



PLATT PARK POST

SPRING 2026

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Convict Coffee • Good Luck Club
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**SOUTH PEARL
STREET BEAT**
Every Issue!



NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES BY TOM SNYDER

Congratulations, we've made it through another winter, and spring is just around the corner. With that comes some fun new places to check out in the neighborhood. If your New Year's resolutions included getting out more, then you'll be glad to know there are three new spots ready to open their doors just in time for warmer weather, longer days, and that first patio espresso of the year. While South Pearl Street tends to get the lion's share of attention, these new arrivals are all found on the edges of our 'hood, but are well worth the journey.

Convict Coffee is opening at 1135 E. Evans, the former home of Boone's Tavern and Atticus. Billed as "coffee with a mission and a soundtrack," Convict isn't your usual quiet espresso spot. Founded by Dan Klehm, who has a powerful personal story of transformation, Convict Coffee started in Parker in 2024 and quickly built a loyal following with bold coffee, dirty sodas, fun drinks, and a vibe that leans as much into loud beats and oversized bar seating as it does into lattes.

What makes this outpost particularly fun and intriguing is its bar-like atmosphere... think games, good music, and community tables. It is very different from the "silent study spot" vibes of many a java joint. The menu includes espresso drinks, chai, matcha, breakfast burritos, grilled cheese, and baked goods, including gluten-free options. A core part of Dan's mission-driven business model is providing re-entry opportunities for people coming out of the system, along with pay equity for all employees.

Being that our neighborhood is dotted with the more quiet coffee hubs, Convict Coffee's louder, more social energy could be exactly what the Evans corridor needs. Whether you're grabbing a 6am chai before work or meeting friends for an afternoon dirty soda, this place aims to add personality to our coffee scene. As their website puts it, "Convict Coffee wasn't built in a boardroom. It was born in a cell, raised in a kitchen, and launched with a middle finger to the status quo." You can learn more at convictcoffeeco.com. And yes, there's free parking in the back.

Coming in just next door to Convict Coffee is **El Burrito y El Burrote**, a new Mexican concept from a local mother-daughter team. Yamilex Cruz and her mom, Maria Rojas, are bringing a fresh and genuine approach to Mexican grill favorites. Cruz is a Denver native, and her mom brings authentic northern Mexican culinary influence straight from her roots in Chihuahua. Cruz has spent her career in the food industry, most recently owning an eatery in Westminster and operating a food truck.

Said Cruz about the menu: "We're all about real Mexican flavor, with burritos and burrito bowls, quesabirrias, a cross between a taco and a quesadilla, with consomé, birria ramen, loaded fries, enchiladas, traditional street tacos, crispy chili rellenos,

and of course the classics like smothered burritos, chili cheese fries, and smothered Mexican hamburgers. Everything's made fresh and from scratch!"

Expected hours are from 6am to 6pm, with flexibility to grow once they settle into the rhythm of local demand. Sounds like a great option for that early breakfast burrito.

With these two new hangouts, along with Yemen Grill, which we wrote about last issue, it's great to see this little corner of Platt Park abuzz once again.

Moving over to the west side of the neighborhood is the **Good Luck Club**, a nostalgia-fueled bar opening at 1350 S. Broadway, next to Denver Ski Company. If coffee and Mexican food are the early birds of spring, the Good Luck Club looks like your night owl destination. Previews hint that this new bar is leaning into a Y2K and early-2000s throwback aesthetic, complete with big-box TVs, a Nintendo 64, classic games like Mario Kart and Tony Hawk, thrifted furniture, and a bold pink façade that may become a neighborhood landmark.



The vibe is intentionally nostalgic, like a hybrid between the quirky living room of your childhood and a laid-back cocktail bar, according to Westword. There will be TVs set up to play video-game classics, a dartboard area, and cozy seating designed to tie it all together. The Good Luck Club is part of the Pouring With Heart hospitality group, which also owns American Bonded in RiNo and Emerald Eye downtown, so this isn't just a one-off experiment. Its quirky nature feels like a perfect nod to South Broadway's funky, eclectic scene.

