

Collective Action Continues a Legacy of Luck for District 7

by Jennifer Beason, 3PA President

ave you ever wondered why they call it Lucky District 7, which includes the Platt Park neighborhood? According to Councilman Jolon Clark's office, our lucky reputation dates back nearly 30 years when Councilman William "Bill" Himmelmann coined the phrase. You know what they say about luck: You make your own luck when you put in the hard work. We are hopeful that our renewed sense of cross-neighborhood collaboration, committed leadership, and fresh ideas will continue to be a lucky combination that moves us forward.

In preparation for our latest round of municipal elections, we collaborated with our District 7 neighborhood partners and city leaders, to bring you the information needed to help you make your best decision. By the time you receive this issue of the Platt Park Post, we will hopefully have a new mayor and new leadership for District 7 among other important positions. We used our votes and voices to elect leaders who will support our vision to build a vibrant and welcoming community for the future. Thank you Nora Baldwin, 3PA Board Member, for taking the lead to bring important and personalized election information to Platt Park!

Beyond the municipal election, we will continue collaboration with other neighborhood associations including <u>Overland Park</u> and <u>West Washington</u> Park to name a few. Further, we are embarking on strengthening efforts with the <u>South Pearl Street Association</u> to bring a more cohesive neighborhood support structure to you. We promise to keep your needs at the heart of all that we do, and to continue to take collective action on behalf of those who work, live, and play in Platt Park and across Lucky District 7. Together, we can (and we will) accelerate positive change and make Platt Park the most Coloradical neighborhood in the city!

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank Jolon Clark and his team for their incredible service to District 7 since 2015. On behalf of Platt Park, we are grateful for all that you have done to invest in our community. We look forward to supporting what comes next for you.

While city elections may be over, we invite you to join us at the next General Neighborhood Meeting in June where we will elect our new 3PA Board of Directors. If you have interest in taking action around causes that matter to you personally, we invite you to join us. You must be a current dues-paying member of 3PA to vote. More information available here!

Until next time, we're so lucky to call you our neighbors!

Official Newsletter of the



PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

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



by Tom Snyder

By the time you are reading this the local elections should be behind us and one of the 47 or so candidates for mayor will have risen to the top along with new City Council members and a host of other items decided — gonna miss all those smiling people knocking on my door to get my vote and keep me

company. Spring should finally be making a bit more of a showing after what has seemed like a longer than usual winter. Good-bye ice glaciers in the alley.

As you have noticed the **Platt Park Post** is back in print with a goal of remaining so, provided enough advertising revenue can be generated and (shameless plug coming) more of you join 3PA at www.3pa.org/volunteer. The new board of the Platt Park People's Association (3PA) has a lot of vision and energy for our community and the print version of The Post is an integral part of that vision. The board is also working to have more integration and synergy between 3PA and the **South Pearl Street Association** (SPSA), which will hopefully bring greater benefits to everyone in our neighborhood, businesses, and neighbors. Stay tuned for more on that.

Did want to give a shout out to **Platt Park resident Jolon Clark**, our soon to be retired District 7 Council member. Jolon has served two terms representing our district. As a neighbor, Jolon was always looking out for Platt Park as well as the greater community. I asked him what his plans were for his post-council days. He said he's not yet figured that out but he might get more involved in 3PA. which, of course, would be a step up from his city council responsibilities. Thanks for your service to the community Jolon!

One of the projects Jolon has been working on is the **pedestrian/bike bridge** that will cross S. Santa Fe Ave. at E. Jewell Ave. For Platt Park residences there are a lot of wonderful things on the other side of Sante Fe like the Overland Golf Course, Platte River Trail, Ruby Hill Park and Levitt Pavilion, but crossing the highway on bike or on foot is at best an unpleasant task. The new bridge will make that connection much easier. The project is well underway but we'll not see actual construction begin until 2024.

Popped into the new store at 1549 S. Pearl St., Confia Collective. Owner Kerri Cole was there to give us the tour and explain what Confia is all about. The place has the look and smell of a nice spa gift shop with plenty of candles, oils, bath salts, and the like, but there is so much more.



