

# PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

FEB./MAR. 2017

WWW.3PA.ORG

# Post

## The End of South Denver

Greg Pulliam

Information, including quoted material, is from Phil Goodstein's *The Spirits of South Broadway, The History of South Denver, Volume One of a Three-Volume Work*; New Social Publications; 2008, pages 60-64. Phil Goodstein is local historian and author, who has been giving talks and tours on and writing books about Denver's neighborhoods since the 1980s. Contact Phil at [philgoodstein@gmail.com](mailto:philgoodstein@gmail.com) for information on his walking tour schedule. Information about his books is at <http://capitolhillbooks.com>.

Recapping tidbits from preceding installments in the Platt Park Post:

- The Town of South Denver was incorporated on August 14, 1886. It included the land for the three miles from Alameda Avenue to Yale Avenue between the Platte River and South Colorado Boulevard. A mayor and six-member board of trustees governed it.
- The Town of South Denver was "straight-laced". South Denver's wide-ranging criminal code prohibited everything and anything to which property owners and religious forces took exception. In addition to controlling the liquor trade and bawdy houses, the town aimed to control loose-running animals.
- James Fleming was the mayor of the Town of South Denver for four terms from 1884 to 1890. Mr. Fleming built the Fleming Mansion we see today in Platt Park.
- Simeon Vaughn became mayor of the Town of South Denver following James Fleming. Under Mr. Vaughn, the liquor trade re-emerged, and the Fleming Mansion was purchased (controversially) as the city hall.

Joseph Shattuck succeeded Simeon Vaughn as mayor in 1892. Mr. Shattuck was a key figure in the University of Denver. Not only was he a staunch Methodist who demanded Prohibition, but his wife



1812 S Lincoln Street, autumn 2016  
Former residence of Joseph Shattuck, the second mayor of the Town of South Denver.

was a leader of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. His election reflected the polarization of the community between a Workingmen's Citizens Club and a South Denver Working People's Club. At the time of his election, he lived at 1812 South Lincoln Street. [Picture of house at 1812 S Lincoln is at end of this draft item – if editor wants to use.]

Solomon Barcus of 425 South Pennsylvania Street, a brick mason/contractor ousted Shattuck in the 1893 voting as the candidate of the Working People's Club. The turnover reflected the high polarization of South Denver. Whereas

*Continued on page 6*



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).

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- Jen Hanson
- Leigh Phillips
- Greg Pulliam
- Tom Snyder

# Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

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A somewhat belated Happy New Year to all. Hope 2017 has gotten out the gate well for you and your loved ones. It promises to be another exciting year in Platt Park with big projects going on all around and in the neighborhood. As always we'll do our best to keep you up on what's new, fun and exciting along with the occasional 'issue' that might creep up. Let's get started with a couple new openings on Pearl Street.

Sneaking in rather quietly right at the end of 2016 was the grand opening of **Que Bueno Suerte** located in the former home of Sessions Kitchen that closed a year ago. I was eager to give Suerte a try but with some apprehension. Sessions had such grand ambitions, trying to fill the shoes of the original Izakaya Den (whom the building was originally designed for) but unfortunately those fell flat never really catching on. I was greatly hoping to not be underwhelmed this time around at the new effort.

'Que buena suerte' means in Spanish 'what good fortune' which might prove to be the consensus feeling about Suerte for all of us in the neighborhood who love to dine out and enjoy a broadening diversity of cuisine along Pearl Street. When you enter the space the look and feel has been substantially changed yet retaining a few touches from the past restaurants. The architecture is aptly described as "Ancient Mayan with modern Mexican touches". Glass-carvings and other artwork cover the walls. The tables and booths have all been made new creating a warm fun atmosphere. The outdoor seating still remains, promising warm summer days of dining in the open air—never a bad thing.

