

PLATT PARK *Post*

The Official Newsletter of
Platt Park People's Association
November / December 2020
www.3pa.org



Community Call to Action

by Sophia Stone, 3PA Board President

What strange times we are living in, in a community that we love, in a city we love, with people we love. This new normal, does not feel normal, yet it is the reality we are living here in Platt Park. When extreme things happen that impact us globally, sometimes extreme changes must be made individually, whether it be in our personal lives, professional lives, or volunteering life. This time in history has given people the opportunity to reflect on what is and is not important to them. Who do you want to spend your time with? Who are your people? What do you need to feel fulfilled? What communities do you want to impact at a time like this.

As a board member of the Platt Park Peoples' Association (3PA) for the last five years these are questions I have pondered for the last several months while sitting at my dining room table staring out the window from my pandemic home office. After much contemplation and reflection, I have made a choice to sell my adorable old home in Platt Park and resign from the 3PA Board. A move to rural Colorado is ultimately what is best for me, my dogs, my profession, and my life as a whole. It is time.

I wanted to take this opportunity to bid farewell to the Platt Park community as I step down and move on, but before I go, I also wanted to share a few words about community in this issue of the Post. What does community mean to you? Or more simplistically, what does the word community mean? According to Google, there are many definitions, but the two that stood out to me are:

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

These two meanings present two different approaches to feeling and experiencing the Platt Park neighborhood. I have lived in Platt Park for 10 years now. I moved to this community because a high school friend had found a "cool and cheap" house to rent. That is where my journey started. Each of us has our own story to share about how we chose Platt Park.

I have since moved to the other side of Platt Park, purchased a house, joined the 3PA Board, raised two fur babies; gotten engaged, married, and divorced; and am now stepping down from board service. That has been MY experience. Once I began to settle in this community, I knew that my gut was telling me to get involved. I attended my first board meeting at the Greenway Foundation on South Pearl Street with Jolon Clark and about eight others back in March of 2015. That meeting was the declaration I made to myself to get involved and find a fellowship of people that shared the same common goal—to make Platt Park a great place to live that gives us as neighbors a sense of community,

The Platt Park People's Association, a city of Denver Registered Neighborhood Organization, serves more than 3,000 homes and businesses in the neighborhood bounded by Broadway on the West, Downing on the East, I-25 on the North and Evans on the South. 3PA membership is open to all neighbors and business owners who live and own property within these boundaries. Have a voice in your neighborhood and with the city: Join 3PA.

Check out our website. Stay informed, learn about upcoming events, and more!

www.3pa.org

For all 3PA and Platt Park Post communications email: Board@3PA.org

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Neighborhood Notes

Hard to believe as I write this 2020 is winding down and coming to an end...finally, thank you very much! Wow what a year. I'm sure we all have tales to tell about this one, some no-doubt difficult and perhaps tragic, but hopefully along the way there have been some silver-linings in all of this for you. Either way, 2020 will not be one we will easily forget. Hopefully this holiday season, regardless of the challenges, will hold much peace, joy, and hope for you and those you hold dear.

2020 has been a year of transition for the Platt Park Post. Given financial difficulties in covering printing and distribution, and added to that two of our volunteer staff have decided to step down for the new year, we are left with some holes to fill both financially and in staffing. For now, we are planning to publish the Post online for the foreseeable future. While this helps us cut back on cost, our current lack of volunteer staff still leaves us with some challenges to put out coming issues.

"How can I help," you say? I'm glad you asked! Our first need is a managing editor. The primary task of this role is to head up the Post, working with the other volunteers to create each issue. Typically, the managing editor writes some content but is primarily responsible for soliciting and compiling content from all sources and editing the final version before it is sent out for layout. Some basic writing and editing skills are needed but you certainly don't need a PhD in literature to do the job.

