

PLATT PARK *Post*

The Official Newsletter of
Platt Park People's Association
Oct./Nov. 2018
www.3pa.org

HEARSE SIGHTINGS AT PLATT PARK

For those who were around Platt Park between about 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, you may have encountered a "gaggle" of hearses of various vintages and adornments parked along the South Logan side of the park. This was a gathering of participants in HearseCon 2018, which is organized each year by the Denver Hearse Association (part of the National Hearse and Ambulance Association). These organizations encourage active ownership of hearses. "They are driven, enjoyed, and used because they are cars." From the hearse club's website, "Our cars aren't trailer queens that sit in a garage 340 days a year."



HearseCon participants have been gathering at Platt Park on a Friday evening in early June for awhile now. The number of participants in HearseCon 2018 was the largest it has ever been. Participants in the 2018 event arrived from states as diverse as Washington, Texas, Arkansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, joining our large Colorado contingent.

HearseCon activities were spread over 4 days at various venues in the Denver area. This year's event began with a Thursday night

drive-in movie in Commerce City, followed by the Platt Park gathering and dinner in Aurora on Friday. Saturday was the big day with the Decay and Shine Hearse Show, also in Aurora. On Sunday, there was a wrap up party followed by hearse returning to their home bases.

For more information on the Denver Hearse Association and HearseCon (including how to get involved), visit <http://www.hearseclub.com/about/about.htm>.



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.

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Ann Michelle Hill
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Call for Contributions!

The Platt Park Post is always looking for new articles and neighborhood updates. If you are a Platt Park resident interested in writing an article, please email Lauren Slawson: lslawsonfreelance@gmail.com

Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

Some people consult the Farmers Almanac to see what the coming winter holds. In October, I find it easier to just check the temperature of your takeout fries from Park Burger by the time you walk home. Based on that bit of scientific data we are in for a cold-fries, wintery season around here, so best stock up on whatever keeps you warm at night.

So much is happening around the neighborhood right now that I can't possibly get to it all, but here is my stab at it.

So the owners of Euro Crepes on Broadway, Mehdi and Crystal Mdouari evidently decided that their successful endeavor was not keeping them sufficiently busy so they opened a sister restaurant, **The Waffle Place**, just up the street. Taking over the space of the short-lived Vietnamese restaurant Fee Fi Pho Fum (1384 S. Broadway) The Waffle Place is hard to miss with its bright Belgian-flag themed colors of black, yellow, and red.

I sat down with Crystal who explained they did not want to stray too far from their wheelhouse of crepes, so the idea of Belgian waffles seemed to fit the bill. The new menu is a playful combination of primarily sweet or savory waffle sandwiches filled with creative and interesting ingredients. You'll likely find the size of these sandwiches to be a bit intimidating if you are a light eater, but fear not. You can order a half sandwich as an alternative. They also offer an item of their own creation: Waffle Dogs. These are essentially waffles on a stick that might contain various combinations of yummy ingredients but with the convenience of a stick. Food technology meets waffles—amazing. I tried the "Luik" which was melted cheese, jalapenos, and a crispy waffle wrapped around a stick, which I very much enjoyed on my walk home, thank you. There is a small seating area to sit in and enjoy, or you may have your order prepared to go.

Right now hours of operation are daily Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, but as Crystal shared, they will be listening to feedback and may increase hours over time. A fun new addition to the neighborhood!

Looking for more reasons to wander over to our neighborhood's western boundary? You might want to stop into our newest addition to the microbrewery community, **Dos Luces** located at 1236 S. Broadway. The colorfully lit brewery is owned by Judd Belstock. Judd has worked in the beer industry for many years starting at Coors out in Golden then moving to the Boulder Brewery.

Judd became excited to try something completely new in brewing due to his father's roots of working for the Peace Corp in Peru. As Judd explained, most all beer we drink has European roots and is brewed from barley and hops but there are ancient traditions in South America of making beer from corn. Dos Luces offers two primary types of corn-based beer, Pulque and Chica. Chica is a purely corn based beer that tends towards a sweet flavor. Pulque adds Maguey nectar to the mix. Maguey is of the agave family, and it creates a sweet and sour component to the brew. I'm sure I'm greatly oversimplifying things but definitely no Coors Lite here. You'll find both styles of beer to be unique and a very interesting departure from more traditional brews.