Of course the food is the crux of any new restaurant and in this case I think they deliver strongly. The food is described as global Latin cuisine so don't think Mexican restaurant here—this is not a taco and burrito joint. I sampled for the main course the Puerco Ahumado, which was Berkshire smoked pork tenderloin with spiced fried plantains. It was amazing. Started the dining affair with Ceviche Yucateco, a marvelous blend of blue marlin, shrimp and Spanish octopus—some of the best ceviche I've ever had. My wife had the Chile Relleno, which sounds standard Mexican, but gone was the typical breaded, over-stuffed with cheese and fried affair that is typical for that dish. Instead the Relleno was, as the menu best describes, "roasted poblano chile, calabacitas, adadero cheese, tequila-mushroom crema, pomegranate gastrique, spiced pecan"—don't know what most of that is but it was delicious.

Obviously the menu trends more toward upscale gourmet fare and the prices reflect the same but without going too crazy in my opinion. Lots of fun cocktails, not just leaning solely on Tequila and Mezcal (but plenty of that for sure). There is a well rounded bar with abundant options for all tastes.

Time always has the final say as to whether this will truly be a success but my crystal ball says this place will be with us for the long haul. Muy Bueno!

I think most of us were sad to see the closing of both the Black Pearl and Gaia Bistro last year. Therefore it was with great interest we learned that behind the scenes the two were actually becoming one new restaurant. On January 6th, the new creation

of Patrick Mangold-White, **Yardbird** opened its doors in the former location of Black Pearl (1529 S Pearl).

The space, but for new paint and artwork still retains the warmth and charm of the former establishment. It is the food however that defines this as a new restaurant. Yardbird seeks to find its culinary niche in the comfort food realm and it does so nicely. First off, for Gaia fans, Patrick has brought over much of the menu items that made Gaia such a favorite. There is an extensive breakfast menu reminiscent of Gaia and it is available from 7:00 am till 9:00 pm. So now if you have a late-evening hankering for Aunt Wynona's Buttermilk Pancakes or Edna's Fresh Baked Buttermilk Biscuits with Sausage Gravy then you no longer need wait till morning.

New to the Gaia staples are a whole host of dinner entrees offered from 4:00 pm till closing. Chicken dishes take center stage with Buttermilk Sage-Fried Chicken, Chicken Fried Chicken, Chicken Pot Pie as some of the featured items. Additionally Oxtail Sheppard's pie, Gulf Shrimp and Grits, Meat Loaf and many other delectable items round out the menu. A full bar is now available to complement your dining experience. Prices are fairly easy on the wallet with \$16.00 dollars being the most expensive item on the menu. Most of the menu falls in the \$10 dollar or less category, which is nice to see.

Yardbird should find an easy fit into the neighborhood and will likely be with us for many years to come.

If you have read my ramblings over the years you know that at best I am a mostly failing but wannabe composter. Undaunted however I signed up a year ago for the City sponsored compost program and received my green bin. Have to say it is about as easy as taking out the trash and love the program. Now no judgment intended, but I am admittedly surprised how few of those bins have appeared along our alleys. So as a gentle nudge, here are a few good reasons to get a compost bin to add to your recycling bin and join the fun. In 2016 the City of Denver estimates from the 45,000 tons of recycling & compost we:

- Saved 548,000 trees
- Saved 5.5 million gallons of oil
- Kept 9000 truckloads of junk out of landfill
- Saved 182 million gallons of water.
- Prevented 400,000 pounds of methane from being released into the atmosphere
- Sold 400,000 pounds of compost to local farms

Great job to all and let's keep it up! If you don't have that much compost and yard waste consider sharing a bin with a neighbor or two. We rarely fill ours up and happily share the space with neighbors. You'd be amazed what can go in that bin (used wooden chopsticks—who knew!). Just call 311 to join or visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles) to sign up.

See you around the neighborhood,



# Police Rap

Leigh Phillips

We are fortunate to live in a city with a police force that is actively engaged in our community and committed to working together with residents to create and protect a safe and welcoming environment to live in. As we become more educated about how the police are serving our neighborhood, we build stronger relationships with the men and women who are on our streets every single day, looking out for us.

