—Qi Gong.** Improve breathing, reduce stress, and gently move. 11am–12:15pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/30 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Lebanon.** 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

**6/1 Saturday—Lost Creek String Band.** 3–4pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**6/1 Saturday—Concert on The Green- Home Slice.** The South Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St.) 6pm. [mca80238.com](http://mca80238.com)

**6/1 Saturday—Forest Bathing.** 9–11am. Star K Ranch, 16002 Smith Rd, Aurora. Register at [sandcreekgreenway.org](http://sandcreekgreenway.org)

**6/1 & 6/2—Central Park Community Garage Sale.** To register or for maps, go to [centralparkgaragesale.com](http://centralparkgaragesale.com)

**6/1 & 6/2—Park Hill Art Festival** 10am–5pm. Painting, sculpture, jewelry, metal, wood, & ceramics. 4819 Montview Blvd. [parkhillartfestival.com](http://parkhillartfestival.com)

**6/2 Sunday—City Park Jazz Kick-Off Concert.** Roka Hueka, 6–8pm at the City Park Pavilion and Bandshell, 2001 Steele St. [cityparkjazz.org/](http://cityparkjazz.org/)

## METRO EVENTS

**5/3 & 6/7—First Friday Art Walks.** On Santa Fe. 5:30–9:30pm. [denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**5/4 Saturday—Annual Mulch Giveaway.** 8am–2pm. Two dig-your-own sites including the Havana nursery location. 311 (720-913-1311) or [denvergov.org/mulch](http://denvergov.org/mulch)

**5/4 & 5/5—Cinco de Mayo Festival.** Parade, exhibits, food, and more. Civic Center Park. Free. [cincodemayodenver.com](http://cincodemayodenver.com)

**5/8 Wednesday—SPARK! Alzheimer's Association.** A safe, interactive experience for visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia. 1–2pm. 1007 York St. Register at [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**5/9 Thursday—Art & About Tours.** For visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners. 1–2:45pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

**5/9 to 5/11—Denver Ukfest.** Workshops for all levels of players, master classes with performing artists, and concerts. 71 East Yale Ave. [swallowhillmusic.org](http://swallowhillmusic.org)

**5/10 & 5/11—Colorado Chocolate Festival.** Crowne Plaza DIA Convention Center, 1-70 at Chambers Rd. [cochocolatefest.com](http://cochocolatefest.com)

**5/10 & 5/11—Spring Plant Sale.** 8am–4pm. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**5/11 to 5/19—Denver Fashion Week.** A week of spring runway shows at The Brighton in the RiNo Art District. 3403 Brighton Blvd, [denverfashionweek.com](http://denverfashionweek.com)

**5/23 Thursday—Health and Land Intersect: One North Denver Community's Response.** 6pm. Center for Colorado Women's History, 1310 Bannock St. Tickets at [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**5/27 Monday—Commerce City Memorial Day Parade.** 64th and Newport, Commerce City, 9:30am. [c3gov.com/parade](http://c3gov.com/parade)

**5/30 Thursday—Bold Women. Change History: Stacy A. Bohlen.** Learn about the health outcomes of historical trauma. 7–8pm. 1200 North Broadway, [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**6/1 Saturday—Denver Cultural Market.** Learn about Denver's cultural scene. 11am–4pm. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

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



May 29—Qi Gong at the Park Hill Library

**Wednesdays—Mornings at the Museum.** Ages 3–6, 10:30–11:15am. Free. New programs every week. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. [auroragov.org](http://auroragov.org)

**5/1 & 5/15—Kids Game Club.** A fun, relaxed environment. Ideal for ages 5–12. 3:30–5:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/4 Saturday—Girl Scout Hat Workshop.** Create a one-of-a-kind creation all your own. 10:30am–1:30pm. Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. [historicaldenver.org](http://historicaldenver.org)

