

## **Beet Street: Support local arts nonprofits on Colorado Gives Day**

*Dec. 4, 2013 |*

coloradoan.com

As the holidays approach, and we think about what is important in our communities, support the organizations that bring us local art and culture.

A great way to support locally is to participate in Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday. The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado serves as the Larimer County Regional Champion for Colorado Gives Day, an annual initiative to inspire and unite Coloradans to “give where they live.”

One-hundred percent of every donation made on this day goes to charity, and incentives and prizes increase the value of every dollar donated. Thanks to the Community Foundation, there are \$32,000 in prizes exclusive to Larimer County nonprofits and their donors. The Community Foundation is rewarding small, medium and large nonprofits for most money raised and most unique donors.

There are several Fort Collins arts and culture nonprofits participating in Colorado Gives Day. We encourage you to learn more about them and pledge a contribution today through Tuesday. Each organization has a profile page on NoCoGives.org. The profiles include facts and figures which are aimed at providing transparency and openness about the organization, and where contributions are directed. You can even schedule a pledge in advance, so you don't have to worry about missing the day.

Browse the profiles and choose the organization that you really care about, or split your gift between a few favorites. The important thing is that your financial support will help keep art and culture strong in Fort Collins. Participating organizations include: Bas Bleu Theatre; Beet Street; Fort Collins Museum of Discovery; Friends of The Gardens on Spring Creek; KRFC; Larimer Chorale; Opera Fort Collins; Poudre Landmarks Foundation; and Poudre River Library Trust.

We are proud of the arts and culture Fort Collins has to offer, from our lively music scene to our incredible visual artists, dance and theatre groups, and arts organizations of all kinds. Did you know that the arts are actually proven to build stronger, more robust communities?

To build upon countless anecdotal examples, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare and lower poverty rates.

On Colorado Gives Day, give where you live, and support local arts and culture nonprofits that make our community vibrant.

**Beth Flowers is the executive director of Beet Street.**

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# Today's Ticket: Larimer Chorale's Dickens Carolers

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Courtesy of Lynette Seelmeyer

Written by **Stacy Nick**

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Join the Dickens Carolers for an evening of merriment and holiday cheer at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Council Tree Library, 2733 Council Tree Ave. Part of the Larimer Chorale, the Dickens Carolers will dress in authentic Victorian costumes and sing traditional carols to help ring in the holiday season. Visit [www.poudrelibraries.org](http://www.poudrelibraries.org) for more information.

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# Poudre River Public Library District seeks new board member

Dec. 28, 2013 | 0 Comments



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Written by Coloradoan staff

The Poudre River Public Library District is seeking to fill a vacancy on its their board of trustees.

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Applications are being accepted to join the seven-member board, which governs the district, for a four-year term. The board is responsible for supervising the district's libraries.

Applications are available at the Larimer County Commissioner's Office and the city of Fort Collins Clerk's Office or online at [www.larimer.org/library/](http://www.larimer.org/library/). Forms are due no later than Jan. January 17.

For more information, contact Paula Watson-Lakamp at (970) 221-6740 or [Library-PR@poudre libraries.org](mailto:Library-PR@poudre libraries.org).

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## City, county offices closed New Year's Day

*Written by Coloradoan staff*

*Jan. 06*

coloradoan.com

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Those looking to start 2014 on the right foot by renewing their vehicle registration or dropping off overdue library books will have to wait until Thursday to get their affairs in order with the government.

Municipal and county offices in Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor, Wellington and Timnath will be closed Wednesday for New Year's Day. Fort Collins offices will close at 2 p.m. Tuesday, while Windsor town offices will close at noon.

Fort Collins libraries will close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, while EPIC, Mulberry Pool, the Northside Aztlan Center and the Senior Center will close at 3 p.m. Other city recreation facilities will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

Municipal and county functions will resume operating on their normal schedules starting Thursday.

— Coloradoan staff

## Craigslist 'Missed Connections' post about jeers draws cheers

Written by Sarah Jane Kyle

Dec. 26, 2013 |

coloradoan.com



*Karen Seed, 26, of Fort Collins, sits on a bench in Old Town Fort Collins. Seed is wearing a pair of shoes she knocked down from a power line. The reaction from onlookers prompted the young woman to write a Craigslist Missed Connections post on issues of poverty. / Sarah Jane Kyle/The Coloradoan*

### About hanging shoes

There's a variety of explanations for shoes hanging from power lines. Some attribute it to gang's marking territory boundaries, others to drugs, others to a transition in life and others to fun. There is no single conclusive reason shoes hang from a power pole, according to [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com).

Those trolling the infamous Craigslist Missed Connections are used to seeing some out-there content.

A note to the "Dearest cave dweller... Don't worry about your roommate. Just ... hang out with me already." A plea to the cashier who "was teasing me about being a creeper... Put what color my coveralls were in the subject line" (original spellings and phrasings included).

That's probably why Karen Seed's missed connection, entitled "To the Dudes who had a problem with me takings shoes off the power line," stuck out like a sore, but powerful, thumb.

Seed, 26, of Fort Collins wrote the post to men who jeered across the street as she tried to knock down the tantalizing, near-new shoes she biked past in Old Town Fort Collins every day for a month.

She didn't have "proper shoes" for a while, searching thrift stores for something that would work. When she started noticing a variety of shoes hanging from power lines, Seed's shoe shopping took a new turn. After eying the purple and grey Airwalks that now don her feet, she borrowed a ladder and used a wooden pole to knock them down.

The size 9s were a perfect fit.

Men across the street became near-hostile, she said. As they jeered various insults at her, Seed said she didn't know what to say until she had gotten home and wrote the now-popular post.

"If you knew me, you would know my hand-me-down boots are cracked and worn and full of holes, soles thin enough to feel the ice on the pavement every step," Seed wrote. " 'Why don't you buy your own shoes?' you yelled. 'What are you, too cheap?'

"It's not like that, man. I wish I could sit with you and talk about poverty, hunger and access to resource, and no, I'm not cheap, I'm not even poor. If you could see my basement apartment,



or my dinner table, you would know I live like a queen. There are dumpsters overflowing with fresh, clean food. There is a computer at the library I can use for free. There are brand new shoes hanging in the air. It's better than if the streets were paved in gold."

Writing the post was a way to "explore how we write each other's stories," she said. Though she doubts the men in question will ever read her words, the Craigslist post has generated multiple email responses, starting a conversation on not only poverty, but responsible and thrifty living.

"Somebody once bought those shoes and threw them up there," Seed said. "Being able to live in an area that's rich enough to have these things for people who are resourceful and crafty enough to get them is a huge privilege. If I lived somewhere poor, somewhere where trash was viewed with more shame, I wouldn't be telling this story."

Sarah Jane Kyle is the Coloradoan reporter covering volunteerism, nonprofits and philanthropy. Follow her on Twitter @sarahjanekyle or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/reportersarahjane](http://www.facebook.com/reportersarahjane).

## TODAY'S TOP GALLERIES

See more photos from this gallery at [Coloradoan.com/photos](http://Coloradoan.com/photos)



## Young sleuths track down '39 Clues'

A team of youngsters looks up clues at the Old Town Library on Monday, while participating in a game based on the 'The 39 Clues' children's book series. The Fort Collins library held the event on Poudre School District final day of winter break for students. V. RICHARD HARO/THE COLORADOAN



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