

# PLATT PARK *Post*

The Official Newsletter of  
Platt Park People's Association  
May / June 2020  
[www.3pa.org](http://www.3pa.org)



## A Global Pandemic in Our Own Small Neighborhood

by *Nora Weiser*

Since mid-March, we have largely been in our homes. Insular by necessity, we have been focused on our own daily needs. This time apart from friends, neighbors, colleagues, and the broader world has afforded us a unique opportunity to appreciate how very important our community is. We do our best to recreate connection with Zoom happy hours and old school phone calls, but the reality is that we need each other. The many benefits of living in Platt Park are merely highlighted by the fact that so many of those benefits have temporarily been lost.

This pandemic has also laid bare the disparity that exists not only around the globe, but even within our own small neighborhood. For some, this time has been a break from the daily rat race and constant pressures of a fast-paced life. Challenges and inconveniences and losses are measured in the delays of grocery deliveries, concern over toilet paper supplies, navigating remote work while keeping the kids' schooling on track, and the cancellation of summer vacations. For others, it has been a time of stress and struggle. Jobs lost, long lines at food pantries, the inability to make rent payments, losing businesses, and for some, being trapped at home in difficult or even dangerous situations. As much as this virus does not discriminate when selecting victims, it has shown us how much we often unknowingly ignore differences that are uncomfortable for us to face.

What we've also seen is an understanding, appreciation, and capacity for caring that extends around the globe, and is evident in our own small neighborhood. People step aside when walking around Wash Park to respect social distancing. Masks are worn not just for self-protection, but to protect the more vulnerable around us. Neighbors share recipes, sourdough starters, and home-sewn cloth masks. Volunteers donate essential items to those in need and run errands for high risk neighbors. Schools ensure a level playing field so all students have the technology tools needed to stay engaged, and they continue to provide meals for kids who rely on them. We celebrate the very people who in the past often went not only uncelebrated, but unappreciated. The farmers, grocery store clerks, warehouse workers, and shelf stockers. The delivery drivers and mail carriers. The teachers and shopkeepers and independent restaurant owners. The nurses, doctors, and front-line medical personnel. We have shifted our definition of "essential," and can be stronger as a community if we keep this new definition forever in mind.

And we all wonder, "what's next?" How do we avoid falling back into our old ways, and use this shared experience to come out stronger and better and more interconnected now that we have seen just how interconnected we truly are. While tackling all of the world's ills is overwhelming, doing little

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)

For all 3PA and Platt Park Post communications email: [Board@3PA.org](mailto:Board@3PA.org)

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### **This Month's Contributors:**

Jen Grauer  
Tom Snyder  
Nora Weiser

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## Neighborhood Notes

In my fifteen-plus years of writing this column there has certainly never been a time like this in our nation and in Platt Park. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, life will have taken a step back towards normalcy—or at least whatever the new normal will be. I hope you and those you hold dear have come through this difficult season healthy, and have not endured too much trauma on any level. Our hearts go out to any who have suffered loss during this time, I'm sure that has been most difficult. Special thanks to all who have served during this time. There really are no words to properly express our collective gratitude to all of those whose job it is to serve and protect the rest of us. I'm sure none of us will ever fully appreciate the difference you've made. Thanks to our community for pulling together to do the daily things, big and small, that also have made a difference, like staying home, wearing masks, and practicing distancing. And, all the parents who suddenly found themselves locked up with restless kids 24/7, you deserve some kind of hero badge for that.

There have been some things I've really loved and appreciated during this time. I'm sure you have your list but here is mine:

- Less traffic. OMG that has been amazing. Just standing in my yard I feel like I live in the country or something. Silence like I've never heard around here. Did anybody else just delight in driving up and down I-25 at the speed limit never touching the breaks during 'rush hour'—or was that just me?
- More kindness and thoughtfulness. Sure, there were the occasional less than pleasant stories we heard about, but from my experience we were all more polite, courteous, and thoughtful to one another. This shared crisis seemed to bring out the best in us. I loved the stories of people volunteering to help others, from grocery runs to sharing that most precious of commodities, toilet paper. You guys are awesome!
- Platt Park always feels like a community, but somehow through this we all just became more neighborly, I think. It was great at all hours of the day to see people out walking around, stopping to talk to each other (with proper distancing of course), just enjoying the 'hood and each other. It was probably a lot more what I picture it looked like around here 100 years ago.

- The feeling of anonymity when wearing my mask buying candy and potato chips at Whole Foods.
- Lastly, I have loved the slower pace of life. In my line of work as a realtor, April is normally a hectic time. I appreciated not having to feel so rushed. I did more yard work—check out my weeds—gone!! I even found it okay to sleep in a bit, watch Tiger King, read a little more, and get creative in the kitchen. I'm not sure I want to go back to the old pace so much.

That's my list. I hope you found some silver linings to all of this as well. We will all be working through some challenges in the coming months but here's hoping all the good will linger long after all this is done.