Secondly, we need writers who can help us create content for each issue. Our goal is publish six issues a year. In the past, some writers have contributed to every issue, some just periodically, so there is room for different levels of commitment. If you are a regular reader of the Post then you know our subject matter covers a broad range of topics, but generally, we try to keep subjects hyper-local and of general interest for our neighborhood.

The Platt Park Post has been around for 20 years and has been a fun and important voice of our neighborhood. Keeping it going each of those years has always had its challenges but we've survived, not without hiccups, a long time. With your help I'm sure we'll continue to do so. Please read the **Help Wanted** article in this issue to see how you can help.

Normally in this space I love to cover new business openings and touch on other varied subjects. For the most part, our local businesses have survived and some have even thrived which has been great to see. There have been numerous new openings that you might have noticed, and there is a growing list of new projects slated for 2021. Quite frankly, there is so much happening on those fronts I don't know where to begin so am inclined to defer to future issues for such.

It probably goes without saying, but please do what you can this

holiday season to shop and eat local to support those very businesses that add so much to our community. We want all of them to be around once we get back to normal—whatever 'normal' will look like.

From all of us at the Platt Park Post and the 3PA board we wish you the very best for the holidays and coming year. We all have many things to be grateful for, one of which is certainly just the blessing of living in such a wonderful little place with such great neighbors.

See you around the neighborhood,

Tom Snyder



Community Call to Action, *cont. from page 1*

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friendship, and camaraderie. I went from the definition of community that speaks to a place you live, to the deeper definition that addresses fellowship and shared attitudes, in the blink of an eye.

During my time on the board, we hosted many General Meetings, Annual Picnics, movie nights in the park, yard sales, happy hours, farmer's market booths, a running club, board meetings, special meetings, and so many other things that I honestly cannot recall them all!

Fast forward five years, the board has since dwindled to five people who work tirelessly towards creating and sustaining a feeling of fellowship in this neighborhood with shared interests, experiences, and goals. I have been a leader on this board with the intention of coming from the second definition of community that is stated above. I made that promise to myself five years ago and I intend to keep it until I step down on December 31st.

Now in my final month on the board, I want to take a moment in this article to publicly acknowledge Ashley, Joe, Benda, and Greg for everything they have done to keep this Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) afloat. For everything you have done that I have seen, and the community has seen, and for every thankless thing you have done that the community and I have not seen. Thank you! I also want to acknowledge anyone that has been a board member in the past; from Kathleen to Jolon, and Shelley, Kate, Lauren, Troy, Listy, Nick, Bryn, and anyone else I did not name. Your time on the board was a wonderful way to give back and your efforts never went unnoticed. I also know our committees play a large part as well. The Post, The Committee for Responsible Development, The Design Overlay, and all of the other committees that existed in the past. If you are a member or have ever been a member of a committee-thank you for your dedication and involvement in this organization.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, our board of five meets once a month. We communicate with the city, answer emails, field zoning requests and appeals; we manage the website, Facebook, and send emails. The tasks are many and the job is thankless. Most people in this community have no idea the depth of this volunteer position that exists to not only make this community a great place to live, but to make our little corner of the world a bright spot for the people who live in it.

I personally feel that 3PA is at a crossroads. With four board members left where does that leave us? What is the

future of the organization? A part of me has felt the need to stay, so as not burden the remaining board members who already do so much. But, a feeling of obligation is not the reason to serve on a board, nor does it foster community. Therefore, as I leave, I leave you with a simple call to action: Do something. Find a way to give back to your community, get involved, and stop making excuses! I realize that most readers will finish this article, move on to the next, and then never give this another thought. I want to pose this question to you instead, how do you want to leave your mark on Platt Park? This is your community, your place, your slice of Heaven. This community needs people like you now more than ever. Contact board@3pa.org to get involved.

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About 2,000 Lead Water Service Lines Estimated for Platt Park Area Homes

by Jay Adams, Denver Water

Many Platt Park residents have likely heard that they are part of Denver Water's Lead Reduction Program. The program started January 1, 2020, and is the largest public health campaign in Denver Water history aimed at reducing the risk of lead exposure in water.

