

PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

OCT./NOV. 2016

WWW.3PA.ORG

Post



South High School Engages the Community



South High School is fully committed to our community! Community building is central to the mission at Denver South High School. South is proud to serve the greater Wash Park community.

South held our first nationally recognized 241 Athletic Summer Camp along with our soccer camp that provided athletic opportunities for children grades 3 through 9. We had very positive feedback from the students and parents who were involved in the camps. South also provides a Trick or Treat Street (this year on October 26th) for elementary-aged children to help provide a safe and fun Halloween event for children from preschool through elementary school. Our own students help to organize and entertain our guests from games, to face painting to prizes and candy. We also welcome our community to come to our Showcase Night in which 8th grade parents and current 8th grade students can learn

more about South. We welcome other members of our community to also attend and meet our new principal, Jen Hanson. Jen comes to us with a world of knowledge and experience from teaching in the classroom, supervising instruction, coordinating college prep courses and training teacher leaders.

We also welcome our community to attend such events as our Homecoming Football Game (Friday, October 14th at 7:00 pm) which is full of excitement, our Art and Theatre productions, movie nights and more! South boasts of over 30 community partnerships which come alongside us and provide enrichment, job opportunities, career speakers, job shadowing, and much more! It is our neighbors that help keep South growing strong and one of the best high schools in all of Denver. If your organization or business would like to be a partner with us, please contact us! Come and visit us!

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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This Month's Contributors:

Tom Snyder

Mariah Raymond

James Lindberg

Jen Hanson

Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

Transition and change are words, it seems that will always be associated with Platt Park. There is a part in all of us that want, for the most part things to remain exactly as they were when we came to this beloved corner of the world and it can ruffle our feathers when something changes—agreed. But alas changes are as inevitable as the march of time itself. Of course there are some changes we almost universally love—the sale and pending leveling of the Broadway Motel—to name one. Others pretty much are derided—the new apartments on the 1400 block of Pearl. Some things we can influence if we pull together, others we can only watch as people exercise their rights as owners. In the end however Platt Park still survives quite nicely as one of the best places in Denver to call home I think.

If you are looking for ways to swing that influence then here are a couple good places to start: Contacting our City Councilman Jolon Clark at 720-337-7777 or Jolon.clark@denvergov.org. Jolon is not a miracle worker but he's a good listener and seems to genuinely care about things around here. The other is get involved in **The Platt Park Peoples Association**. I've been amazed over the years at the collective body of influence for good this organization has had. Again no miracles but it is a voice that gets heard. Failing all that I suppose you can just jump on nextdoor.com and rant a little.

So being that change is inevitable let's get you up on some of the latest changes happening around here.

If you've ever tried to find a table at your favorite coffee shop then you know it can be a challenge at times. Well enter **Nixon's Coffee House** to the rescue. Located in the Washington Park Apartments ground floor (corner of Louisiana and Washington Street), Nixon's offers plenty of space to meet friends, do a little work or just sip your beverage as you watch the world pass by. Nixon's is a small Denver chain maybe best known for their location at Hudson Gardens along the Platte River. They specialize, of course in coffee drinks but also carry a wide range of other beverages such as Kombucha on tap and a coffee-ish beverage called Venetian Coffee—quite yummy. They have their own brand of packaged food called Share Good Food that features Panini's, sandwiches, and salads, along with daily fresh-baked goods. The décor is pleasant with large rollup garage-door type windows that on a warm day make the entire space feel like a big patio -- a great new addition to the neighborhood.

Side note: How can tell if someone is not from neighborhood? Ask them to spell Platt Park. If they throw the 'e' on the end of Platt you know you are dealing with an outsider—but that's okay, we all made the mistake before.

After 11 successful years **The Black Pearl** closed its doors. The owners decided that it was time for a change so rather than just move on they intend to reinvent the space into a new restaurant concept. In their own words,

"After 11 great years we will be closed for a few weeks while we revamp the restaurant for our new food & drink gathering spot. In partnership with friends, neighbors, and our fellow local restaurateur, we have an exciting new concept for our location. We look forward to our new endeavor and continuing to offer all of our friends a friendly, welcoming home away from home. We want to thank you for a great ride and well relish the memories of Black Pearl forever" Well said and stay tuned.