Well, COVID-19 certainly slowed things down, but not to a standstill. Change still managed to happen on various fronts around here. Here are a few things you'll notice as you emerge from your isolation chamber.

Pasquini's is gone and in its place is **Tikka & Grill** on the corner of South Broadway and Louisiana. The owners were planning on being open by spring but things obviously got derailed a bit. The goal now is to open as soon as our current situation allows. Tikka & Grill will feature 'Indian and



*Tikka & Grill*

*Continued on page 3*

## Neighborhood Notes, *cont. from page 2*

Nepali' cuisine, but it would be unfair for me to speculate exactly what that is so I'll get back to you. Tikka will be open for buffet style lunch each day then offer a full menu in the evenings. The restaurant will have a full bar plus both inside and patio seating. Broadway and Louisiana has become quite the international food court with Adelitas, Maria Empanada, GB Fish and Chips, and now Tikka covering four continents.

Just up the street at 1229 S. Broadway is **Joy Hill**, a new bar, lounge, and wood-fired pizza restaurant that opened March 2nd. The décor in the newly renovated building is warm and inviting. The bar area has a fireplace and an assortment of couches, tables, and seating around the bar. The rest of the restaurant space is set aside for dining. There is an amazing outdoor patio on the second floor with great views of the mountains. It will be a fun place to hang out on summer nights—hopefully soon.



*Joy Hill Bar*

The menu features “wood-fired, naturally-leavened pizza featuring local ingredients and house-made mozzarella” according to their website at JoyhillDenver.com. At the time of this writing they are offering takeout starting at 4:00 p.m. each day. Orders for pickup can be placed online or by phone at 303-954-8784. Joy Hill looks to be a tasty fun addition to the neighborhood.

High on my list of things I've wanted to see in Platt Park has been a small market that has interesting and fun food items reflective of what we can find at the farmers market, so it was with great intrigue I learned about **Ruby's Market** at 1569 S Pearl Street that was set to open right before the Virus hit. Ruby's hints that it will become a multicultural artisan and food destination—you have my attention. Currently Ruby's is partnering with the Pearl Street Farmers Market vendors to create an online ordering collective. You can go online now at RubysMarketDenver.com to place an order which can be picked up, fittingly, on Sundays in the alley behind the store.

I can't wait to bump into you once again at the Farmers Market or share a margarita at Uno Mas. Hopefully those days are soon to be upon us. Stay safe, healthy, and hopefully by the next edition of the Post much of this will be in the rearview mirror.



See you around the neighborhood,

*Tom Snyder*

### HELP THE PLATT PARK POST

To reduce costs and keep the volunteer-run *Post* going during the current pandemic, we need your help! We need volunteers to deliver the *Post* to neighbors. If you can spare 30 minutes to help, and would enjoy getting out for a walk and some fresh air, please email [Board@3PA.org](mailto:Board@3PA.org) with subject:

“I Want to Help the Post!”

# Haikus from Quarantine

.....

We all share this storm  
But our boats are different  
Some strong, some battered

A bottle of wine  
Some good cheese and fresh-baked bread  
Pandemic Dinner

Essential workers  
At risk, yet still hard at work  
Tip well and often

Don't worry about  
Who is "too big to fail", but  
Who's "too small to fail"

Wealth means family  
Wealth means health and a safe home  
And toilet paper

Homeschooling my kids  
Makes me appreciate why  
Teachers went on strike

We are all mourning  
Lost moments, events, and trips  
And sadly, lost lives

Our world has been struck  
Our lives have been upended  
Our days have emptied

We stay together  
By staying apart. So we  
Can stay together

Those who live alone  
And now are isolated  
Need you to reach out

Be patient. Be kind.  
Don't give up and don't give in.  
Time will set you free.

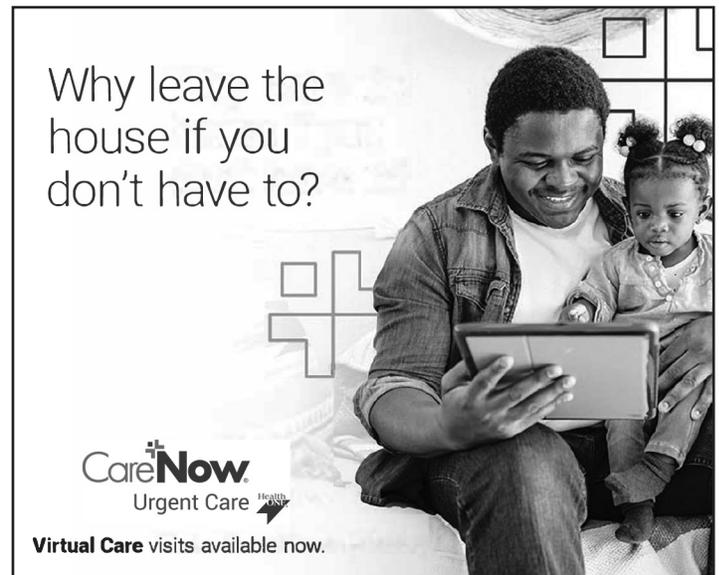
Every night at eight  
Neighborhood howling erupts  
We are all one pack

Our Prohibition  
Lasted two hours, and we  
Must never forget.