The welcoming sign on the door says, "Confia was created to provide fresh, fun, accessible spiritual tools for new adventurers and seekers like you." In addition to the spa vibe there is also a side to it that Kerri would describe in a fun way as magic: crystals, zodiac, tarot cards — things that might speak to the "magic" side of life and done in a way that is fun and interesting. Nothing else quite like it on Pearl Street. Drop in and check it out and let Kerri give you the tour.

They are starting to move the dirt again at 1551 S. Pearl St., home of the rumored **Denshu Den** — the fourth installment of the Sushi Den empire. The project was put on hold when COVID hit but obviously owners Toshi and Yazu are ready to get after things once again. No point trying to get any details out of the notoriously tight-lipped pair, we'll just have to keep you posted as details trickle out, but interesting nonetheless.

The most-asked question that I've already written about but nobody evidentially read is "What is going to happen to the **old 7-Eleven** at Pearl and Louisiana?" So far, my crack investigative team has returned to me nothing to report, however the answer is likely pretty clear. The site is zoned MS-5 which allows for a five-story building with commercial space on the ground floor. Look for something pretty much like the building down the street that Nixon's Coffee Shop is in.

Neighborhood Notes, cont.



Still trying to work off those holiday pounds and get ready for summer? Here's an idea: Slip on your sweats and drop into Ride Revolution at 1519 S. Pearl St. When I first saw this open up, I thought, "Another bike shop!?," which of course is always a good thing. Wrong, Ride is a place you join others, jump-on a stationary bike and in their words, "discover your inner athlete and true best self!" When I dropped in after consuming a few tacos across the street at Bueno Suerte, the front entry area was empty but behind the magic door was a sort of a party-on-a-bike thing going on. Everyone looked like they were having fun while sweating to upbeat music and the cadence of the instructor. Looked like a fun way to burn off those tacos. Drop in or check them out!

Shout out to Aden Holt owner of **One Ton Creative Design Group**, located at 1457 S. Pearl St. Aden is on the board of the South Pearl Street Association and is working with 3PA and the Platt Park Post to help us up our game a little and give you an even more amazing experience reading the Post (if that's possible), as well helping 3PA and SPSA become more integrated in their efforts to serve our little community. Thanks for the help, Aden and we look forward to being a bit more dazzled!

I think I just noticed a weed poking its head out of the otherwise brown landscape that is my yard — yep, spring is coming. Hope you get out there and do whatever you do for spring rituals. Before the next issue we'll probably bump into you at the soon-to-be-open (May 7!) Farmers Market.

'Til then...
See you around the neighborhood,
Tom





What's Happening on South Pearl Street

by Aden Holt

Hello from the South Pearl Street Association! We represent the merchants from the 1200 to the 1800 blocks of South Pearl Street.

Holiday Passport a Big Success!

While it seems like the holidays are ancient history, we wanted to thank all of those that participated in the South Pearl Holiday Passport program during its third year last December. We had over double the participation from the previous two years and we could not be more thankful! The program encourages shopping local at all of our South Pearl merchants while also giving shoppers the opportunity to win up to \$300 in South Pearl Bucks! This year, we gave away \$1500 total bucks to be spent at any of the 33 participating merchants on South Pearl. Look for this program to continue to grow when the holidays roll back around.

Open Call to Retrieve Your Holiday Banners!

You may have noticed that the holiday banners have been removed from the light posts on the 1400 and 1500 blocks of South Pearl. If someone in your family had art on one of these banners, you can claim your banner during business hours at One Ton Creative at 1457 S. Pearl. We would love for all the banners to find their owners and have a forever home. Banners from 2021 and 2022 are ready to be picked up. Come get 'em!

Mark Your Calendar for May 7th!

Springtime is upon us on South Pearl Street and you know what that means... The Farmers Market is almost here! Mark your calendars for opening day on Sunday May 7th! The market opens up at 9am and ends at 1pm for the next 27 weeks! (Please do not arrive early as this disrupts the set up process.) We will have approximately 180 vendors every week with live music and food trucks too! Not only are we the biggest Farmers Market in the state, we also strive to bring you the best quality and variety of vendors while being very conscientious of the carbon footprint we leave and consideration of the neighborhood.

