

PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

APR./MAY 2015

WWW.3PA.ORG

Post

An Update from the 3PA Board

Over the last year, the 3PA Board has been working to revitalize the Platt Park People's Association and create sustainable momentum. There are five new board members joining an existing group of experienced board members. As part of the rebuilding process, the board has agreed to equally share responsibilities so we have informed and engaged board members. This means you'll be hearing from all of us, not just the President. This will allow us to foster a succession plan and ensure 3PA grows stronger for years to come.

One of our goals for this year is to grow our membership and provide more opportunities for the entire community to come together. The more members we have in 3PA, the more influence we have on what happens to our incredible neighborhood. We have a number of new events planned this year to bring more value to existing members, attract new members and re-engage past members. Some things to look for on our events calendar include Movies In the Park, Platt Park Yard Sale, The Annual Picnic, and Member Happy Hours.

We share this with you so that you know there is an engaged and passionate team of your neighbors working hard to keep Platt Park the amazing community that it is. But...we can't do this alone. The only way a neighborhood organization works is if the neighborhood participates. There are a number of ways to get involved and help – the easiest of which is by signing up to be a member on www.3pa.org or

to cut out the signup form on the page 6 of the Platt Park Post. Membership is only \$20/year. The more members we have, the more ability we have to positively impact the makeup of our neighborhood. We can use all the help we can get to think of new ideas, facilitate events and build our membership. Email us at board@3pa.org to get involved!

Thank You,
– The 2015 3PA Board

President – Nick Weidner
Vice President – Sophia Stone
Treasurer – Joe Beierl
Secretary – Lauren Bustos
Members at Large:
Ashley Arroyo
Bryn Sneddon
Jolon Clark
Kate Cihon
Shelley Jewell
Troy Kelts

Platt Park People's Association Logo Contest

Calling all artists, designers and neighbors...We need your help! 3PA is updating its look. We are looking for a new logo that captures the spirit of our incredible neighborhood and can be used on the website, newsletter and other correspondence. The 3PA Board will review submissions and announce a winner in the June issue of the Platt Park Post Newsletter. Only digital logos will be considered. Please submit all logo designs to board@3pa.org by May 1st. Help leave your legacy in Platt Park. Be the creative inspiration behind the future 3PA logo!



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!



**You can now join 3PA at
3PA.org where you can fill
in the form online and pay
through PayPal.**

**Go to 3PA.org, click on
"join 3PA."**

Want to be informed?

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notifications on
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McKinley-Thatcher Elementary Auction Thank You

A school auction can only be as successful as the support of its community, staff, and families. On March 6th your contributions shone through, as the McKinley-Thatcher Auction was a huge success because of your outpouring support. Our gratitude to our community, who sponsored numerous auction items, provided food and beverages for the event, and who helped spread the word about the event. A special thanks to Adelitas who demonstrated their commitment to the neighborhood families by generously donating all the catered tacos we could eat during the event, the YMCA for providing free childcare, and Sexy Pizza for feeding the children in childcare. Many thanks to our staff and families for donating auction items as well as packaging these items and to everyone who attended the fun-filled evening with deep pockets. It cannot be done without the support of the parents, staff, and community! Thank you!



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Neighborhood Notes

Nothing gives me more joy as a writer than to discover people actually read the stuff I write. Usually such confirmation comes in the form of someone pointing out an erroneous fact or some other misguided comment I've made which, as you might imagine is delightful news especially since I provide many such opportunities for correction in my slightly less than scholarly prose. Thank you and keep the feedback coming.

One alert reader noted something in my last Neighborhood Notes worth digging into a bit more, namely the subject of **trash bins in the alley**. Attuned to details this neighbor kindly pointed out that my comment of "...(*my compost bin*) *now sits proudly by my house in the alley*" (emphasis mine) was a clear violation of city regulations regarding all trash/recycle/compost bins. Really? No way? Impossible? TRUE! Sure enough she knew her stuff. Called down to the city and--brace yourself here--trash/recycle/compost bins in the alley are in violation of city ordinance. I kid you not! In fact the fine public servant I spoke with informed me I will get first a kindly note reminding me of the fact then I'm subject to a fine.

Well figuring I was the last person to know this I rushed out to my alley to remove my offending bins (yes all three of them) when I was suddenly stunned by the sight, looking north and south down my alley of seeing, I estimate, no less than a thousand bins sitting there in my block alone--evidentially no one else got the memo. The city has a point in all this, which was the primary reason to move from dumpsters to bins in the first place. The goal is to eliminate illegal dumping, which costs the city a pretty penny each year. Secondly consider how much crime might be reduced if our alleys were clear of any excuse someone might have to "cruise the alleys looking for recyclable items" which as we all know is sometimes just a pretense for looking for stuff to steal. If there is nothing in the alleys then maybe there is no excuse to cruise them—that at least is the theory. The third reason, which makes sense, although I could not get verification from the police, is no bins give patrol cars a clearer line of sight down the alleys. Sounds good to me.