While there is no lead in the water sent to your home via Denver Water's system, lead particles can get into your drinking water as it passes through customer-owned service lines and household plumbing if either contains lead. Lead in drinking water can cause health problems, and young children are especially vulnerable to lead-related developmental issues.

The [Lead Reduction Program](#) has five main components; [providing pitchers with water filters that are certified to remove lead](#); replacing 64,000 to 84,000 customer-owned lead service lines with new copper pipes; raising the pH level of the water sent to customers; a public outreach campaign and creating a map of homes with suspected or confirmed lead service lines. You can watch an overview of the program in this [Denver Water video](#) and learn about sources of lead in drinking water in [this video](#).

The program is not connected to the ongoing [COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Denver Water and a team of contractors are replacing customer-owned lead service lines in the community with a goal of replacing around 4,500 service lines every year, and a project completion date of 2035.

Service lines are pipes that connect your home or business to Denver Water's water mains in the street. Customers own the service lines while Denver Water owns and maintains the water mains. Homes built before 1951 are more likely to have a service line made of lead.

Denver Water's analysis shows there are roughly 1,000 confirmed lead service lines in the Platt Park neighborhood, and around another 1,000 lines that are likely to have lead. You can check Denver Water's [interactive map](#) to see if your home or property is suspected of having a lead service line.

You can see the neighborhoods where Denver Water replaced lines in the first year of the program, 2020, [on this map](#). The list of neighborhoods where replacement work

will take place in 2021 is not yet available. Denver Water is only scheduling replacements about one year in advance due to the complexity and scope of scheduling the construction work.

[Many factors](#) are considered when prioritizing water service line replacements. Some of these factors include the concentration of lead service lines in one area, the number of childcare facilities and schools in a neighborhood, and the ability to coordinate construction schedules with the city and other utilities.

Some homes may have their service line replaced sooner if Denver Water crews discover one during scheduled water main replacement projects or if a lead service line is encountered during an emergency water main break. Denver Water also offers a [partial reimbursement program](#) for customers who want to have their service line replaced before Denver Water is able to do it.

To get the latest information about the organization's Lead Reduction Program you can sign up to receive program updates through the Denver Water [monthly e-newsletter](#). There are also virtual [community meetings](#) available online.

One question we are often asked is why this program did not begin sooner. An answer to this and many other questions can be found on our [FAQ page](#). You can learn more about the Lead Reduction Program at [denverwater.org/Lead](#) or you can [email](#) or call our Customer Care team at 303-893-2444. To learn more about Denver Water's efforts to bring you safe, clean, reliable water, [sign up for TAP](#), its free, weekly newsletter.

Look for additional information about how the service line replacement process works in the next edition of the Platt Park Post.

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Creating Art, Forgetting Fear

by Nora Weiser

[Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils \(and Rewards\) of Artmaking](#) is a slim volume with a big premise—that creative geniuses who make art come along very rarely, and that most art is actually created by regular people who simply embrace the making of art and thereby can express their innate creativity.

In one example from the book, a pottery class was split into two groups. The first half of the class was told their grade for the semester would be based on the best pot they created. The other half of the students were told their grade would be based on how many pots they made over the course of the semester. As you may have guessed, the class whose grade was dependent on the volume of pots they made became the much more skilled potters. They were unfettered by judgments of quality and could focus purely on the pottery-making process.

As you head into the new year, what fears are holding you back? What might you create, or achieve, if you focused on getting things done rather than getting things perfect? If you are stymied by what others might think of your output, you risk missing out on what the creative process might teach you about yourself. That fear is learned; you rarely see a 3-year old concerned about the reception they'll receive to their song, dance, drawing, or outfit. The fear can be unlearned. Better yet, we can never teach it in the first place by embracing creativity rather than crushing it.