So whether it becomes a go-to for after-work drinks, casual weekend hangs, or birthday nights, it's definitely a concept worth checking out as winter thaws into spring. You can learn more at goodluckdenver.com.

Moving away from the restaurant scene and back over to Pearl Street, you may have noticed the new home of Venture Architecture on the corner of Mexico and Pearl. Venture has occupied that corner for over 20 years and wanted to create a new building that pays homage to the character and aesthetics of the neighborhood. The space was designed to offer additional workspace and desk rentals as well. Said Nathan Britko, director of operations, "We'd love to share our space with a few locals." Please see their ad elsewhere in this issue for more information.

And lastly, a quick update on the ever-on-going drama that is the Jewel Theater, 1912 S. Broadway. The owners have filed for bankruptcy in an effort to protect the property from foreclosure. Suffice it to say, we're probably not going to know the future of this building for some time as everything gets sorted out. Stay tuned.

See you around the neighborhood,

Tom Snyder



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Do you enjoy the neighborhood you live in?
Want to help maintain our neighborhood character?
Want to meet your neighbors through fun events and neighborhood forums? The Platt Park People's Association is a registered neighborhood organization with the City and County of Denver. The 3PA is notified directly by the city of various activities in the neighborhood.

LEARN HOW TO BE A MEMBER **FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**




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Visit www.3pa.org or email board@3pa.org



Monthly Climate Cafes

We meet in the Back Room at HOJA (1284 S Pearl St.) to support each other as we navigate the multi-layered reality our neighborhood.

Every 2nd Wednesday from 11:30am - 1:00pm

For more info contact Paddy McClelland:
720-300-0276 | paddy@verdedenver.com.



PLATT PARK
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION
3PA.ORG

Please join us for our second public quarterly meeting of 2026 on **April 21st at 6 PM** at **Cameron Church** located at 1600 South Pearl Street.

The Platt Park POSTCARD



The original owners, the Lowe family, pose in the parlor, now known as the living room.

The Platt Park Postcard series is created by neighbors Barbara Lewis and Sharon Withers. In 2026, the series will focus on the neighborhood's historic homes. Do you have a home with a newsworthy story and colorful photos? Email Barbara at catalystbel2@gmail.com to tell us about it!



Tom and Judi Jump pose in front of their Victorian home holding a photo of the original owner who was standing in about the same spot next to the same tree, now at least 150 years old.



One of the original owners, Mrs. Lowe, stands in front of her new home, around 1886.

When Judi and Tom Jump purchased their home on South Clarkson Street in 1995, it came with nearly 100-year-old historic photos and a good story. The previous owners told the story of a visit from two great grandsons of the second owners of the home. To their delight, they showed up with glass negatives of the 1896 Victorian home, which they had obtained from descendants of the Lowe family, first owners of the home, shown in the parlor photo. The photo of Mrs. Lowe in front of the house now adorns the entryway of the Jump's home.

The house is in the Grant Subdivision, which extended from Mexico to Jewell avenues and Broadway to Clarkson streets. In

1889, Charles McIntosh's South Denver Real Estate Company offered brick and stone homes in this subdivision for \$2500 to \$5500 and vacant lots for \$150 to \$600 each.

If you are interested in investigating the history of your home, check out History Colorado's guide to researching your home, plus other online resources. Here are 3 resources below for you...

[Link 1](#)

[Link 2](#)

[Link 3](#)

Old School, New Rules:

Inside Watson & Co

By Walker Knight

On South Broadway, where Denver's past and present have always had a habit of bumping into each other, [Watson & Co](#) feels right at home. At first glance, it's a place you wander into "just to look." A few minutes later, you realize you're imagining where that lamp would go, or how that chair might finally solve a corner of your living room that's never quite worked. That's part of the magic here: Watson & Co isn't just a shop; it's a conversation between eras.