**5/11 Saturday—CSU Spur 2nd Saturdays.** Free. Lots of family-friendly programming. 10am–3pm. 4817 National Western Dr. [csuspur.org](http://csuspur.org)

**5/11 Saturday—Family Nature Adventure Days.** Free crafts and activities. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 8:30am–12pm. 11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd. Free. [blufflake.org](http://blufflake.org)

**5/11 Saturday—Maker Mornings: Material Exploration—Paper.** For children from 15 months to eight years old, with siblings of any age welcome. 10:30am–12:30pm. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**5/11 & 5/12—Bluey's Big Play.** A brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy award-winning children's television series. Buell Theatre. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**5/12 Sunday—Foxy and Shmoxy: Art Detectives.** Children access and experience art in unique ways. 10:30am–12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

**5/14 Tuesday—Tween Chess Club.** Play chess and learn new strategy skills to compete against your peers. 4:30–5:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

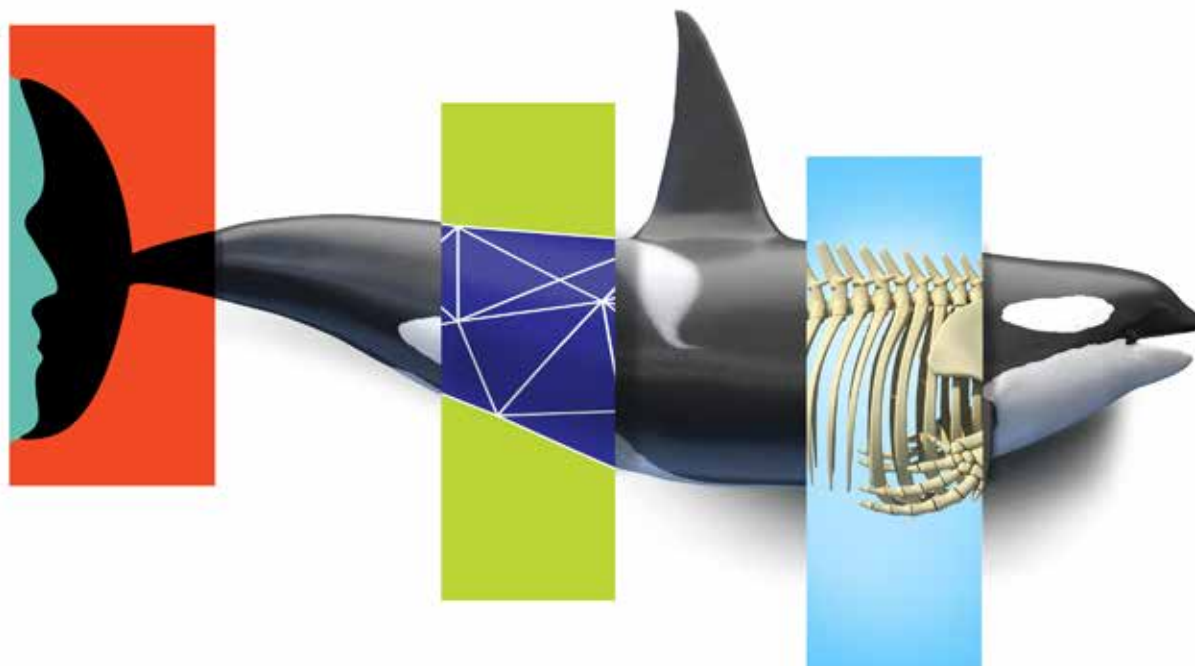
**5/16 Thursday—Kids Book Club.** Making Fairy Gardens. Ages 5–12. 4–5pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**5/19 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids.** 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. [stanleymarketplace.com](http://stanleymarketplace.com)

**5/19, 5/22 & 5/25—Art Crawl: Ready, Set, Grow!** 10:30–11:15am. For caregivers with infants–14 months. Registration required. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