You can explore your own creativity right here in Platt Park. If you want to try out making pottery yourself, consider stopping by the [Colorado Potters Guild](#). If you dream of making jewelry or art or bottling your famous peach jam, consider a booth at the S. Pearl Street [First Friday Art Walk](#) or the seasonal [Farmers Market](#). Test out your writing skills by contributing a piece to the [Platt Park Post](#). There are endless ways to explore your creativity – if you can get past the fear of what it means to “be creative.”

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Holiday Gift Giving Ideas for a Healthier World

By Jen Grauer, Platt Park Green Team

What if we gave fewer items for the holidays this year, and what if the items we gave were useable, made from natural eco-friendly materials, local, and plastic-free? What if instead of lots of \$5 junk tool sets and unnecessary stocking stuffers we gave fewer, but nicer, gifts? The following are some gift suggestions that show recipients you care, while also showing your care for the environment.

Memberships: [Denver Botanic Gardens](#), [Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#), [Children's Museum of Denver](#), [Denver Art Museum](#), etc.

Donate to Colorado Non-Profits in someone's name: [People-AndPollinators.org](#); [WildAnimalSanctuary.org](#); [TreesWater-People.org](#); [SaveTheLand.org](#); [EcoCycle.org](#); [AngelicaVillage.org](#); etc.

Experiences: For a decluttered and clean space that reduces stress and increases health [SpaceDecluttering.com](#) and [EcoCleanDenver.com](#); Relax and rejuvenate at [5StarSalt-Caves.com](#); Nordic Ski Pass or sleigh ride from [DevilsThumbRanch.com](#); ski passes to area resorts, among many others.

Local Platt Park businesses:

[ShopCommonThreads.com](#) Second-hand cashmere sweaters and Lululemon yoga/work pants

[WatsonAndCo.com](#) Unique vintage treasures, furniture, lighting, oddities, and antique jewelry

[5GreenBoxes.com](#) Journals of every size and shape for new year goals and gratitudes, Colorado dish towels, recycled paper greeting cards, and more

[SteamEspressoBar.com](#), [CorvusCoffee.com](#), [StellasCoffee.com](#), [NixonsCoffeeHouse.com](#)

Old South Frame and Gallery Professionally frame your child, friend, parent, or spouse's art!

[TheRufflyRose.com](#) Gorgeous holiday flower arrangements to brighten our time at home

Grocery store shopping:

[WholeFoodsMarket.com](#): unwrapped bar soap

Good Soap and Pacha Soap Co. are favorites for plastic-free and no-waste hand washing. Pacha soap is colorful and makes the bathroom smell oh so good.

[NaturalGrocers.com](#): Patterbars

These delicious fruit, nut and seed energy bars were started by Patter, a Denver mom. She has three flavors, and one is a nut-free option. Great for snacks or a quick and healthy meal replacement.

[Sprouts.com](#): Dried Chili Lemon Mango Slices

Head to the bulk bins, currently pre-packed due to COVID-19, to fill it up! These look colorful, tasty, and unique gifted in a Ball jar with a bow.

Plus many others, such as Ruby's Market [rubysmarketdenver.com](#)

Online eco stores... shop from home and have the store mail your gifts:

[US.WhoGivesACrap.org](#): 3-ply soft toilet paper by the box This is a win-win gift by providing both a little COVID humor and doing good for people as these rolls are recycled paper, plastic-free packaging, and 50% of profits go to building toilets around the world. No need to fret when T.P. shelves start looking empty.

[PackageFreeShop.com](#): Cotton produce bags

As reusable and no-waste gift bags, these plastic-free bags keep on giving when used all year instead of those thin plastic produce bags. This company also sells compostable plant-based glitter (yes, regular glitter is just pre-made microplastics) and paper packaging tape.

[EarthHero.com](#): Eco-friendly version of Amazon

A wooden toy golf set, hemp dog rope, recycled skateboards, compostable phone case, colorful wool and organic cotton socks, plastic-free lip balm, and so much more!

[AmourVert.com](#): Luxe Fleece Joggers

Working from home calls for these super soft and cozy pants made from eco-friendly modal and organic cotton. All of the fleece, none of the fossil fuels.

