

# PLATT PARK **Post**

The Official Newsletter of  
Platt Park People's Association  
September / October 2020  
[www.3pa.org](http://www.3pa.org)



## How to Vote in 2020

Since 2013, the mail-in voting option has been automatically extended to every eligible voter in Colorado. In the 2020 primary elections this summer, over 99% of Colorado voters chose to vote by mail. Voting remotely has many benefits, even if we are not trying to distance ourselves from one another during a global pandemic!

Here's all you need to know about the benefits of voting from the comfort of your home in the upcoming November 3, 2020 election:

1. Make sure you are registered and [your information is up to date](#). Not registered? Be sure you [register before October 26](#) to be eligible to receive your ballot in the mail for this election. You can register and vote in person at your polling place up to and including on election day!
2. [Keep up on all the latest details](#) on local polling places, ballot drop boxes, and ballot information.
3. You can [track your ballot online](#) and know exactly where it is in the process. Colorado ballots will be sent out to registered voters starting October 9.
4. Receiving your ballot at home allows you time to research the issues and discuss with friends and family to really learn about candidates and understand issues.
5. In Colorado, we get the gift of time. No racing to the polls on one single day. We can mail in our ballots so long as they are postmarked before the polls close. If you mail in your ballot, do so as soon as possible, and remember, you'll need to affix the correct postage.
6. Even better, we can drop off our ballots for weeks before election day [at locations around the city](#). This year, dropping your completed ballot in a neighborhood ballot box is advised due to the expected volume of ballots and anticipated postal delays—plus, you'll save on postage.
7. You can vote in your pajamas—always a perk! But at the moment, the real perk is that you won't need to don a hazmat suit to vote during the coronavirus pandemic. While we are checking off our ballots from the comfort of home, voters in other states will struggle to exercise their voting rights as many polling places have been closed leaving them waiting in line for hours.
8. If you prefer to vote in person, polling places open October 19—try to vote early to avoid last minute crowds. Remember to wear your mask and keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and fellow voters.

*Continued on page 2*

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](http://www.3pa.org)

For all 3PA and Platt Park Post communications email: [Board@3PA.org](mailto:Board@3PA.org)

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# How to Vote in 2020

Continued from page 1

Looking to drop off your ballot near our neighborhood? Check out these convenient options:

Starting October 5, 2020	<b>24-Hour Drop Box:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTD I-25 &amp; Broadway Station</li> <li>• Denver Police Department, District 3 (I-25 &amp; University)</li> </ul>
Starting October 21, 2020	<b>Mobile Voting Unit:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Denver, Driscoll Student Center</li> <li>• Washington Park Recreation Center</li> </ul>
Starting October 26, 2020	<b>In-Person Polling Center:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvard Gulch Recreation Center</li> <li>• South High School (Louisiana &amp; Franklin)</li> </ul>

Remember, all options close when the polls close at 7 p.m. on General Election Day, Tuesday, November 3. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020. Now get out there and vote!

## Be a Part of the 2020 Election

[Sign up to be an Election Judge](#) (poll worker) to assist voters, verify information, process ballots, and keep the election safe, secure, and accurate.

[Students are also eligible](#) to serve as Election Judges (poll workers), even if they are not yet eligible to vote. In the past, many retirees filled these roles. But with their greater risk of negative outcomes from coronavirus infection, many are staying away this year. Students and young adults are encouraged to step in and fill the void!

Help get out the vote by sending [Postcards to Swing States](#).

Make a donation to your presidential candidate of choice:

- [Joe Biden](#) (Democrat)
- [Howie Hawkins](#) (Green Party)
- [Jo Jorgenson](#) (Independent)
- [Donald Trump](#) (Republican)

Make a donation to your Colorado senate candidate of choice:

- [Cory Gardner](#) (Republican)
- [John Hickenlooper](#) (Democrat)

Per Colorado revised statute § 1-7.5-107, you can designate anyone you choose to mail or deliver your completed mail ballot. But, no person other than a duly authorized agent of the county clerk and recorder or designated election official may receive more than 10 mail ballots in any election for mailing or delivery.

# DIY Home Improvement Projects on a Budget

by Seth Murphy

Tackling home improvement projects may seem like a [daunting undertaking](#), but there are upgrades you can make without expert knowledge that will help transform your home. By taking on improvement projects yourself, you'll save money and learn a few new skills. Plus, making upgrades now will also help you boost your property's overall value, which is useful if you plan to sell your home in the near future.