Platt Park falls in Sector 1 of District 3 in the City and County of Denver. District 3 is the district that covers the largest geographic territory for Denver. Because the District is so large, it is divided into two sectors, with a Community Resource Officer (CRO) assigned to each sector. Boundaries for the sector that contains Platt Park are the Platt River on the western border to Colorado Blvd on the eastern border; 8th Avenue to the north, and Hampden on the south.

## This huge District is served by two hard-working CROs:

**Jim Lopez** serves the half of the District that includes Platt Park. Keep this e-mail handy, as it's your direct line to Officer Lopez: [jim.lopez@denvergov.org](mailto:jim.lopez@denvergov.org)

Should you need to reach out to the Sector 2 CRO, his name is **Joel Bell**, and his e-mail is [joel.bell@denvergov.org](mailto:joel.bell@denvergov.org)

A CRO serves as a liaison between the police department and the community. How do we define the community? More than just homeowners, our community also includes businesses, schools, and anyone else who has a role in the neighborhood. Officer Lopez is committed to engaging with Sector 1 (including Platt Park), and regularly attends neighborhood association meetings, schools, and other meetings or events. Many of you may have already met him. If you haven't, take the time to introduce yourself at the next neighborhood association meeting. You will find a friendly, approachable, enthusiastic, and dedicated officer who wants to work together to create an even stronger neighborhood.

"We are a partnership," said Officer Lopez. "My approach is not 'what can the police do' or 'what can the neighbors do,' but rather, it's what can the police and the neighborhood build together."

**District 3 is fortunate to be participating in a pilot program for a "Virtual Neighborhood," which allows the police to communicate extensive information about the Platt Park neighborhood including crime trends and bulletins. If you haven't already signed up, go to [denvergov.org/pocketgov](http://denvergov.org/pocketgov) and sign up for the DPD Virtual Neighborhood. It's easy, fast, and informative!**

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# South High Updates

Jen Hanson, South High Principal

As we continue to grow both in our neighborhood enrollment and a top "choice-in" high school for DPS, we have a lot to highlight. As our popularity continues to grow, South has hosted over 400 8th graders who have come and spent the day ("Shadowed") with us as an option for their high school educational experience. We are the proud REBELS!

## South Students help declare Denver a "Compassionate City."

South High School students had a unique and amazing experience before our City Council Members on November 21st. They helped pass a Civil Rights Resolution with the Denver City Council! South students will go down in the history books. They helped to declare that Denver is a COMPASSIONATE CITY!

As Paul Kashmann, our City Council Representative, District #6 wrote his appreciation for our South students and staff. "Thank you so much for your participation in our Council resolution Monday night. It The presence of your students, as well as Ms. Hanson's (principal) fine statement, added a needed bit of gravitas to what otherwise would have been an evening of words with little real world grounding. A fterwards, Denver was declared a Compassionate City."

## South students are Semi-Finalist for the Prestigious Boettcher Scholarship

Three of our students have also been chosen as semi-finalists for the Daniels Scholarship Fund. These students will move through the rigorous interview and selection process. These three will also be invited to many special visit programs at our in-state colleges and universities. They are outstanding individuals both at South and in their community. For those of you who may not be familiar with Boettcher, it is a high merit full-ride scholarship to any in-state school. Once students are announced as semi-finalists (only 100 across Colorado), they will submit a letter of recommendation and move into the interview process. From there, 40



scholars will be selected to receive the scholarship. In the past three years, South has had at least one Boettcher scholar per year. This scholarship is highly selective!

## Marcus Lindsay is 4A Player of the Year!

Our very own Marcus Lindsay was chosen as this year's 4A Player of the Year. Marcus had an amazing year leading our Rebels to an 11-1 season record and into the quarterfinals of the 4A State Tournament. He rushed for 1,896 yards, averaged 158 yards rushing per game and scored 23 touchdowns. He also starred on defense as a linebacker with 106 tackles on the season (3rd best on the team). Marcus was also the Player of the Year in the Mountain Conference and will represent South in the CHSAA Senior Game in June. He is currently being recruited by Weber State, Montana and CSU Pueblo. Congrats to Marcus on this awesome achievement!