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**5/25 Saturday—Sensory Friendly Show – Frail Talk.** Lower volumes and lighting plus a calm room and fidget sensory items available. 11am. 71 East Yale Ave. Free but register at [swallowhillmusic.org](http://swallowhillmusic.org)

**5/26 Sunday—Teen Jam at Swallow Hill.** Monthly jam is youth-led and free for musicians aged 13-18. 11am-1pm. 71 East Yale Ave. [swallowhillmusic.org](http://swallowhillmusic.org)

**5/28 Tuesday—Tween Lego Club.** Learn while having fun. Ages 9-13. 4:30-5:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. Limited space. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**6/5 Wednesday—Youth Gaming Night.** Play Xbox and Wii Games. Snacks provided. Ages 5-17. 6-7:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

## MUSEUMS, ETC.

To find local museum and entertainment listings at [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) → Events (tab) → Ongoing Events. For a listing of SCFD Free days, go to: [www.scfcd.org](http://www.scfcd.org)

## PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

**5/3 to 5/5—The Cher Show.** Superstars come and go. Cher is forever. Buell Theatre. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**5/3 Friday—Maria Schneider Orchestra.** The seven-time Grammy award-winning orchestra. 7:30pm. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. [newmancenterpresents.com](http://newmancenterpresents.com)

**5/3 to 6/2—The Lehman Trilogy.** Winner of the 2022 Tony Award for Best Play. Kilstrom Theatre. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**5/3 to 6/9—The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.** Six eclectic tweens vie for the spelling championship. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. [vintagetheatre.org](http://vintagetheatre.org)

**5/5 Sunday—Love Stinks - The Musical.** Popular songs highlight these hilarious tales of love gone wrong. Su Teatro. 721 Santa Fe Dr. [storiesonstage.org](http://storiesonstage.org)

**5/5 Sunday—Yo-Yo Ma with the Colorado Symphony.** Performing Elgar's renowned cello concerto. Boettcher Hall. [coloradosymphony.org](http://coloradosymphony.org)

**Through 5/5—Noises Off.** A relentless, high-energy farce. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. [arvadacenter.org](http://arvadacenter.org)

**Through 5/5—Space Explorers: THE IN-FINITE.** Immersive experience inspired by NASA missions. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**Through 5/5—Cheyanne.** How artists of color navigate America's complex and nuanced art world. The People's Building, 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. [controlgroupproductions.org](http://controlgroupproductions.org)

**Through 5/5—Emma.** A delightfully unconventional and fun adaptation of Jane Austen's classic comedy. Wolf Theatre. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**5/9 Thursday—Les Violins du Roy.** With guitarist Miloš Karadaglić. 7:30pm. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. [friendsofchambermusic.com](http://friendsofchambermusic.com)

**5/10 & 5/11—Body Story.** An evening of exploration. The People's Building, 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. [thepeoplesbuilding.com/tickets](http://thepeoplesbuilding.com/tickets)

**5/11 to 6/8—These Shining Lives.** In 1922 four women took their dream jobs that endangered their lives. The John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. [firehousetheatercompany.com](http://firehousetheatercompany.com)

**5/15 Wednesday—The Narrators: Couples (14th Anniversary Special).** A live storytelling show and podcast centered on a monthly theme. 717 Lipan St. [buntport.com](http://buntport.com)

**5/17 Friday—The Denver Moth - StorySLAM.** Prepare a five-minute story about being nosy, eavesdropping, meddling, or sneaking around. 71 East Yale Ave. [swallowhillmusic.org](http://swallowhillmusic.org)

**5/18 to 6/15—Cullud Wattah.** This time-bending play takes on the Flint Water Crisis. Curious Theatre Company, 1080 Acoma St. [curioustheatre.org](http://curioustheatre.org)

**5/22 to 6/2—Company.** It's Bobbie's 35th birthday party, and all her friends keep asking, why isn't she married? Buell Theatre. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**5/24 to 5/26—An Alpine Symphony with Peter Oundjian.** An unforgettable sendoff to our Colorado Centennial Season. Boettcher Hall. [coloradosymphony.org](http://coloradosymphony.org)