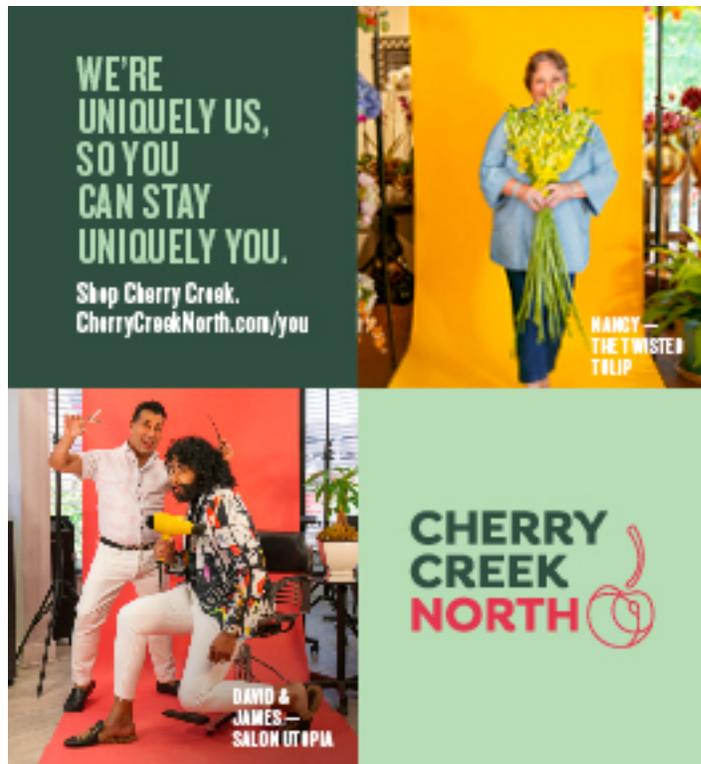
It's often the [small changes](#) that make the biggest difference. There are plenty of bite-size projects that any homeowner can accomplish with a minimal budget. For example, a new splash of paint in just the right color, or a stylish wallpaper can transform a room. Another great low-budget upgrade is switching out the kitchen faucet; if you're handy with a wrench, there's no need to call a plumber. Replacing door knobs and drawer pulls can quickly and easily update a look. To spruce up the [bathroom](#), consider new tile for the floor or shower, or replacing the sink and faucet. Installing new lights and a larger bathroom mirror can be an easy upgrade, and the extra light and bigger mirror will make the room instantly feel larger. If your home has a [backyard](#), get out the clippers and do some landscaping, clean up your patio, and pressure-wash away any dirt or grime. You can also purchase outdoor furniture to make it more inviting.

Keeping home improvement projects [low-cost](#) can be challenging as material costs can add up quickly. Luckily, you'll immediately save money on labor by doing it yourself. If you have a strict budget, there are ways to improve your home without blowing through your paycheck.

If you're planning to sell your home soon, home improvement projects will help increase your home's resale value. Do some research to learn what buyers want, and begin to think about ways to make your home desirable for the current market. Some valuable ways to raise the resale value include adding outdoor elements such as a patio or deck, replacing windows, and remodeling your kitchen. Home buyers today value [indoor-outdoor flow](#), which can be achieved by creating large openings to outdoor spaces—think French doors that open to an outdoor patio, for example. A covered outdoor sitting area is also ideal, providing shelter from the elements and expanding your home's living space. Always take before and after photos and keep receipts when

[making updates](#) to help increase your appraisal value. Future buyers will be interested to learn what work has been done on the home.

Even those who are complete beginners when it comes to home improvement can still make great changes to their homes. Be sure to do plenty of research for inspiration, and create a budget for yourself so you can make your projects cost-effective. If you're getting ready to sell your home, pay close attention to the small things—they can make a big difference to a future buyer.



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# Opportunities to Make a Positive Difference for our Environment

by Jen Grauer

With so many pressing issues these days regarding our [health](#), [environment](#), and [economy](#), trying to do the right thing often feels overwhelming. How do we make a difference?

There is an easy and hugely impactful way to make a positive difference that we often forget. This method works quietly and peacefully behind the scenes but speaks the loudest...our purchasing power. With every dollar we spend (or don't spend), we are making choices for what matters most to us.

When we buy products, a company makes more of those products, and those products become more widely available and less expensive. Others start buying it as well, because the product is everywhere, easy to purchase, and it has become popular. The price of the product may even start to go down due to the volume sold.

The following are examples of how our buying choices can make a positive difference for our environment.

For blue skies and healthier lungs, we can reduce smog and ozone by choosing...

