

PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

OCT./NOV. 2015

WWW.3PA.ORG

Post



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.

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Platt Park Parents

By Sarah Lintzenich

Platt Park is an incredible neighborhood with an ever-growing number of families with children who are looking to get involved and build community. We have playgrounds within walking distance, family friendly shops and restaurants, and great schools and pre-schools. Parents in Platt Park are excited to live, learn, play, and, most importantly, raise their children in such a wonderful place.

Many parents get to know one another by chatting in playgrounds, coffee shops, breweries, and just walking down the street and waving hello. But to further strengthen these ties, Platt Park Parents facilitates many activities that bring families together to get to know one another and connect parents who want to continue to build a warm and friendly community.

Platt Park Parents first started in 2008 when a few eager moms and dads were looking to meet others in the community. Today the group consists of more than 300 parents and neighbors. Why wouldn't you want to be a part of this spectacular group that supports other parents raising kids in your neighborhood???

Platt Park Parents hosts events to help parents meet each other. Moms' Night Out (MNO), Dads' Night Out (DNO), Pumpkin Palooza, Play! Play! Play! (monthly playgroups in the park), Valentine's Day Party at

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Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

No time for thoughtful prose or whimsical wandering in this issue—too much to get you up to speed on. So here you go...

By now you have likely heard about Nextdoor.com and probably have logged on a time or two. Nextdoor serves; it would seem as sort of a community bulletin board for whatever anyone deems important or interesting. The site has been up for a couple years now and aside from filling our daily inboxes with additional clutter it does provide some interesting and occasional useful bits of information and is a great place to go when needing help, advice or you need to sell or buy something.

What CNN did for 24/7 news reporting Nextdoor has done for local crime updates. After reading the almost daily reports of car break-ins or suspicious people wandering about I've begun to wonder if the crime rate has increased dramatically around here or am I just hearing, for the first time everything that goes on, making it just seem worse. 3PA president Nick Weidner dug in on some crime statistics published in the last issue and the conclusion? Total crime in Platt Park is down from a year ago...interesting.

Putting all I can muster together on the subject a few things seem clear to me: I suspect all the crime reporting has made us a bit more vigilant about things like locking doors and not leaving stuff in our cars to tempt the would-be thieves—sure has for me. I also think the switch to individual trashcans verses dumpsters is helping. I've noted in my block way fewer alley-cruisers, which always was both a blessing and a curse (good for recycling, bad for opportunistic thievery). So let's keep this trend going! We are an urban environment and not a gated community so no doubt some measure of crime will always be a part of life here but let's each do what we can to make our neighborhood a less tempting target—keep up the good work!

Sliding quietly back into the restaurant landscape in September was a familiar name—**Ototo Den**—back for a third try. First there was the Den Deli, which rather quickly morphed into the first rendition of Ototo Den, which was shuttered in 2012, as performance was not meeting owner Toshi Kizaki's high standards. Does Toshi have it right this time? Time will tell but the early results are encouraging. The restaurant had a soft, invitation-only opening for the first two weeks in September and reservations filled all available tables in less than two hours. Great attention was given during that time to gain feedback from clients on everything from food presentation, taste, quantity, restaurant décor, food service...you get the idea.

The idea behind Ototo Den is to bring to Pearl Street something that is everyday-common in Japan, a casual place to go with friends to share plates of food, have some drinks and socialize. The interior has been substantially remodeled but still feels much like the old Ototo, which was always a pleasant space. Large roll up glass garage doors invite the outside in to the warm wood-rich interior. Conspicuously

missing from the menu is sushi, which is in keeping with this style of restaurant—so I'm told. The menu features a dozen wonderful items from the grill (Japanese robata-style). Various types of ramen and udon noodles and a wonderful array of tapas style small entrees to share, all showing off Toshi's unique culinary style. We certainly loved it and look forward to returning. I suspect the third time will be the charm! As of this writing Ototo will be open Tuesday through Sunday each evening starting at 5:30pm. Located across from Sushi Den at 1501 S Pearl Street.