## South High Digital Media Club (sponsored through the University of Denver) has been granted the following award:

"I am pleased to announce that the Executive Committee of Transportation Solutions Foundations has selected South High School for the Transportation Solutions Champion Award, for excellence in increasing the use of alternative transportation for students through ongoing planning!" The Foundation is reserving a table for 8 students for their award ceremony on the morning of Thursday, February 23. Congratulations to the following students: Amran Muse, Seraphina Thiare, Fuwei Huang, Joe Zhou, Richard Boateng, Wolfred , Barikwa Deeya and Cesar Robles.

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# South Denver

*Continued from page 1*

Shattuck vowed his commitment to Prohibition, Barcus argued for the sensible toleration and regulation of liquor. Shattuck was categorically opposed to South Denver joining the City of Denver. Barcus stated he would be interested in annexation if Denver presented acceptable terms. He lambasted Shattuck as a tool of Denver University and the school's real master, Tramway. [For Tramway background, see "Streetcars + Railroads in Platt Park" in the April/ May 2016 Platt Park Post.]

At the same time as Barcus won the mayor's race, Shattuck's backers gained a majority on the board of trustees. Political clashes were endless, especially among the few hundred South Denver citizens who closely followed the doings of city hall – about 800 people participated in the April 1893 contest won by Barcus.

When Barcus moved into the mayor's office, he shared the Fleming Mansion with other South Denver institutions. Besides civic offices, the villa was the home of the town library and jail. The lockup was in the basement, complete with two-by-four bars and a wrought iron door. The door was given to the scrap iron drive during World War II.

Shortly after its incorporation in 1886, the Town of South Denver imposed a five-mill levy on property to pay for its \$5,500 annual budget. Its fiscal year started on April 1. By 1889, its budget was \$7,000.... Furthermore, in March 1889, it appropriated \$9,600 more for the waterworks.

Initially, the town had paid its bonded debt through doubling its property tax levy from five mills to ten mills. The cost of government soared in the early 1890s. Its 1891 budget was \$20,220. In addition to this, on March 16, 1891, the trustees appropriated \$8,780 for a special interest fund to pay off some of the city's escalating debt.

Not only did the waterworks demand ever more money, but administration expenses were higher than expected. The scanty population was widely dispersed around a huge area. The bills for street improvements, city hall, lighting, the installation of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and other vital amenities drained the community's treasury.

The Town of South Denver was never on the best of terms with the City of Denver. Queen City boosters continually envisaged a sprawling Mile High metropolis. To make it a reality, they launched a program in the early 1890s to annex surrounding jurisdictions. Push came to shove in January 1893 when Denver stated it hoped to swallow the Town of South Denver.

South Siders screamed with outrage against the Queen City's plans. They had created their suburb, they reminded one and all, so they would not be part of the corruption, decadence, and filth of the wicked city. "We protest against being robbed of the control of saloons and houses of ill-repute," the town trustees declared in a petition to the General Assembly. They prayed the legislators would keep the Mile High City leashed. (At this time, the state had a direct oversight of Denver. The General Assembly was the body, which wrote and amended the Denver city charter and could block annexations.)

Though South Denver resolved it did not want to be part of Denver proper, it could not withstand the torrents of the Panic of 1893. That year's devastating financial downturn hit Colorado especially hard. Not only did the depression see the rapid plunge in the price of silver, but it also resulted in a massive deflation of real

estate values. Many plungers, whose investments were highly leveraged, found they owed more on their holdings than they could sell them for. Suddenly, cash was at a premium, bills were due, and South Denver lacked revenue to maintain urban operations. By the end of the tumultuous year, the Town of South Denver was virtually bankrupt while bondholders were demanding the immediate payment of interest and principal. The suburb did not have the resources to satisfy its creditors.