Met up with Jenn Mena-Wenstrom, the general manager of the soon to be **Suerte Restaurant** located in the former home of Sessions Kitchen (1518 S Pearl). At the time of this writing construction was in full swing with a projected opening of mid to late October. Chef Dana Rodriguez, creator of the popular Work & Class restaurant (2500 Larimer Street) along with consulting chef Vinny Sosa will be creating the new menu, which will feature Latin American cuisine. I inquired about the latter and Jenn said such is not to be confused with traditional Mexican fare but will feature dishes drawn from Central American down to Argentina (Tacos to Paella). Sounds interesting! The interior looks to still be recognizable from the past but with Latin flair. Suerte will be open for dinner with an eventual brunch offering in the near future. We will look forward to giving you a full report in the next issue.

There is a semblance of a road and intersection emerging at Mississippi and Broadway now—thank goodness. Good news is Phase 1 is 85% complete. Bad news is there are five more phases to go. Full completion is scheduled for summer of 2017. But anything is an improvement over the crater filled mess that section has been recently.

The 4.37-acre parcel located just to the east of Sprouts Market (201 E Mississippi) has now been officially sold to San Francisco-based Carmel Partners. The current plans are to add 400 residential units. With that sale almost the entire east Gates campus has been developed or will soon be. Projects are also moving forward on the west campus but are still in the early development phase. No date has been set by Carmel Partners for starting construction.

Okay that's what I know for now around here. Enjoy the last few Farmers Markets. They've been great as usual. Fun things are in the works for the holidays. Have fun with the leaves. Go Broncos.

See you around the neighborhood.

Tom Snyder



Tom & Denise Snyder

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Artist Profile: Harrington Gallery

By Mariab Raymond

When Artists Chris and Dan Harrington saw the “for rent” sign while walking past Susan Bell’s gallery on South Pearl last April, they jumped at the opportunity. The space provided some answers they’d been seeking—how to display their often large scale artwork and the work of other artists while engaging with the Platt Park neighborhood community. Though they purchased their duplex on South Pennsylvania in 2010, they became full time residents a year ago when they’re oldest child left for college. Dan fell in love with the neighborhood in the 1970’s when he befriended the son-in-law of Shirley Beaird, owner of Murder By the Book (the house is now BodyIntel). He has kept his eye on the area ever since, biding his time to move here permanently.

The updated gallery has a clean, contemporary feel and offers an alternative to some of the more traditional galleries on the street. Dan, a multimedia artist, and Chris, a photographer, hang their work—rotated on a quarterly basis—in the main gallery and hope to display the work of other artists in their sister space across the street at Mark Shanstrom’s Old South Frame and Gallery in the near future. Their plan is to display the work of emerging artists to “give them a shot” in the often demoralizing world of gallery representation.

Dan received his BFA from Metro State University in Denver. After graduating, he found the process of lugging slides of his work around to show galleries discouraging, and, realizing he was “not passionate about being broke,” decided to pursue an MBA. He started a business in software and marketing for a mortgage company in 1995, and when the market crashed in 2008, Dan and Chris took the company private, often working 100-hour weeks. However, Dan continued with art projects on the side, hoping one day to have the chance to devote himself to creative pursuits full time. And that time has come. Now that their company is more self-sufficient, they have the opportunity to shift their focus to art.

Stop by and check out Chris’s photo triptych of palm fronds in Antigua and Dan’s experimental photographs of



water boxes, old-fashioned television static, Ping-Pong balls and speaker wire. They’re considering donating after cost profits to a charity of their choice, possibly one supporting arts programs in schools. Their largest work-in-progress is the gallery itself, which they consider to be in an “explorative state.”

The gallery is also available for events, such as cocktail and

dinner parties. And, on First Fridays, they offer the “3Ws”—whiskey, wine and water—and provide delicious hors d’oeuvres from Uno Mas, the hot taco joint just a few doors south. Hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, from 5 to 9pm, or you can call to schedule an appointment. While the web site is under construction, check out their Instagram account at @harringtongallery, or call Dan and Chris at 303-390-1588.



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Business Profile: Nixon's Coffee House

By James Lindberg

This summer, Nixon's Coffee House opened a new location on the corner of Washington St. and Louisiana Ave., adding to the already rich variety of coffee shops and eateries in our neighborhood. Nixon's Platt Park location is their fourth, complementing locations in Englewood, Hudson Gardens, and the Denver Seminary. The new coffee house features a Modbar espresso brewing system, which is built into the countertop and allows for a high level of control over the brewing process. I spoke with co-owners Brad and Caren Nixon about their reasons for locating in Platt Park, their plans for the new location, and their ideas about community space and coffee brewing.