Merchant Mondays are now in Video Form!

Every other monday, we feature a merchant on South Pearl Street through our social media and website! Please follow us @southpearlst on instagram and facebook to watch short interviews with our beloved merchants on the street!

September Teaser

Plans are underway for our first post-Covid street festival on the 1800 block of South Pearl on September 16th. Not to give anything away, but "ich bin begeistert!" for this!



Decker Branch Library Spring Programs

by Quetzalli Cortez

As the school year begins to wind down, we at the the Decker Branch Library are excited to share with you some of our upcoming programs to keep kids busy and engaged when they're not in school.

For those with not quite school-age children, we offer Baby Storytime every Tuesday from 10:30-11 a.m., and All-Ages Storytime every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m. We'll read books, sing songs, dance around, color, and make crafts.

Every Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m we have our Afterschool Kids Maker Club program for kindergartners through fifth grade. Join us as we learn new skills and get creative. We'll provide open-ended art and science exploration materials.

For the whole month of April, in honor of Arab American Heritage Month, we will be offering a scavenger hunt for kids of all ages. Kids will search the library for different posters about Arab culture hidden around the library. Once they've found all the posters, they can go up to the desk and get their prize. We change our scavenger hunt every month, so be on the lookout for a new scavenger hunt in May.

At the end of April, we will be offering two fun programs in celebration of Día Del Niño. Día Del Niño, or Children's Day, is a Mexican holiday that celebrates children and childhood. Typically celebrated on the last day of April, children celebrate with fun activities such as piñatas, games, music, and gifts. Here at Decker, we will be holding two different programs to celebrate. On April 26 from 3:30-4:30

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p.m we will have a Lotería program. Anyone ages 5-15 is welcome to join us and earn prizes while we play lotería, or Mexican bingo, as it is often called. On April 29 from 12-1 p.m we will have a Piñatas and Paletas programs. Welcome to all ages, we will make balloon piñatas and eat paletas (popsicles).

We understand that the end of the school year can be a busy time for many, but if you find yourself in need of something to do, we hope that you join us for one of our many programs and spend the day at the library.

Update: McKinley- Thatcher Elementary

by Ingrid Hoff

McKinley-Thatcher is already looking ahead to the next school year as it hosts its annual auction April 14. The auction event is the school's largest fundraiser and hopes to raise over \$50,000 this year to support critical needs that are unmet due to district budget constraints. Bidding for the online portion of the auction opens April 8, while the live event takes place at Moss Denver on April 14. Community members interested in supporting the school can visit auctria.com/auction/flourishmct2023 to sign up to bid or to purchase tickets.

Fourteen McKinley-Thatcher Elementary student projects were selected to enter the Denver Public Schools (DPS) district science fair, which is scheduled to be held during the DPS STEAM Expo April 29. MTE celebrated the return of its school science fair February 27. The 2023 fair was the first held in the school since the 2020 pandemic. Over 35 students participated and presented projects on topics ranging from the effectiveness of composite vs. wooden hockey sticks to the rate of decay of apple slices left in different environments.

The school also welcomed the return of another family-favorite event, the annual Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Night. Social-emotional learning is the development of self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for success in school, work, and life. McKinley's SEL Night, held March 7, focused on SEL specifically for parents and caregivers, with the goal of helping school families learn about a variety of important topics to best support their children at home and at school. Over 45 families attended the event and participated in learning sessions focused on raising media-smart kids, sex education, mindful parenting, trauma-informed parenting, and managing distress and escalated behaviors at home.

Update: Denver South High School

by Melina Hodzic

We are heading into the last few months of school, but this time happens to be one of the busiest!

South High School has recently been recognized as a historical site. Being on the National Historic Registry recognizes the rich history of Denver South in its architecture, integrity, and age of the building, as well as its significant place in history. The Denver South Alumni Association is spearheading a school and community celebratory event on April 21 at 4 p.m. on the front lawn. Community and alumni are welcome to attend this event. This recognition comes to Denver South as we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2026.