Euro Crepes opened their doors down at 1840 South Broadway adding to the burgeoning restaurant scene on the ever-revitalizing corridor of South Broadway. Owners Mehdi and Crystal Mdouari recently transplanted here from Hawaii where they operated a small crepe eatery. Inspiration for their latest adventure came largely from a honeymoon traveling through Europe a couple years back—hence the name. Wanting to give us bit of that European flavor they offer a wide variety of Crepes, both sweet and savory along with Panini, salads and appetizers. A full bar with signature cocktails and European wines and beers is also available to accompany the culinary offerings.

Housed in a 1926 warehouse the restaurant has beautiful vaulted wood ceilings, and large glass garage door that will soon open to a fenced patio. Décor follows the warehouse theme and the walls are adorned with revolving local artwork. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00 am till 9:00 pm.

By now you have probably visited the new **Sprouts Market** that opened the end of August over at 197 E Mississippi Avenue. Our family (and by that I mean mostly my wife) has long shopped at Sprouts but had to trek over to Colorado Blvd to do so, just the location alone makes this a winner for the neighborhood. I have to admit I love Whole Foods as well but would not mind a little healthy competition on prices going on to the benefit of all. The store is great, easy parking and just a few blocks closer to home—awesome!

Taking the place of the Jewelers Gallery that had stood for 24 years at 1505 S Pearl is aptly named **Gallery 1505** which opened their doors earlier this year. Owner Katherine Spahr has fully remodeled the space creating a wonderful open gallery that features rotating local artist displaying everything from sculpture and paintings to beautiful jewelry. Katherine is also a jeweler who creates designed-to-order custom pieces as well as designs of her own. Coming soon will be art classes held in the back room of the gallery. Check them out on Facebook for upcoming details or just stop in.



Lots more new stuff coming up this fall. Stay tuned!

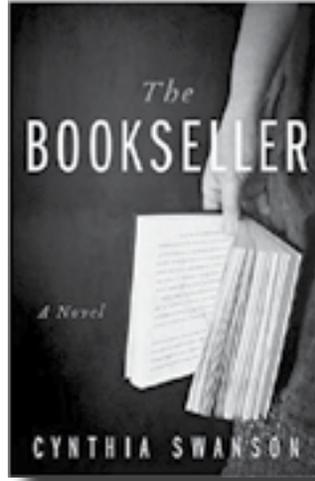
See you around the neighborhood,
Tom Snyder

BOOK REVIEW:
The Bookseller
by Cynthia Swanson

The setting is Platt Park, Denver, Colorado which is reason enough to read the book! Set in the '60's with many references to Pearl St, Evans, University as well as specific locations around at that time.

Here is the publisher's blurb: "A provocative and hauntingly powerful debut novel that will keep you turning pages into the early hours, The Bookseller follows a woman in the 1960s who wrestles to reconcile her daily life as a single bookstore owner with the alternate reality she suddenly begins to dream about each night, in which she is a happily-married wife and mother"-- Provided by publisher.

It was a great read, providing a bit of history with a fascinating story. Of course you can get this at the Decker Library, which is mentioned in the book.



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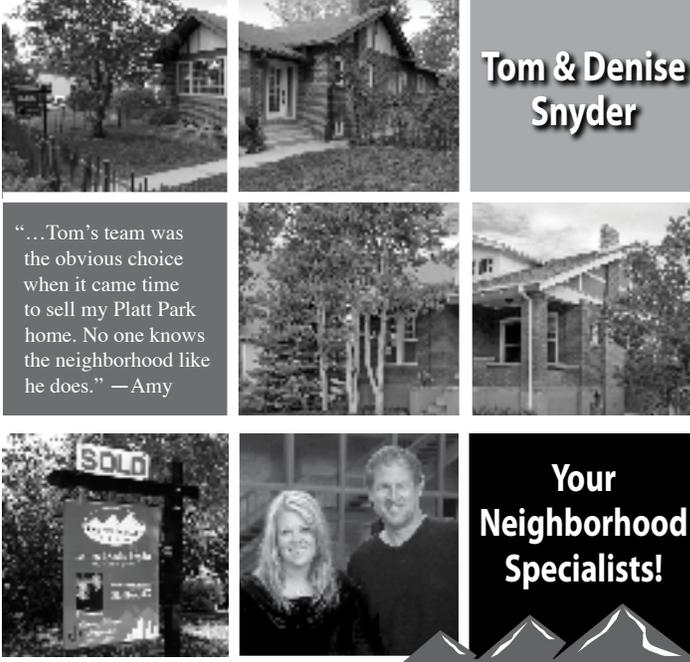
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Platt Park Post Artist Profile:

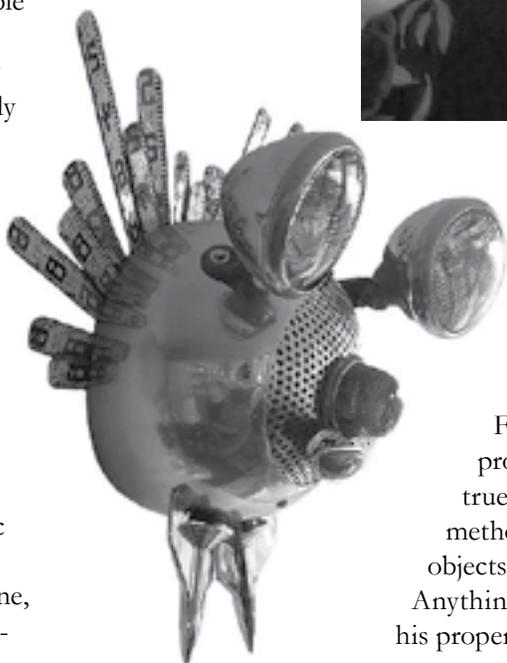
Jerry Simpson

By *Mariah Raymond*

When it comes to Platt Park artist and collector Jerry Simpson, I'm afraid the most useful thing I can write is this: go visit him. Last week, when he gave me a tour of his compound—and that's really the only word for it—I was so dumfounded by what I saw that I gave up taking notes for this article. Perhaps you're familiar with the place – the charming lily pad and goldfish pond, the window-front full of eclectic works of art, the pile of railroad spikes out front and the python-like vine wrapped around the porch. Perhaps you've plopped down on the horseshoe-imbedded bench after a jog in Wash Park, and wondered what was behind those wooden gates. I can assure you it's like nothing you could ever imagine.

Collecting objects is an instinctual behavior, which, for some of us, results in impenetrable basements, jam-packed drawers, bursting closets and the inability to find anything when we actually need it. The going out and getting is the fun part, but it's the organizing where things start to fall apart. Jerry Simpson is a master collector, and more importantly, a master organizer. "I like surrounding myself with objects, it stimulates my creativity," said Simpson, and it shows. Every inch of wall space, ceiling space and even some floor space is filled with shelves, clear plastic boxes, racks, hooks and buckets full of everything you can imagine, from Rubik's cubes and dog figurines to bowling pins and collectible lunch boxes. Old hand mixers and corkscrews hang like chandeliers; license plates cover a wooden walkway outside, and boards and pieces of steel lean against the exterior walls and fences. And yet, as full as they are, the spaces do not induce claustrophobia, perhaps because there's so much to see, or more likely, because of the astounding order. Everything has a place, and in his mind, Simpson has catalogued the location of each object. Well-tended trees shade the outdoor spaces in the heat of summer and every space is decorated with potted plants, flowers and sculptures. A small aviary housing a trio of shy parakeets adds to the oasis-like feel of the place.