- Electric vehicles and electric or push mowers instead of those that require gasoline
- Solar panels and wind credits instead of natural gas, coal, oil
- Second-hand items instead of newly manufactured items
- Local produce and products instead of items trucked/flown in from across the globe
- Dark skies, stars, and LED party lights instead of fireworks (which cause air pollution themselves and can cause forest and grass fires that create more air pollution)
- Mini-split or evaporative coolers instead of a new air conditioning units
- Induction cooktops instead of electric or gas
- Fragrance-free laundry products instead of ones with a fragrance/scent (chemical fragrances are volatile organic compounds—VOCs—that pollute our air and cause cancer)

For clean, health-promoting water, we can reduce the pollutants going into our drains, ground, and bodies of water by choosing...

- Detergents and dish soaps without phosphates instead of those that cause algae blooms
- Veggie burgers and pasture-raised and finished meat instead of factory-raised animals
- Products made from natural materials and dyes instead of plastics and chemicals
- Organically grown food instead of those grown with toxic pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides
- Compost and overseeding instead of “weed and feed” applications for lush grass
- (Platt Park neighbor's tip... leave grass 3.5” long to reduce water use and prevent Japanese beetles)
- Washable clothes instead of those that need dry cleaning
- Paper to-go cups, even for cold drinks, and paper or reusable straws instead of plastic
- Recycled paper instead of virgin paper

We can ask ourselves, “Will this purchase I am about to make be in line with my values? Will it be helpful or harmful to the environment or my health?” It starts with just one conscious choice. As we flex our purchasing power for positive change it will get easier, and we will see a difference as it continues to add up through time and inspires others. We have power, purchasing power, and we can wield it always remembering it is about progress not perfection. Let's start now. Platt Park neighbors, we can do this!

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# Send a Card and Make Someone's Day

by Nora Weiser

When virtually everything goes virtual, the tangible becomes more meaningful. When you can't give loved ones a hug in person. When you can't shake hands with a colleague. When distance becomes difficult. While distance may make the heart grow fonder it also makes the heart feel lonely and weary. But humans by nature are creative and adaptable, and sometimes as technology marches forward at warp speed, the most traditional ways of connecting can prove the most meaningful.

Greeting cards have been around since the ancient Chinese used them to exchange new year's well wishes. In the 1850s they were first mass-produced and started to resemble the decorative, folded cards we know today. While they are at their simplest nothing more than folded pieces of paper, they are in reality much more than that. They are physical manifestations of emotion; markers of our thoughts and life's milestones. In an age when a text can be typed in seconds and when an emoji serves in a stand-in for our feelings, putting pen to paper and writing a personal note in a greeting card takes on elevated meaning. A greet-

ing card is tactile, and its appearance in one's mailbox a welcome respite from bills and junk mail.

A dear friend's mother recently turned 91. I mailed her a card and it made her day. My daughter graduated high school and I sent cards to family around the world, and to a person I received appreciative notes in response. I take a traditional approach to thank you cards and feel they are essential not because a verbal thank you is irrelevant, but because a written thank you note takes time and thus serves as a physical representation of gratitude.

Greeting cards are always a meaningful way to connect with friends, family, and colleagues. During the current pandemic, however, their meaning and value are greatly increased. When you can't be there in person, a card can serve as your proxy. When a life event happens, a graduation, birthday, marriage, or even sadly an illness or death, a greeting card can speak for you in absentia. Whether ornate or simple, modern or traditional, humorous or poignant, and even if the card provides the words you may not be able to draft yourself, there is no better way to bridge the distance between us right now than a carefully selected card that tells someone else you care. Now more than ever, every card makes a difference.

[Thinking of You Week](#) is September 21-27, 2020, and its goal is to celebrate the joy of sending and receiving handwritten notes and greeting cards. It is a great time to send cards to family and friends to let them know, well, that you are thinking of them! Among our South Pearl Street Merchants, a unique selection of greeting cards can be found at [5 Green Boxes](#), and you'll find some cute, small cards perfect to accompany a gift at [Second Star to the Right](#). In a pinch, the 7-Elevens at Louisiana & S. Pearl and Iowa & S. Broadway have a small selection of greeting cards as well.

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# Planning Board Recommends Approval of Group Living Updates

by Joe Beierl

After hours of public testimony on August 19th, the Denver Planning Board voted unanimously, 8-0, to recommend that the City Council approve the package of proposed changes to group living rules. [Community Planning and Development \(CPD\) states on its website](#): “These potential amendments to the Denver Zoning Code would update residential use regulations to increase housing opportunities and flexibility for many residents.”