This season, we also had over 500 students sign up to participate in a spring sport! This is a new record at South and we hope to keep the numbers high and students engaged in extracurricular activities. This year, we have a new CHSAA-sanctioned sport that has the school on its feet! Boys volleyball is now recognized as a CHSAA sport. They had their first competitions in the beginning of March and have been soaring high ever since! Come stop by to see what the talk is all about! We hope to see the community out at some of our spring games.

We recently hosted our Wish Week with a lot of events and happenings all around Denver South. Wish Week is geared towards raising money for children in the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Each year we support a child and raise funds to make sure they are able to get their wish granted! Students at South and North high schools partnered up to show off their school spirit as well as support the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Go Green and Find What You Need

by Jennifer Beason

Save the date! Earth Day is April 22. It is a yearly opportunity to consider how our actions can protect the planet that sustains us. A great place to begin is to take stock of the purchases you make and the impact they have on Mother Earth. For example, did you know that the fashion industry produces 10 percent of the world's carbon emissions? Or, that it takes around 1,800 gallons of water to grow enough cotton to make a single pair of jeans?

In my personal journey to make more sustainable shopping decisions, I'm excited to share some of my favorite planet-friendly businesses across the neighborhood that help me find exactly what I need.

Reduce: Do you have clothes you no longer wear taking up space in your small closet (or is that a personal problem)? Do not send them to a landfill. Instead, drop off clothes and other goods at one of the many consignment, antique, or thrift stores in the neighborhood. Bonus: You can make extra cash while you are at it! Be sure to do your research. Although there are a lot of options, each store has its own style.

Reuse: Everything old can be new again to someone else. Everywhere you can sell or donate your items is also an awesome place to find something "new" to delight you. Shop Common Threads, 1575 S. Pearl St., for contemporary and high-end fashion. The knowledgeable, friendly staff is there to help you! Check out Antique Row, 1200-1800 S. Broadway, for vintage clothes, furniture, and more. Wheelhouse Gifts, 1525 S. Pearl St., often has upcycled tie-dyed jackets and shirts. If you are looking for something you do not see in a shop, check out social media sites Nextdoor or Facebook Marketplace to see what your neighbors are selling. While you are on social media, follow Common Threads for their Sustainability Sunday tips!

Recycle: There are several incredible recycling services that will come right to your door. Beyond the City of Denver recycling (denvergov.org), you can also explore service providers like **Ridwell** offering the opportunity to recycle items that do not decompose in the landfill. They estimate that the average American throws away 76 pounds of clothes and that 95 percent of textiles can avoid the landfill! Picked up from your porch twice monthly, Ridwell (ridwell.com) helps its customers recycle textiles, plastic film, batteries, and more.

Repair: Like Ridwell, many local businesses can help you repair things like clothes instead of throwing them away. **Vienna Cleaners**, 880 S. Pearl St., will sew up a hole, repair unraveling sweaters, and patch your jeans. They also have reusable bags for repeat customers instead of plastic bags if you need one. Hot tip: Save any winter coats for our friends

at **Dependable Cleaners**, 1701 S. Broadway, for their annual holiday coat drive! They will make sure your old coat finds a new owner to keep warm. Check out social media sites like Nextdoor for neighbors who can help you with specific jobs like furniture or carpet repair.

Repurpose: Ruby's Market, 1569 S. Pearl St., has some of the coolest discoveries. The market creates job opportunities and economic stability for refugees across Denver and has products like saris-turned-dish cloths or handmade jewelry from recycled materials. Bonus: You can also find fresh food like bread and eggs that support local producers directly and have a smaller environmental footprint!

Rethink: Ask questions! Many local businesses want to support your "Go Green" gusto! Consider to-go containers. Bring your own coffee mug next time you stop by Stella's (1476 S. Pearl St.), Steam (1801 S. Pearl St.), or Nixon's (695 E. Louisiana Ave.). Sign up for DeliverZero reusable to go containers at Chook Charcoal Chicken, 1300 S. Pearl St., Stop in and see Bob at RPO Framing, 1588 S. Pearl St., if you are looking to frame something new, but are trying to reuse materials. Depending on your needs, Bob might have vintage frames or extra wood from someone else's order that can create you a beautiful frame without ordering something new.