James Lindberg: Tell me a little about yourself and your business. How did you end up deciding to open a coffee shop business?

Brad Nixon: Before getting into the coffee shop business, I was working in the technology industry. I found myself spending a lot of time in coffee shops, and I developed a taste for the kinds of coffee I enjoyed. In 2007, an opportunity arose to help our church open a coffee shop. At first, I was just helping with the business side of things, but slowly began to get involved in the entire operation. I found that I really liked it, especially the idea of creating a place where people could connect as a community. We opened our first location in Englewood in 2011, and soon after we opened the Hudson Gardens location along the Platt River Trail.

Caren Nixon: I am a very people-oriented person, and I loved the idea of creating a safe space where people could be a part of a community. Seeing people make connections with one another through our business is really a wonderful thing, and I strongly believe that place has a very important role to play in creating healthy communities.

JL: What drew you to Platt Park and the Pearl St. area? What makes this area unique from other neighborhoods in the city?

BN: In a way, it just felt right, and we were really drawn to the sense of community along Pearl St. and throughout the neighborhood. We also really liked being in a Transit Oriented Development (TOD), directly across the street from the Light Rail Station. Our Englewood location is also in a TOD, and that has worked well for us.

JL: While you are located directly off Pearl St., and right across the street from the Light Rail station, your corner is heavily trafficked by cars. Is this a challenge to you? Do you feel that you have a role in creating a more pedestrian-friendly corner?

BN: It is definitely busy, and unfortunately you have to be very careful when crossing the street. We would love to see a flashing crosswalk to alert drivers that there are a lot of pedestrians around. We are also looking into placing bike



racks out front. We need to work with the city on both of these issues. We have already placed dog leash posts next to the building so that people do not have to leave their dogs right next to the street.

CN: The other day a customer riding a bicycle asked where he could lock it up, and the nearest bike rack is across the street, so we definitely would like to put a bike rack out front.

JL: Over the past few years, Pearl St. has seen a number of new coffee shops and eateries open. What makes Nixon's special, and how do you see yourself participating in the business community on in the neighborhood?

BN: Our idea is that Nixon's is a true neighborhood place, where people feel that they can come and stay for a while. While coffee is our first priority, we are also working on getting a liquor license, and plan to offer beer and wine in the future. We certainly do not want to become a bar, but rather an all-day community space. We are also developing a new line of desserts that will pair well with all of the drinks we offer.

CN: The idea behind having a bar is that people coming home from work on the Light Rail can stop and enjoy a beer or glass of wine on their walk home. Say that you have to finish an email for work, you can come here and sit and relax instead of staying at the office longer.

JL: Where do you source your coffee?

BN: We get our coffee from Kaladi Coffee Roasters. They air roast their coffee, which provides more control over what kinds of flavors you get from the bean. It tends to produce a darker coffee, which we like.

JL: What are some of the things you deal with as coffee shop owners that might surprise people?

BN: Being small business owners, there are so many small things to take care of, and I spend a lot of time building and repairing appliances and furniture. People might be surprised to learn how much work there is to do in that regard.

CN: We have four children, and our family (including grandchildren) is very important to us. We are originally from Iowa, but have lived in Colorado for 32 years, so it really feels like home. Our family and our business really blend together.

JL: What is your favorite coffee drink?

CN: Americano.

BN: Espresso.



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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, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 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.

Couponing, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2-3p.m.

Learn tips for extreme savings with Authorized Couponing Instructor, Erin Lamberte.

Chamber Music Concert, Sat., Oct. 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.

Family Halloween Party, Sat., Oct. 29, 12-2 p.m.

Stop by in your Halloween costume and get some treats! Also, don't miss a family craft and spooky snack.

Easy Holiday Appetizers with Monica Kadillak, Monday, November 8, 6-7 p.m.

Holiday appetizers are a no-brainer thanks to fun and festive ideas from local catering expert Monica Kadillak.

Chamber Music Concert, Saturday, November 9, 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 and Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 17, 12-4 p.m.

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society. Light, festive refreshments will be provided beginning at 12 p.m. and the music performance will begin at 2 p.m.

3PA EVENTS:

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