**6/1 to 6/23—The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical.** This best-selling, fantasy novel springs to life with special effects and a pop-rock score. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. [aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**6/2 Sunday—One Night Stand Presents: All Greek to Me.** Comedic and dramatic pieces about the mythology and theater of Ancient Greece. 1460 Dayton St., Aurora [onenightstandtheater.org](http://onenightstandtheater.org)

**6/2 Sunday—Aurora Symphony Orchestra Chamber Works Concert.** 3-5pm. The People's Building, 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. [thepeoplesbuilding.com/tickets](http://thepeoplesbuilding.com/tickets)

**Through 6/2—Where Did We Sit On The Bus?** Nine-year-old Bee Quijada asks "Where did Latinos sit on the bus?" Singleton Theatre. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**6/5 Wednesday—Swallow Hill Summer Concert Series Kick-off.** Traveling Wilburys Revue. Doors open 5:30, concert starts at 6:30. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. [swallowhillmusic.org](http://swallowhillmusic.org)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To find volunteer listings and charitable opportunities, go to [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) → Events (tab) → Ongoing Events.



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## GREEN AND SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

**5/4 Saturday—Converting Lawn to Xeriscape.** Learn how to replace Kentucky bluegrass with water-smart perennial and ornamental grasses. 1:30-3:30pm. 1007 York St. Register at [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**5/4 & 6/1—EV Showcase at Lafayette Cars & Coffee.** Get questions answered about EVs or show off your own. 7-10am. 355 W South Boulder Rd, Lafayette. [driveelectriccolorado.org](http://driveelectriccolorado.org)

**5/7, 5/8, & 5/9—Concerned about the Climate Crisis? Move from Anxiety to Action!** One hour video followed by a community discussion each night. 6:30pm. The Cube: 8371 Northfield Blvd. [mca80238.com/event-calendar/the-week-series](http://mca80238.com/event-calendar/the-week-series)

**5/8 to 5/25—Free Water Conservation Classes.** Learn about and how to install water-wise landscapes and irrigation. [auroragov.org/residents/water/water\\_conservation](http://auroragov.org/residents/water/water_conservation)

**5/11 & 5/18—Learn To Compost Workshop.** 5/18 class is bilingual (English & Spanish). 9-11am. 1325 Colorado Blvd. Register at [dug.org](http://dug.org)

**5/13 Monday—Knowing Your Home Basics.** Learn how a house works. 5:30-8pm. 555 Santa Fe Dr. Register at [denvertoolibrary.org](http://denvertoolibrary.org)

**5/18 Saturday—Water-wise Day Expo.** Educational sessions. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. 8:30am-2pm. [auroragov.org/residents/water/water\\_conservation](http://auroragov.org/residents/water/water_conservation)

**5/18 Saturday—Basics of Organic Gardening.** Learn important aspects of organic gardening. 10am-12pm. Pay what you can. 1031 33rd St. [dug.org](http://dug.org)

**5/19 Sunday—Rework, Revive, Renew at Mend and Sew.** Breathe new life into your old clothes. 1-4pm. 667 4th Ave, Longmont. [staci39.wix-site.com/fashionrebellion/events](http://staci39.wix-site.com/fashionrebellion/events)

**6/7 Friday—Container Gardening.** Join a CSU Denver Extension Master Gardener for an overview on building your best container gardens. 3:30-4:30pm. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)



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Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch



High Point Creamery co-owner Erika Thomas, aka "Boss Lady," shows off a triple scoop cone of her creative flavors at the colorful new location in Central Park's East 29th Avenue Town Center.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

When people walk into the newest location of High Point Creamery, which opened mid-April in Central Park's 29th Avenue Town Center, they'll see what owner Erika Thomas says is the fullest expression of the brand. "I think because of our experiences the last few years, I want things to be joyful and full of love," says Thomas, who focused on selling pints during the pan-



Options include ice cream in cups, cones, or to-go pints plus ice cream sandwiches, pastries, and espresso-based coffee drinks.