The City of Denver came to the rescue. In the wake of the crash, Denver undertook a massive annexation program – despite its own financial problems, it was able to keep its head above water. In exchange for joining the metropolis it told such communities as the Town of Highlands (the area west of Zuni Street to the north of West Colfax Avenue) and Harman (First Avenue to Sixth Avenue between University and Colorado boulevards) that it would assume their debts. Such was its promise to the Town of South Denver.

Though many repeated that they had moved to the Town of South Denver to escape the blight and dishonesty of the central city, residents quickly realized they had no choice. If they failed to agree to Denver's terms, they faced bank foreclosures and a seizure of their assets by bondholders. Simultaneously, the South Denver waterworks needed ever more money for maintenance while the city verged going into default on interest payments.

On January 30, 1894, voters approved annexation, 288-100. The Mile High City officially swallowed the South Side community on February 7, 1894. In addition to assuming South Denver's \$263,000 bonded indebtedness and a \$15,332 deficit, Denver took over its fire department and the waterworks. It quickly discovered many unpaid and uncollected bills, including from citizens who had excellent ties with the defunct South Denver city hall. The annexation added 5,766 acres to the Queen City, about nine square miles.

The takeover allowed South Denver to remain a dry enclave with no bars or liquor stores. Methodist Bishop Henry White Warren and University of Denver interests had insisted on this provision before agreeing to the annexation. Even with such promises, some University Park dwellers hesitated. They pondered seceding from South Denver to form a separate community. Economic pressures killed their dreams of independence.

The City of Denver took over Town of South Denver institutions. The Fleming Mansion became the South Side Civic Building, a place where residents went to vote. After the South Denver Woman's Club left it in the 1950s, the city transformed it into the Platt Park Recreation Center for People Over 50. Honoring recently deceased paper merchant James H. Platt, in 1895 the city labeled Fleming's Grove "Platt Park."



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	#	%	#	%	#	%
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Part 1 Property (Burglary, Larceny, Theft from motor vehicle, etc.)	225	35.8%	220	37.2%	-5	-2.2%
Crimes Against Persons (Assault, Sex Offenses, Intimidation, etc.)	43	6.8%	28	4.7%	-15	-34.9%
Crimes Against Property (Arson, Burglary, Damage to Property, Vehicle Theft, etc.)	287	45.6%	264	44.7%	-23	-8.0%
Crimes Against Society (Drugs/Narcotics, Weapons, etc.)	17	2.7%	17	2.9%	0	0
All Other Offenses (Disorderly Conduct, Harassment, Restraining Order, etc.)	38	6.0%	42	7.1%	4	10.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>

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# Platt Park Events Calendar

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Library Hours and Schedule  
Monday-Tuesday noon-8pm  
Wednesday-Thursday-Friday 10am - 6pm  
Saturday 9am - 5pm; Sunday CLOSED

### LIBRARY EVENTS:

#### Toddler Storytime, Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for toddlers ages 18-36 months and their parents or caregivers.

#### All Ages Storytime, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for children of all ages and their parents or caregivers. Craft activity immediately follows the program.

#### Baby Storytime, Wed. and Thurs., 11:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for babies ages 0-18 months and their parents or caregivers. Play and social time immediately follow the program.

### Winter of Reading

#### February 1 through March 31.

Adult customers who complete three items on the Winter of Reading brochure get a nifty mug!

## Chamber Music Concert

### Saturday, February 18, 2-3 p.m.

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society.

## Drop-in Winter of Reading Book Club

### Monday, February 27, 6-7 p.m.

Share your favorite books while enjoying hot chocolate and a sweet treat.

## Poultry Keeping 101

### Saturday, March 4, 2-3 p.m.

If you are thinking about having chickens, love chickens, or simply want to learn more about chickens, then this class is a must. Presented by the Urban Farm at Stapleton.

## Chamber Music Concert

### Saturday, March 18, 2-3 p.m.

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society.

## Chamber Music Concert

### Saturday, April 15, 2-3 p.m.

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society.



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