Refill: Buying flowers for your loved ones at **Ruffly Rose**, 1611 S. Pearl St.? Do not buy a new vase. They will refill yours or ask them to simply wrap your flowers in paper and do your arranging at home. Refill delicious treats, coffee or baking items from **Whole Foods** (1111 S. Washington St.), **Sprouts** (197 E. Mississippi Ave.), or **Safeway** (2150 S. Downing St.) with reusable cloth or paper bags. Thank you Sabel Home for trying to make refilling common in Platt Park!

Replant: Help fight heat islands in the neighborhood. Join the thousands of Denver residents who have received a free tree for their right-of-way from Denver's **Office of the City** Forester. Check out the Be A Smart Ash website (beasmartash.org) for commonly asked questions, information to help determine if there is room in your right-of-way, and to submit your <u>free tree request</u>.

Remember, it's not about one person doing everything perfectly, but instead making it easier for all of us to do things more sustainably. If you have other examples of how neighbors can work to support our local merchants while also investing in our planet, share your tips with us and we will help spread the word on social media or in the next edition of the Platt Park Post.

<u>www.3pa.org</u>

Safety Matters

by 3PA Safety Committee

The **Denver Police Department** holds two local community-outreach events on the first Wednesday of each month. One is **Coffee-with-Cops** (CWC) at 10-11:30 a.m. at **Nixon's Coffee House** (in Platt Park at 695 E. Louisiana Ave.) and the other is the **Citizen's-Advisory-Board** (CAB) meeting at 6 p.m. at the **District 3 Police Station** (in Washington Park at 1625 S. University Blvd.). Both of these monthly events are a great way for police officers and community members to meet, learn more about each other, and discuss issues.

We in Platt Park are fortunate to have Community Resource Officers (CROs) Kate Young (Kate.Young@denvergov. org) and Antonio Pacheco (Antonio.Pacheco@denvergov. org), both of whom regularly participate in CWC and other neighborhood meetings and also provide training on neighborhood, home and commercial security, crime prevention, and similar matters.

Also at CWC at Nixon's Coffee House in March were Commander Carlos Aragon, Lt. David Timmerman and CRO Matt Grimsley. Thank you, officers, for your service and for reaching-out to the Platt Park community. And thank you, Nixon's Coffee House, for hosting our monthly CWC event.

CRO Young recently mentioned that crime in Platt Park is mainly property crime, being burglaries and thefts. A big part of this is motor vehicle crime, being primarily theft-frommotor-vehicle (143 such thefts in Platt Park in 2022) and also auto-theft (83 auto-thefts in Platt Park in 2022). Incidents of auto-theft have been increasing in Denver and also in Platt Park. In Platt Park year-to-date (through March 6, 2023) there had been 16 auto-thefts, compared to Platt Park's three-year, year-to-date average of 11.

To combat auto-theft the Denver Police Department (DPD) just launched the new program "DenverTrack." The basic idea of DenverTrack is to have one or more tracking systems in your car (Note: Many cars 2015 and newer have built-in tracking systems, some of which may need to be activated), to register your car as soon as possible in the DenverTrack program, and to place a "TRACKED" decal on the driverside window to discourage thieves from targeting your car.

If your car is registered in DenverTrack and then reported stolen, it will be tracked and hopefully recovered by the DPD. You can learn more about DenverTrack and register your car online at denvergov.org/denvertrack. We can probably significantly reduce auto-theft in Platt Park by getting our cars registered in the program.

To help prevent motor-vehicle crimes the DPD recommends:

- Register your car in the DenverTrack program and apply the TRACKED decal.
- Always lock your car, roll up the windows, and take your keys.
- Never leave belongings in your car anything is valuable to a criminal.
- Never leave the car running unattended, even for a short period. Criminals are looking for unattended cars to use in committing other crimes.
- Park in well-lit and busy areas, which makes it harder for criminals to break in or steal your car.
- Use an alarm system and/or steering-wheel-lock device so your vehicle is less tempting to steal.
- Remove the garage door opener so criminals can't use it to access your garage or house.







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?

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 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: 3PA, P.O. Box 100848, Denver, CO 80250-0848

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