Ok, what to do about this since it seems pretty much very few are obeying this rule? My problem for the moment is I have a relatively small yard so accommodating my bins will take a bit of work but I'm up for the task and plan on making it one of my spring projects. For some this will be relatively easy I suppose, for others not so much. I do know I like the goals as I'm tired of junk being dumped in and around my bins and I'd love to do anything that makes life more difficult for criminals. I suspect you feel the same. For now I hope everyone takes this to heart and figures it out for their home. Probably very good for all and it goes without saying I don't want to give the city another reason to ding you or me for a "bin in the alley" violation. Enough said.

And while we are on the subject of "bins," in case you need extra motivation to recycle, did you know the following about recycling in Denver? Every ton of recyclables earns the City about \$45 and doesn't add to landfill which costs the City money! State and local tax revenues generated from waste diversion activities amount to nearly \$1.3 billion per year. Better to put money to work than paying for landfill to dump our junk into.

Been awhile since we've had a good-ol controversy to get a bit riled up about around here (Remember the zoning code re-write? Good times). Well to fill that gap of late has been **Sushi/Izakaya Den's plan to build a parking garage** that will encompass the existing surface lot next to Sessions Kitchen and the former home of The Whole Cat & Dog building. In October of this past year the representatives of Sushi Den unveiled a plan for the garage that was largely in compliance with the city zoning code, but was ultimately denied by the city. As a result, in February, the owners requested a variance with the City of Denver Board of Adjustments to allow them to build the garage to a height of 35 feet—ten feet higher than the code allows and parking for 188 cars. Despite neighborhood opposition, the variance was approved. That caused many-concerned residents to hit the "wait-a-minute" button.

The Platt Park People's Association, The South Pearl Merchant Association, and concerned citizens continued to reach out to the developer and at last report it now seems they have agreed to build a smaller garage. Bravo, but stay tuned.

To clear up one other oft-raised concern, the current code does require the garage to be fronted by commercial space in order to keep the "main street" character of the block. Compliance to that has never been in question and the plans call for exactly that, so at least to some degree it will not look like just a garage. The Platt Park People's Association is continuing to encourage the design to be aesthetically fitting of the neighborhood. We'll see and keep you posted.

A warm welcome is due to the new **Washington Park Profile** Editor Jill Farschman who has been a resident of Platt Park since 1996. Jill replaces long time editor Paul Kashmann who is now running for District 6 City Council. Congratulations Jill.

Work is coming along on the new **Sprouts Farmers Market** located at Mississippi between Grant and Lincoln Streets. No word yet on the opening date but looks like summer sometime.

Someone asked how they could give me ideas for news or feedback. Here you go, Tom@SnyderTeam.com or heck just call me 303-877-3097. Trust me, you know stuff I don't, so give me a call.

Should have a few new openings around the hood to report on next issue. As I write this I can see the first weeds of spring coming to life in my yard so by the time you are reading this they should have successfully taken over the whole thing once again—ah, spring! Hope life is good for you and your household.

See you around the neighborhood,

Tom Snyder



Meet Platt Park Artist: Christian Grey Hawkins

Mariah Raymond

What do you get when you combine a photographic memory, an obsession with old things, abundant Colorado pride and a skilled drawing hand? Platt Park artist Christian Grey Hawkins is a seventh generation Coloradoan and fifth generation Platt Park native (well, his great-great grandmother lived in Wash Park, but we'll let it slide). Colorado lies at the center of his artwork and he is unabashed about his love for the state—"I just can't shut up about it." His drawings are bold and graphic, yet their small scale and sensitivity to detail make them surprisingly intimate. The subject matter is consistent: abandoned buildings and aspen trees.

As a child, family vacations consisted of loading up the car with camping gear and heading to the mountains to explore. These excursions often led to ghost towns and abandoned mining structures, and soon the mission of the trips became to hunt for, sketch and explore such empty places. Immersed in quiet, often forgotten locations, Hawkins developed a preoccupation with old things—both man-made and natural—and the relationship between them. "Something gets more meaning when it's older—more valuable—it can't be created in any other way than the passing of time." Hawkins' drawings are timelines, in a way. Next to a rock, or an aspen tree, an abandoned mining building suddenly seems quite young.

As a high school student at the Denver School of the Arts, Hawkins discovered the paintings of American artist Edward Hopper. Hopper's paintings taught him that it was possible to paint a building—something inanimate—and still elicit an emotional reaction in the viewer. For Hawkins, this discovery was profound. He was freed from the need to include animals or people in his imagery and could focus on drawing the things he loved. "Drawing is the most natural thing I do," he claims. He has been sketching compulsively since a very young age.