Judd designed Dos Luces to be a community space with intimate seating areas as well as large "brewers tables" where many can join and share a pitcher. There are non-alcoholic options so the whole family can stop on in. They are open Tuesday-Thursday from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. They open at noon on weekends. You can also check them out at DosLuces.com.

Some big changes are coming to the corner of Louisiana and Pearl Street in the next couple months. We'll dig in (literally) once they open but here's a quick preview. Taking over the space of the much-loved Village Cork is **Chook Charcoal Chicken**. What makes this endeavor particularly intriguing is that the project is the creation of recent 2018 James Beard Award winner Alex Seidel and Snooze's co-founder Adam Schlegel. For foodies, Alex is the well-known creator of both Mercantile and Fruition, two of Denver's perennially top-ranked restaurants. The idea behind Chook is to create a fast and casual chicken joint with meat and produce sourced from high-quality Colorado farmers. Beer, wine, and cocktails will also be available. In mid-September I stuck my head in and chatted with the project manager. His best guess then was later this fall for opening.

Also coming late fall in the former space of Aiko Pops (1284 S. Pearl St) is **Hoja** the new project of Ben Susnick. You may not know Ben, but if you frequent the Farmers Market then likely you've seen or tried his creations at the Base Camp Provisions food truck—the one that looks a bit like an ambulance (because it is). Ben has wanted for some time to have a brick and mortar location to go along with his foot truck so when Aiko decided to vacate, Ben jumped at the location. The menu promises to have a similar carryover theme of fresh ingredients, but Ben will be building on what has worked so well in his truck. Ben amused that his construction budget is not quite what the folks at Chook are working with, but he promises a cozy fun place to drop in and enjoy a bite. We'll look forward to checking it out later this fall.

Side note for fans of **Aiko Pops**: they are still around, just moving to a yet-to-be-determined location.

Been a lot of questions about the City of Denver's **Neighborhood Sidewalk Repair Program** that was recently started. I've got good news and bad news. First the bad news—the city ordinance states, "Denver property owners are responsible for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to their properties." This means if your sidewalk is a potholed, trip-hazard of a moonscape then the city is going to come and fix it for you and then send you the bill (with various payment options). The good news is we are designated as Zone 5, which probably means they will not get to us for a few years, so definitely not time to get too worked up about anything. Visit Denvergov.org for all the details. If you want to get a jump on things you can certainly fix it yourself and the website has a guide for that.

We'll catch you up on the rest of the happenings in our holiday issue! Stay warm.

See you around the neighborhood.

Tom Snyder



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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.

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Car Break-Ins in Platt Park

PREVENTION TIPS FROM A DENVER PATROL OFFICER

By Lauren Slawson

It was 8:00 am on a quiet Tuesday morning when I got into my car and noticed something was wrong. The signs weren't obvious. Nothing was broken. The only possessions I ever keep in my car were still there—my dog's travel bed, a pair of back-up glasses, an emergency battery charger, and a winter coat. If I hadn't had my morning coffee, I might not have noticed that anything was different. What sent the alarm bells off was that the floor mats were askew, my glove compartment was slightly open, and there was a shred of what looked like a candy wrapper discarded in the driver's seat. It didn't automatically click that I'd been the victim of a car break-in. That sort of thing just didn't happen in neighborhoods like Platt Park.

When I called the police department to report a non-emergency crime, the first question they asked was if anything was broken or stolen. I said no. Eventually I had to admit that I hadn't locked my car doors the previous night. Looking back, I like to believe that the officer chose not to inform me that this was both a careless and crime-encouraging mistake because he could already hear the mousy tone of shame in my voice. In any case, I learned a big lesson that day. Rule #1 for not getting your car broken into: Lock your car.

As a fairly new resident, I was curious how rare or commonplace this particular crime was in the Platt Park neighborhood. It turns out the statistics on this offense are not insignificant.

According to the Denver Police Department Crime Statistics and Maps (denvergov.org), there have been 77 instances of property theft from motor vehicles in the Platt Park neighborhood so far in 2018. That is more than twice the number of instances recorded in 2017, and nearly double those of Wash Park this year. This was shocking considering our wide, neatly groomed streets and well-lit sidewalks.