# New Ice Cream Shop Hits a High Point in Town Center

dem. "Now there's color everywhere!"

Thomas and her husband, Chad Stutz, who serves as managing partner, weren't planning to open a fourth location of High Point Creamery, in addition to their sister brand Eiskaffee, their Big Pinky food truck, and their wholesale ice cream business. But she was approached by the

landlord of the former Cold Stone Creamery location.

"I thought, 'I don't want to look at anything else. I need a break.' But then I came and saw that there's a park, schools, and a library! The location is so great and walkable and there are so many people living near, I thought, 'I can't say no,'" says Thomas.

High Point, which Thomas and Stutz started 10 years ago, still makes everything by hand, including all ice creams, waffle cones, mix-ins like cookies and brownies, and sauces as well as natural flavorings like the mint Thomas grows, picking it in the morning, steeping it mid-day, then incorporating it into their Mint Chocolate Bark ice cream. The only difference now is that Royal Crest Dairy makes their proprietary ice cream base. The new location also sells pastries and coffee drinks. Everything is made in their 14,000-square-foot kitchen in North Denver, something Thomas never thought she'd have. But it was inevitable after expanding their business.

High Point Creamery came about in an unusual way for Thomas and Stutz. She was an actress working in New York but had to leave to take over her father's

car dealership after his sudden passing. After that experience, she wondered what to do next.

"I was in our kitchen making ice cream. Chad came in and I

told him, 'I've figured it out—I'm going to be an accountant.' He said, 'Or maybe you can just make ice cream. It's a happy business and it's hard to have a bad day making ice cream,'" recounts Thomas. "I thought he was crazy because who makes a living making ice cream?"

Thomas started thinking about her husband's comment and went to Penn State for ice cream school (yes, there really is such a thing). That's where she realized she *could* make a living at it.

"It was a tough business when I was doing the dealership, so why couldn't I do this?" says Thomas. "One thing I didn't want to do is copy someone else's brand or what had been done a million times. When I first made Basil Blackberry Swirl, that was the first moment I thought, 'OK, I can do this' because I had never had anything like it and it was

good and a balance of herb and sweet. It was completely my own invention and it gave me the confidence that I could come up with tasty flavors."

Those flavors include Earl Grey & Shortbread, Blueberry Lemon, Tin Cup Whiskey & Pistachio Brittle, plus seasonal flavors like White Chocolate & Saffron. They also make vegan options.

With a family business, Thomas says she and Stutz work well together because they *don't* work together. He handles the accounting and operations and she does all the creative work. Thomas describes it as living in two different worlds even though they're side-by-side. That includes involving their kids, Grayson, 13, and Ruby, 11, who occasionally help out making boxes and chopping cookies.

When Thomas envisions a great day at the Central Park location, she sees a line out the door.

"I see people enjoying a beautiful night, grabbing a treat after dinner, sitting out on the lawn and a space where a teenager can go after school for ice cream with their friends," says Thomas. "I want a feeling of community."



Thomas created sprinkle countertops at the new location, which go perfectly with sprinkle-topped treats.



Pints are available to-go and inspired the colors Thomas used for the walls of this location.

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**COLORADO KIDS PEDIATRICS**

Visit Dirt Coffee, a non-profit social enterprise and full-service coffee bar on a mission to train neuro-divergent employees in the art of service. This is just one of the growing food businesses at Kitchen Network, Mosaic Campus.

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# NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MAY 2024



### DENVER ARTS FESTIVAL

*Saturday, May 25, 10am-6pm & Sunday, May 26, 10am-5pm, Conservatory Green*

The Denver Arts Festival is back on Memorial Day weekend! The Denver Arts Festival is a fine arts and crafts

festival that continues to be dedicated to showcasing Colorado artists and a select group of national artists.