Hawkins' drawings are predominantly monochromatic with an occasional touch of color, a style reminiscent of early photographs. The fact that he works directly onto untreated wood panels adds to the aged look of his work, and the grain of the wood sometimes even resembles woodcut prints. However, from a more contemporary angle, Hawkins tweaks



space and perspective through his compositions, object placement and use of transparency. Buildings, viewed from below, are suspended in space, aspen branches weave in front and behind each other, and the silhouettes of figures haunt some scenes. If you head to the mountains to find some of Hawkins' abandoned buildings, you won't find them: they're made-up. He says he has a photographic memory and has spent so much time studying old ghost and mining towns that the structures are ingrained in his mind.

Hawkins always hopes to live in or near Platt Park. A fierce proponent for maintaining the character of the neighborhood, he laments many of the new houses being built. At least Stella's Coffee House is still going strong—his parents took him there the day after he was born, though I'm guessing he passed on the coffee.

On the side, Hawkins paints colorful house commissions. But, true to his aesthetic, he only paints the older houses. Sorry, modern homeowners, you might consider waiting a few decades before inquiring.

Hawkins, home for a year, is majoring in illustration at the California College of Art in San Francisco. See his work and find contact information at www.greyhawkins.com. And wave if you see a young fellow in glasses driving a blue 1968 Ford Falcon down South Pearl Street.



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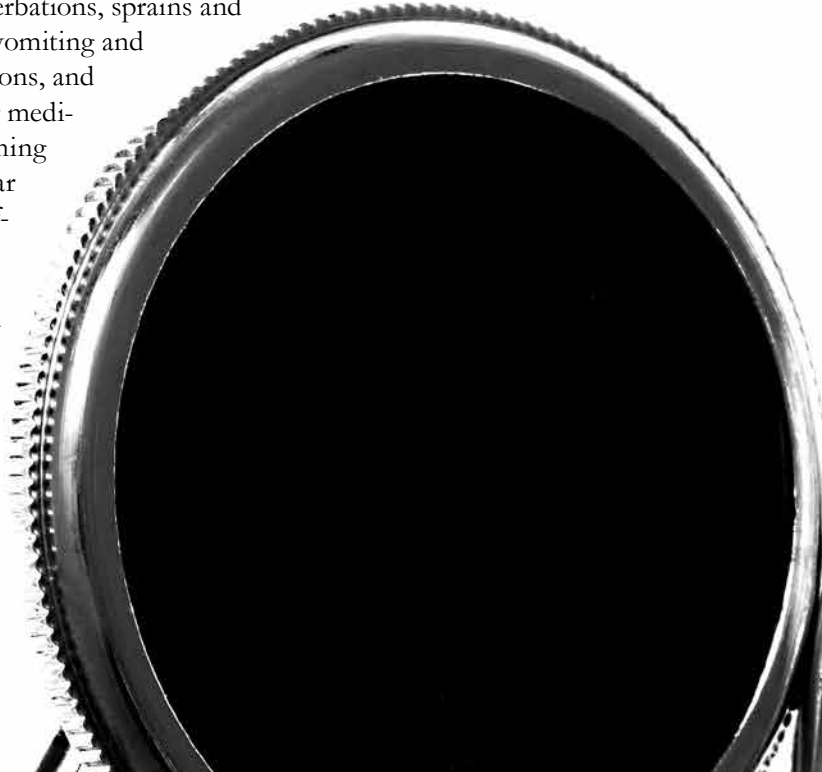
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The Platt Park People's Association is a Registered Neighbor-
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Platt Park Events Calendar

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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 & 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.

Buzzy Jackson Presents the Inspirational Athiest: Wise Words on the Wonder and Meaning of Life

Saturday, April 11, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Award-winning and highly acclaimed local author Buzzy Jackson will share insights from her new book, *The Inspirational Athiest: Wise Words on the Wonder and Meaning of Life*, a celebration of the sublime without the divine. Come with your questions and get ready to be inspired!

Chamber Music Concert, Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.

Various amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society perform a wide range of classical works for the public. Held the third Saturday of each month, September through May, at the Decker Branch Library. No registration is required.

Chamber Music Concert, Saturday, May 16, 2 p.m.

Various amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society perform a wide range of classical works for the public. Held the third Saturday of each month, September through May, at the Decker Branch Library. No registration is required.

Active Minds Presents:

Marijuana in Colorado

Saturday, May 23, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

In 2012, Colorado voters approved Amendment 64,

which legalized marijuana for recreational use.

Now the Colorado Legislature is in the process of implementing this amendment to the state constitution. At the same time, marijuana use remains a violation of Federal law and those authorities are still weighing their options regarding this change in Colorado state law. Join Active Minds as we delve into the background of this unfolding story.

Platt Park Parents Events:

Mom's Nights Out - April 16th, May 21st, June 18th

Dad's Nights Out - April 30th, May 28th, June 25th

For more information visit www.plattparkparents.com


Mayor Michael Hancock's Cabinet in the Community:

April 18th 2015

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May 9th 2015


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Tom & Denise Snyder



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