A graduate of the Central Academy of Commercial Art in Cincinnati, Ohio, Simpson moved to Colorado in 1969, and worked as an illustrator, designer and art director for several Denver-based advertisement companies. In 1973, he



broke off and began freelancing as an illustrator and graphic designer under the name One Man Band Art Studio. Simpson connected with Colorado photographer John Fielder in 1982, and spent the next five years designing Fielder's books, calendars and posters. This work provided him with sufficient income to pursue his true passion: collecting. In his off time, Simpson methodically trolled Denver thrift stores and used the objects he gathered in his sculptures and installations. Anything he didn't use was categorized and stored on his property. In 1988, with the introduction of the computer as a graphic design tool, Simpson quit advertising and began to work full-time as a fine artist.

Simpson's artwork is almost always humorous and playful, with an occasional peppering of politics. All of his materials are found in thrift stores, yard sales, alleyways and dumpsters, or they are simply given to him. One of his recent sculptures, entitled Jerry Grows Hair, is an oversized self-portrait made of hundreds of flattened beer bottle caps. Chives—his hair—grow out of the top and sides of the head. Simpson has shown in over 300 gallery shows, but now prefers to exhibit at his home. His current passion is artist trading cards, (pretty much what it sounds like), where artists create small works of art and trade them with other artist. Not surprisingly, Simpson's collection of cards is substantial and carefully catalogued. He welcomes anyone to join his free

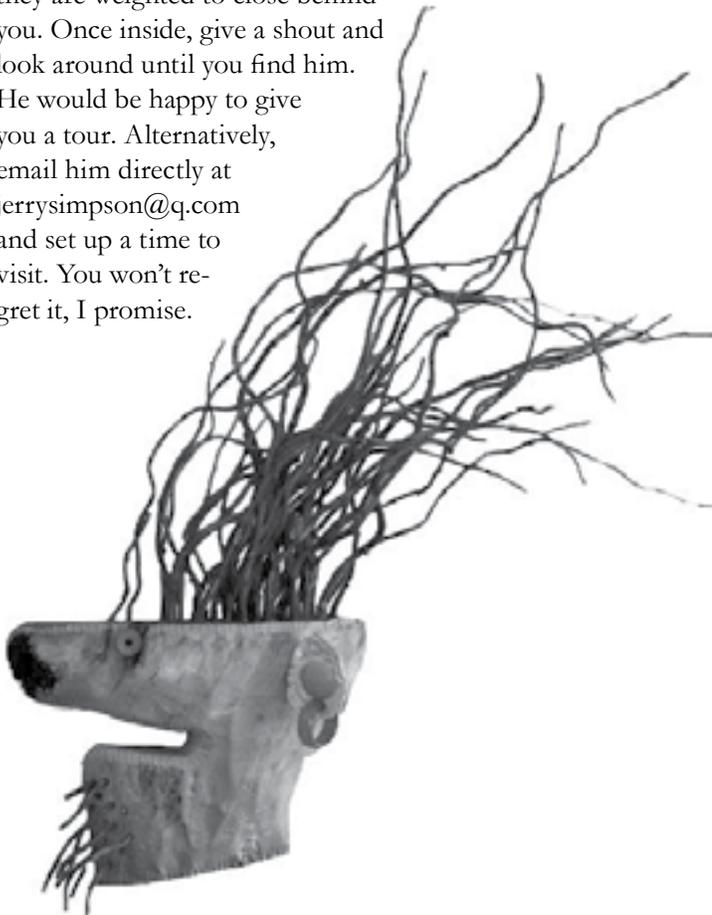
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Jerry Simpson

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monthly ATC (Artist Trading Card) workshops, just email him for the details.

The instructions for visiting Jerry Simpson—aka “The Three Dimensional Man”— and his studio gallery are simple, yet specific. Anytime after 12pm, and not before, if the gray 1970 Volkswagen bug is parked in front of 825 E. Arkansas Ave., pull open the wooden gates with the metals rings. Don’t be dissuaded by the resistance of the gates, they are weighted to close behind you. Once inside, give a shout and look around until you find him. He would be happy to give you a tour. Alternatively, email him directly at jerrysimpson@q.com and set up a time to visit. You won’t regret it, I promise.