Following the Planning Board’s approval, the proposal moved to City Council, whose review of the proposal began with the Land Use, Transportation, & Infrastructure Committee on September 1. A public hearing before the full council is expected in October. These proposed text amendments would update the Zoning Code’s regulations for residential uses citywide.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Consolidate all uses where care is provided into a single use type, Residential Care, and regulate by size with spacing and density limitations for larger facilities.
- Require a community meeting prior to permit application for larger Residential Care facilities.
- Allow more unrelated people to live as part of a household (in houses, apartments, or other dwelling units) while clarifying that rent-by-the-room configurations are only permitted in zone districts where higher-intensity residential uses like apartments are allowed.
- Create a new Congregate Living use, permitted in higher-intensity zone districts, that allows uses like dormitories, rooming and boarding, and tiny home villages where residents may share facilities like kitchens, bathrooms, and common gathering areas.

Denver’s Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing, and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues. INC attempts to present all sides of issues that impact Denver residents. INC’s

Zoning & Planning Committee, and ultimately the full INC delegation, approved the following resolution:

- INC recommends that Denver de-bundle the household definition portion of the proposal and the residential care portion of the proposal.
- INC recommends that Denver move forward on the new household definition portion of the text amendment only while implementing a concurrent regulation creating a Rental Registry that will provide further protection for renters in Denver. Such a Registry would be through Excise & Licensing and could require registration, licensing, and inspection of all properties being used as rentals.
- INC recommends the City rethink, and make mandatory, outreach by CPD to minority communities, to persons not active in Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) or receiving communication from RNOs or through social media, to the broader community not reached in the four town halls, and to renters, so as to proactively gather input from all corners of the City.
- INC strongly recommends that CPD be required to include black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) and renters in full discussion for every planning initiative and for work on all proposed text amendments.

You can watch INC’s Zoning and Planning (ZAP) meeting discussions and/or the last two delegate meetings [online](#).

The Group Living Amendment emerged from more than two years of discussion with a focus on two main goals: providing more affordable housing, and ensuring [housing equity](#) for all Denverites without discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, and other factors. For the latest information, visit [Denver Group Living Rules Update](#).

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# Don't Vote for a Can of Tuna

You've seen the signs dotting Platt Park yards for months now. "Don't Vote for a Can of Tuna. Vote for me. ["RUDY for President!"](#) they say, emblazoned with the regal portrait of a fluffy black cat. That cat is Rudy, who resides on the 1700 block of S. Ogden. His tongue-in-cheek campaign stemmed from your usual gathering of friends who took a funny idea and turned it into a neighborhood-wide joke (cocktails may have been involved.)

"Rudy has really brought this neighborhood together in a tough year," says Rudy's Owner and Campaign Manager, Dawn Frider. "Folks walking by tell me over and over again how the signs make them smile."

And, just as Joe Biden recently selected Kamala Harris as his running mate, Rudy has now announced his vice presidential pick: Chopper. Chopper is known to be a scrappy, grassroots candidate who "meows it like it is"; he's the kind of cat you'd like to sit and have a beer with. A frequent visitor to Platt Park from another Denver neighborhood, Chopper is still in touch with his midwest roots as a farm cat. [Rudy/Chopper yard signs](#) can now be ordered to show your support for their bipartisan platform, which includes:

- General appreciation of yard work
- Napping on lawn furniture
- Walking as a form of exercise
- Bird watching
- Checking in on our 2- and 4-legged neighbors to make sure they are okay

All profits from the sale of yard signs go to support local, non-profit animal shelters. The Rudy-Chopper 2020 platform supports affordable veterinarian care, finding good homes for pets, and especially spaying and neutering, as preaching abstinence does little to control cat and dog populations.



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## PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Do you enjoy the neighborhood you live in?

Want to help maintain our neighborhood character?

Want to meet your neighbors through fun events and neighborhood forums?

Are you concerned about changes happening in Platt Park?

Join your neighborhood association!

The Platt Park People's Association is a Registered Neighborhood Organization with the City and County of Denver. The Platt Park People's Association is notified directly by the city of various activities in the neighborhood.

### Be involved. Be Informed.

Annual Membership is \$20 per household.

There are two ways to become a member.  
Recommended: go to [www.3pa.org](http://www.3pa.org) and click the "Buy Now" button on our homepage and sign up via PayPal

Or: Send the membership form with annual dues of \$20 payable by check to "3PA" to:  
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