[HannaAndersson.com](#): Matching Family Organic Cotton Pajamas. Even if you cannot be with family this year you can get a group picture, of sorts. How? Send matching pjs to your family (I sent shirt to the guys and pants to ladies). Have everyone take pictures in their pjs and email them to you. Put them together for a "group" picture.

[MollyMutt.com](#): Washable Cotton Canvas Dog Beds

An easily washable dog bed? Yes, please! Choose from lots of sizes and fabrics for the zippered "duvet" then insert old dog bed, folded blankets or buy their custom mesh bag and fill with your old, hole-worn t-shirts, underwear, socks...the ones you cannot even donate. Enter SITEWIDE15 to receive 15% off your entire order.

[Coyuchi.com](#): Organic cotton and wool throw blankets

Instead of fossil fuel made faux fur or fleece blankets, invest in an heirloom quality wool or organic cotton throw for cozying on the couch this winter and picnicking on this summer.

[Renewed.Coyuchi.com](#): Refreshed and repaired home items and clothing. Coyuchi has the most gorgeous eco-friendly throws, bedding, towels, and robes but they can be pricey. Get all the luxury without the cost when buying their refreshed second-hand items.

Holiday Gift Giving,

cont. from page 6

Free or Homemade Gifts:

- Cut old sheets in squares and stuff into a tissue box. Wash and dry with masks.
- Cut old sheets in squares, place in a decorative bowl then set on table and use for napkins
- Ingredients for cookies, hot chocolate, or soup in a Ball jar with a recipe tag
- Shred crayons and remelt in fun shaped silicone chocolate molds
- Melt together organic chocolate chips and coconut oil, pour into molds to make truffles
- Re-gift books, jewelry, or small appliances that you are no longer using
- Create a photo collage by printing pictures of your favorite memories with a person
- Scoop snow from someone's sidewalk who isn't expecting it
- Bake someone a loaf of bread, batch of cookies, or favorite casserole



Help Wanted: Platt Park Post Seeks New Editor

The Platt Park Post is losing its very capable editor, Nora Weiser, after this issue. Thanks to Nora from the 3PA board for her leadership of the Post over the past two years, as well as contributing many insightful, interesting, and sometimes tongue-in-cheek articles.

The Post needs your help! If you or someone you know (preferably in the Platt Park neighborhood, but not a requirement) has the skills, interest, and time to take on the Editor role, please email: board@3pa.org. Key duties and responsibilities of the Editor:

- Actively solicit articles for the Post that are relevant and of interest to Platt Park residents.
- Edit all articles received for grammar, spelling, and adherence to 3PA guidelines.
- Contribute articles from time to time following 3PA guidelines.
- Provide photos and/or suggested graphics for each issue.
- Coordinate the layout of articles and advertising with graphic designer.
- Maintain content and publication timeline.

The time requirement is approximately 5-6 hours per issue.

Also, if you have ideas for articles, a regular column, potential writers, or would like to contribute to the Post, please let us know by emailing board@3pa.org.

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Updates from Councilperson Jolon Clark

by Jolon Clark, District 7 Councilperson

Hello Platt Park neighbors!

Now that the election is over, I want to highlight a couple of big wins for Denver. First, thank you for voting! Denver and Colorado saw record voter turnout at over 85%, making us one of the top states for voter turnout in the entire country! Special thanks to our election judges, volunteers, and poll workers for their help in ensuring a successful and fair election process.

Climate Action Fund: The newly created Office of Climate Action Sustainability will receive \$40 million from a 0.25% sales tax to accelerate the city's work on climate change in buildings, transportation, electrification, industrial energy use, consumption emissions, and resiliency/climate adaption. The measure, which passed with the support of over 62% of Denver voters, calls for an action plan specifically to address disparities to people of color and under-resourced communities who will feel the impact of climate change more severely than affluent communities.