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Noisy Neighbors

By Drew Webster

Love thy neighbor? Well sometimes that is easier said than done. If you are a dog lover, it is easy for you to see how a canine companion can enrich your life. And you might even appreciate a canine neighbor, but what if your dog is causing your neighbors grief? If your dog is a constant barker, lunges on leash or tramples through gardens and defecates in your neighbor's garden space than your dog may be a nuisance neighbor. Now that you are thinking objectively about your favorite four legged friend, how can you teach your dog to be a more courteous canine?

First of all, don't be defensive. If you have a neighbor who is upset about your dog, try to see the world from their point of view. You might understand barking as a normal dog behavior but try to imagine if your neighbors were big auto enthusiasts and revved their engine day and night. You would build a very negative attitude toward their hobby. As soon as dog noise affects your neighbor's peace and tranquility in their home they are likely to be less understanding.

Second take action. Dogs are wonderful creatures who are capable of learning new things at any age. Most behavior with a negative "social impact" can be rectified with self-rewarding behavior. You simply need to help your dog understand what behaviors you do want and positively reinforce that behavior.



Barking usually happens for one of three reasons: to alert, signal loneliness or draw attention. A dog who is barking because it is lonely either needs some stimulation added to its environment or a routine change. Dogs who are barking to signal loneliness or draw attention are easier to work with. Barking gets a lot of feedback from people, so try rewarding your dog for being "Quiet". Stand outside with him and reward when he stops barking. Another option is to interrupt the behavior before it starts. Before the barking starts, change direction or take the dog inside. This will help the dog learn that they can stand outside and listen quietly without barking all day. Use positive reinforcement to let them know what behaviors you like rather than just yelling if they choose the undesirable behavior. Attention barking is a learned behavior and dogs do what works so if barking is getting attention, it will be repeated.

Garden trampling and soiling is permissive -- they can't do it if you don't let them. This is usually the result of lack of attention or too long of a leash. Dogs don't know where they can and can't go until you build consistent routines.

Lunging and aggressive behaviors need to be taken very seriously. These cause a lot of stress for both the owner and the dogs who display them. Sadly, they usually result in scolding and punishment when they need just the opposite to improve. Teach your dog how you want them to walk on leash, then reward the heck out of small approximations of your big goal. If you don't see improvement, consult a professional. We live in a very dog friendly neighborhood. Well behaved dogs and courteous dog owners will help keep it that way.

For more tips and tricks follow @doctordrewlitt on twitter, instagram or Good Dog Training on Facebook. www.gooddogrule.com for more info.



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Platt Park Parents

Continued from page 1

Decker Library, and, for the first time, there is a community tour at our local fire station.

The easiest way to learn about Platt Park Parents and all of these fun events is to sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter. At the beginning of each month, the newsletter highlights local events that families can attend or special happenings with local merchants.

Whether you are a mom, dad or neighbor, Platt Park Parents wants you to help join in its mission to strengthen our community. Check out the website to get next month's newsletter, come to the next MNO or DNO, or head over to the park for the next playgroup. If you are interested in getting even more involved by helping us plan events, contact us at plattparkparents@gmail.com. Stay connected and become even more involved with what's happening in our neighborhood. For more information, check out www.plattparkparents.com.

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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:

Storytime and Craft, Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Any aged child who can sit for stories, songs, and do a simple craft is welcome to attend! No registration is required.

Tales for Twos with Craft, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs and fun for two-year-olds and their parents or caregivers. Craft activity immediately follows the program. No registration is required.

Book Babies, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:15 a.m.

Stories, songs and rhymes for babies ages 0 - 24 months and their parents or caregivers. Playtime and socialization immediately follow the program. No registration is required.

Flea Markets- The Last Sunday of Every Month

Featured events:
 October 11th - Chili Cook Off

PLATT PARK PARENTS EVENTS:

Pumpkin Palooza - October 24 @ Platt Park

Mom's Night Out - October 15, 7:30 pm at Platt Park Brewing Company

Dad's Night Out - October 29, 7:30 pm at Platt Park Brewing Company

Check out PlattParkParents.com for more information.

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