For more information visit [www.denverartsfestival.com](http://www.denverartsfestival.com).



### CENTRAL PARK BEER FESTIVAL

*Saturday, June 15, 5-8pm, South Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St)*

General Admission: \$60

VIP Admission: \$75

20yrs & under Admission: \$10

VIP Tasting starts at 4:00pm!

This festival features a variety of craft breweries, local food trucks, & live music from, The Corporation Band.

VIP Tickets include: Early Admission (4:00pm-5:00pm) with breweries VIP tasting, a glass taster, a commemorative glass, \$12 food coupons.

General Admission Tickets include: Admission (at 5:00pm), a plastic taster and \$12 food coupons.

There will be a concession stand selling domestic beers for purchase and food trucks that will take the food vouchers and all other forms of payment.

Everyone will need a ticket to get into the event. Participants 20 years and younger can choose the "underage ticket" option.

\*Must be 21 and up to participate in brewery tastings.

For more information and to purchase ticket please visit: [www.mca80238.com](http://www.mca80238.com)

### POOL SEASON STARTS MAY 25!

Members will be required to reserve their opening weekend visits to the pool. All pools open to the public (early season schedule) May 28. Reservations will only be required opening weekend. For more information about opening weekend and holiday hours visit [mca80238.com](http://mca80238.com)

Important Dates:

May 1: Pool Reservations Open-Party Pad and After Hours

May 25-27: Member's Only Weekend (reservations required)

May 28: Open Swim (early-season schedule)

June 7: Regular Season Hours Begin

Scan the QR code to find the most up-to-date information on our Aquatics Updates page!



### ACTIVE MINDS: Leonardo da Vinci

*Thursday, May 9, 1-2pm. Sam Gary Library*

Inventor, artist, scientist, engineer, architect, philosopher, and more. Leonardo da Vinci was a true "Renaissance Man" and a clear creative genius. Join Active Minds as we review his life, work, and lasting impact.

### ACTIVE MINDS: Genghis Khan & the Mongolian Empire

*Thursday, May 23, 1-2pm. Sam Gary Library*

Genghis Khan founded and ruled over the Mongolian Empire, the largest contiguous land empire in the history of the world. Often misunderstood, Genghis Khan was far more than the world's greatest conqueror. Time magazine and the Washington Post named him "the most important person of the last millennium." Join Active Minds as we explore how this illiterate warrior-nomad came to have such a lasting and profound impact on world politics and modern society.

### ACTIVE MINDS: Lebanon

*Thursday, May 30, 1-2pm. Sam Gary Library*

Join Active Minds as we trace the history of the current situation in Lebanon. We will provide the background necessary to understand the rise of Hezbollah, Lebanon's Shiite militia, and Lebanon's role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the complex relationship with its neighbor Syria. Come learn how this important country fits into the puzzle that is the Middle East.

### KIDS TRIATHLON REGISTRATION

Save the Date! Registration for the Annual Central Park Kids Triathlon will begin at noon on Wednesday, May 15 at noon. For more details about the Central Park Kids Triathlon please visit [mca80238.com](http://mca80238.com).

### CONCERT ON THE GREEN SERIES

Join us at the South Green located at 29th Ave & Roslyn Street for our summer Concert Series! The first concert will be on Saturday, June 1 featuring the band, "Home Slice"!

The concerts start at 6pm and are free and open to the public!

## Climate Crisis...What Can I Do?

Front Porch and the Master Community Association (MCA) present:



**May 7: How bad will it get?**

**May 8: How did we get here? Is there hope?**

**May 9: What can I do? What can we do?**

6:30pm at The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd, Denver, 80238

Please plan to attend all three evenings for the best experience.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/theweek80238> or scan QR code

Participation is free. Donations of seeds to DUG are appreciated.



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Jennifer Olsen | Communications Manager | [Jolsen@mca80238.com](mailto:Jolsen@mca80238.com)



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