In an effort to learn more about how to prevent this crime from happening in our neighborhood, I reached out to the District 3 Denver Police Department (Evans Ave.) and spoke with a patrol officer to learn more. She asked to remain anonymous, but her message was clear: car break-ins are crimes of opportunity.



Prevention tips:

Lock your vehicle.

Refrain from leaving valuables in your vehicle. Criminals are more likely to choose your car if they can see something worth stealing.

Roll your windows up before leaving your vehicle unattended.

Arm your vehicle with a car alarm. If the alarm is broken, get it fixed.

Choose busier places to park your vehicle. A street is better than an ally. The more public eyes on the vehicle, the safer it is.

Remember to close your garage door at night.

These precautions may seem like no brainers, but they can easily be forgotten when life gets busy. Stay vigilant, and don't be a target!

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Denver Police Department District 3

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Voting Hours: Tue, Nov 6: 7 am - 7 pm
Early Voting Hours: Oct 22-26: 10 am - 6 pm;
Sat, Oct 27: 10 am - 2 pm; Mon, Oct 29 - Nov 2: 10 am - 6 pm;
Sat, Nov 3: 10 am - 2 pm Mon, Nov 5: 10 am - 6 pm
Drop-off Location Hours: Fri, Oct 19: 12:00 am - Tue, Nov 6: 7 pm

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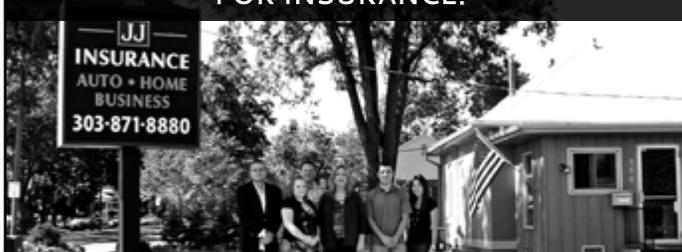
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A Note on Nasty-Weather Reading

Hi, neighbors!

With its diving temperatures and icy sidewalks, I've always found the holiday season to be a great time to restock my bookshelves with the year's newest releases. I'll reluctantly admit that what I *really* need to do is purge my collection, but I can tell you with absolute certainty that will never happen in this reality or the next, and I'm sure some of you can relate.

In my house, curling up on the couch with a good story and hot mug of cocoa is the favored alternative to watching Netflix while sleet and rain pound the windows outside. I always say that a book is the cheapest vacation you can go on, and what better time to take advantage of this than winter? If you're looking for a way to entertain the whole family, and want to decrease screen time, there are several bookstores in the area that you and your loved ones can visit. Of course, you can also have a book delivered to your doorstep in 24 hours through Amazon, but why miss out on the opportunity to explore and discover with the whole family? Lucky for us, these shops are only a stone's throw away from the neighborhood:

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If you're not looking to buy books, there are a couple of ways to enjoy nasty-weather reading without draining your wallet. You can visit our local library (Decker Branch Library at 1501 S. Logan, Denver, CO 80210) to catch up on all your favorite authors Matilda-style. You can stop by one of the dozens of Little Free Libraries perched around the community and enjoy titles generously passed on by your awesome neighbors. Or, if you like, feel free to reach out to me for a friendly book swap (especially if you have a proclivity for fiction!).

I hope that this is helpful information for those of you who are new additions to the community and a welcome reminder to those of you who are seasoned residents.

Until next time—stay warm, and happy reading!

Lauren



Is That a *Teal* Pumpkin?

Yup, that's a teal pumpkin. If you see these gourds with some sort of teal indication that's a sign the treats are safe from common allergens. The Teal Pumpkin Project is raising awareness of food allergies and promoting inclusion of all trick-or-treaters throughout the Halloween season. This could be a safe haven for those trick-or-treaters who fear the tricks Halloween goodies could play on them. If you are a house that serves these safe treats, please let the little ones know. As a parent of a Celiac, teal pumpkins are a welcome sign. For information see: <https://www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/teal-pumpkin-project>



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

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

Imagination Station, Thurs. and Fri. 3:00-5:30 p.m.

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Friday, November 30th 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. &

Saturday, December 1st 11 a.m. - 5p.m.

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SOUTH PEARL STREET FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

First Friday of every month, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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