Condolences to  
The Class of 2020  
For all they have lost

We each sacrifice  
To protect those around us—  
Loved ones and strangers

Science is science  
Opinion does not sway it  
Viruses don't care



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# Global Pandemic, *cont.*

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things in our own small neighborhood can bring back the community we love, and strengthen the very things we all value about living here. If we don't take these steps as we emerge from our cocoons, we risk losing more than a few months in quarantine; we could lose the very character of Platt Park and its unique sense of community.

Retail, restaurants, and service industries have been hard hit. If we want to see the small businesses we love survive, we need to put our money where our mouths are. Dine out at any of the great restaurants on S. Pearl St. or S. Broadway. Grab a coffee and pastry at Stella's, Steam, Corvus, Duffeyroll, or Tokyo Premium Bakery. Book a massage or a haircut, pick up a new outfit, or add to your art collection – when you head out into the world again, think local first. Support all the independent businesses in our own small neighborhood who make up the diverse South Pearl Street Merchants Association ([southpearlstreet.com](http://southpearlstreet.com)) and South Broadway's Antique Row Merchants Association ([antique-row.com](http://antique-row.com)). For those of us who can, let's support these businesses who have supported our neighborhood for so long. Small businesses are the first to donate to school auctions, support local non-profits, and give back to the community. Soon it will be our turn to return the favor, unasked. Every penny you spend locally is a penny that shows our community's commitment to Platt Park. The key part of our own small neighborhood is that is indeed ours, and its fate is in our hands.

## Connect with 3PA!

Interested in getting connected with 3PA? "LIKE" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/plattpark3pa](http://www.facebook.com/plattpark3pa) or sign up for email notifications on [www.3PA.org](http://www.3PA.org), to get updates on events, meetings and news from around the neighborhood and city.



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# Platt Park Green Team Needs You

by Jen Grauer

Our neighborhood is such a wonderful place to live! Are you passionate about recycling/composting, organic turf in our parks for kids and dogs, saving the pollinators, greener gardening and local food, reducing plastic/zero waste? Put your passion into action by joining the Platt Park Green Team! Contact our neighborhood association 3PA to join via their online form at [www.3pa.org/contact-us](http://www.3pa.org/contact-us). Let them know what you are passionate about and your ideas for helping.



## PLATT PARK GREEN TEAM TIPS

The grass is green and the days are warm. As responsible neighbors, we want to maintain our property and sometimes that includes culling the weeds. Did you know that some weeds, including the infamous dandelion, can be beneficial?

Did you know...

- Dandelions bring nutrients to surrounding trees via their deep roots, which helps your trees grow more efficiently and effectively.
- Dandelions are one of the first sources of food for bees and butterflies, helping to sustain the pollinators, which in turn helps our gardens grow more abundantly.

- People who are allergic to ragweed and related plants (daisies, chrysanthemums, marigolds) are likely to be allergic to dandelion. For those without allergies, dandelion is otherwise completely safe, even for kids and pets. In fact, the greens are often sold in grocery stores!\* These dark green leafy veggies contain vitamin A, C, K, E, folate, iron, calcium, magnesium and potassium...they are a powerhouse of nutrients for salads, smoothies, braising, and more!

To prevent dandelions from realizing their dream of world domination...

- Use a weed “gun” to pop dandelions out without having to bend over. Have an older neighbor? Burn a few extra calories and pop theirs out too while singing, “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood...”
- Go urban foraging and snap off those yellow flower heads into your basket (before they go to seed). Go online to look up your favorite way to use them...tea, wine, battered and fried, jellied, pickled, and more!

REMEMBER all the chemicals we spray directly on weeds or apply as “weed and feed” to kill the weeds also kill our pollinators and end up polluting our own drinking water.

\*Of course, only eat dandelion flowers and greens that you know are from chemical free yards. If you have a chemical free yard—or would like to learn how to be chemical-free while maintaining a beautiful property—reach out to our neighbor Joyce with People & Pollinators. Mention this article to Joyce and receive a free sign for your yard (maybe neighbors will forage your dandelions for you!) and a \$10 donation to protecting the pollinators will be made in your name!

Each of us, individually and together, can make choices to create a healthier and more beautiful community!



# Platt Park Events Calendar

## Next 3PA General Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for June 16 at Fellowship Denver Church  
1990 S. Broadway, 6:30-8:30 pm BUT, check the 3PA website  
(3pa.org) for updates, including cancellation.

## Upcoming 3PA General Meetings

The 3PA Board meets 2 times each quarter, if you are interested in  
attending a board meeting, please send an email to Board@3pa.org  
to request to attend and to get the date, time and location.

## DECKER LIBRARY EVENTS

1501 S. Logan St. 720-865-0220, [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

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In person library events may be canceled for the time being, but  
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