Housing Fund: Nearly 6,000 people in Denver are experiencing homelessness, and COVID-19 has only exacerbated the problem. To address disparities, Denver voters approved 2B, a 0.25% sales tax (a similar sales tax increase structure to 2A) for building additional supportive housing, expanded hours and support for shelters, and services for mental health and substance abuse. This funding is a critical piece to address Denver's housing crisis.

As we start the winter season, and as more people are out walking this year, please remember to clear your sidewalks, including adjacent ADA ramps, so that everyone has safe access throughout the city. Denver requires that businesses clear snow and ice from their sidewalks immediately after snow has stopped falling; residents must clear their sidewalks by the next day. Thank you for doing your part to ensure that everyone has safe access! To learn more visit denvergov.org/snowplan.

If you are not already receiving them, please sign up for my monthly Lucky District 7 e-newsletters [here](#).

Connect with 3PA!

Interested in getting connected with 3PA? "LIKE" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/plattpark3pa or sign up for email notifications on www.3PA.org, to get updates on events, meetings and news from around the neighborhood and city.



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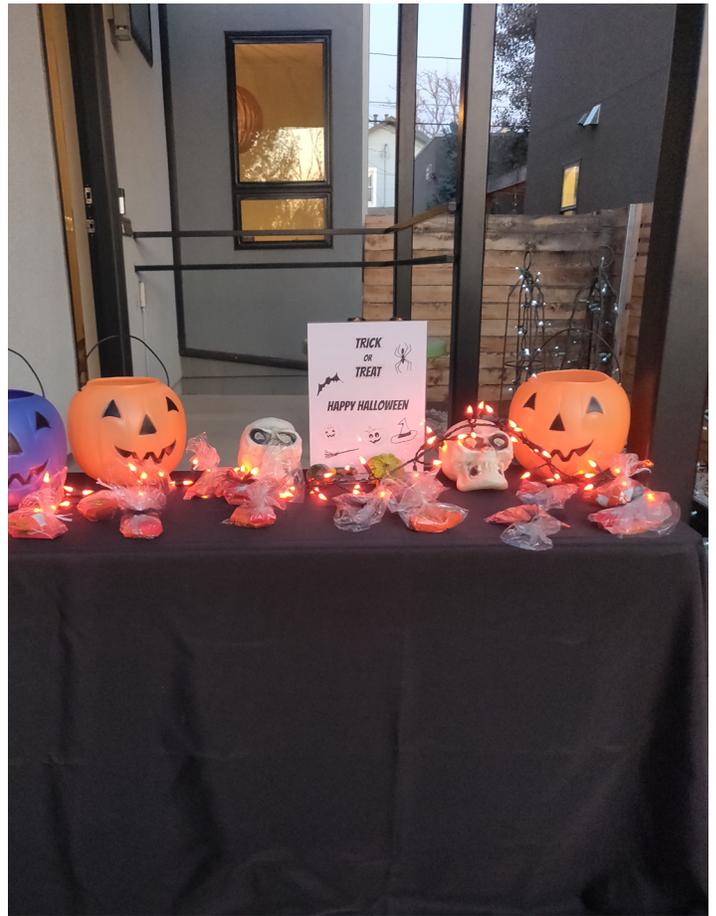
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Halloween Creativity in the Time of COVID

In 2020, we've all been forced to change our daily lives in ways we previously could not have fathomed. Kids have had to do the same, and while they may be more flexible and resilient than adults, some of their daily losses seem downright sad and unfair for ones so young. Enter Halloween 2020. While we could have eschewed Halloween this year in deference to a virus that cares little about holidays, Platt Park neighbors instead got creative. To limit contact and maintain distance, while still ensuring a fun time for Trick or Treaters, neighbors added a few more decorations to their displays – not to mention tables of treats, candy chutes, lawn mazes, and yards full of pick-your-own candy on sticks! Here, a few of the ways we got creative to show Platt Park kids a fun, safe Halloween.





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Are you concerned about changes happening
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