Founded more than 30 years ago, Watson & Co began its life as an antique store and slowly evolved into something broader and more flexible: a design-forward boutique that mixes antiques, vintage finds, and contemporary pieces without apology. Their longtime motto - Old School. New Rules. - sums it up neatly. In 1991 owners Chris Watson and Kyle Pastrano faced a choice: either move to New York City where they both had been offered promotions to top jobs in a fabled national fashion house, or get that loan where they could buy a storefront and move next door from their antiques booth in what is now their own Oddemporium.



inside the store

What Platt Park residents Chris and Kyle have created is not strictly antique, not purely modern, and not precious about either. Instead, it reflects the way many Denver homes look today: a little inherited, a little collected, and a little improvised. It's an experience shopping there, with warmth and connection. "That's something we saw at Ralph Lauren Polo," Chris says. "They are really good about relationships, not selling." Kyle adds, "We are now into our third generation of customers: grandkids of original customers."

In the store you'll see antique furniture with visible history, new lighting that feels timeless rather than trendy, decorative objects that spark curiosity, pieces that feel like they've already lived a life - or are ready to start one. Inventory changes often, which turns repeat visits into a habit. "We buy an average of a hundred items a day and sell about a hundred pieces a day,"

Chris says. The store rewards browsing, patience, and curiosity; values that feel increasingly rare in a world of same-day delivery and endless scrolling.

What many neighbors don't realize until they need it is that Watson & Co also operates as a full-service interior design studio, with four designers on staff. That side of the business brings a deeper layer to the shop: the staff isn't just selling objects, they're thinking in terms of rooms, flow, and lived-in spaces. That design sensibility shows up everywhere, in how pieces are grouped, how color is layered, and how nothing feels overly staged. It's aspirational without being intimidating.



sample interior design

There's also a new addition to the family of services, Skinny Guy Moving, founded by their son Ricardo, who treats every item with the care appropriate for personal treasures. And it's not just the customers that have a third generation. Now the family has its own, Ricardo's 6-year-old son, who loves "playing store."

In a city where retail turnover can be fast and trends come and go, Watson & Co's longevity matters. Now celebrating their 35th year, that has meant riding out economic cycles, style shifts, and changing neighborhoods - and staying relevant anyway. That staying power is part of what makes Watson & Co feel less like a destination shop and more like a neighborhood institution. It's the kind of place you mention when a friend says, "I need something interesting, but I don't know what yet."

Neighborhoods are built on more than houses and streets - they're shaped by the places where people browse, linger, and talk. Watson & Co plays that role quietly but consistently, offering a reminder that character doesn't have to be manufactured. Sometimes it's curated, sometimes it's inherited, and sometimes it's discovered by accident on a Saturday afternoon.

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A Letter from Lucky District 7 Councilwoman

Flor Alvidrez

[Denver City Council, District 7](#)

Hello Platt Park neighbors!

We had another great holiday season in Platt Park, and one of my favorite activities was decorating the Christmas tree on South Pearl Street. I hope many of you enjoyed friendship bracelets gifts that were hung with care. Those small moments of connection are what make this neighborhood special.

As we turn toward spring, I'm excited to see outreach begin for the Platt Park playground and the Decker Library upgrades as part of the 2025 Vibrant Denver bond package! These projects represent long-needed investment in the area, and I'm looking forward to hearing directly from the community as plans move forward.

Another exciting milestone for Denver this year is the launch of women's professional soccer. Denver Summit FC will kick off their first season with their first two home games at Empower Field at Mile High, followed by the remainder of the season at Dick's Sporting Goods Park while their permanent stadium nearby is under construction.

Many people have asked why the National Women's Soccer League required Denver Summit FC to have its own stadium. The reason is simple and important: long-term sustainability.

Controlling their own stadium gives the team financial stability, scheduling control, and revenue opportunities that women's teams have historically been denied. It's a major step toward equity in professional sports and one that will pay dividends for decades.

I also want to acknowledge something heavier. In recent weeks, our community has been directly impacted by acts of domestic terrorism. Platt Park has lost neighbors, workers from South Broadway, and members of our church congregations. These are people who had committed no crime, who were simply living, working, or worshiping in this community. It is important to name this reality and hold space for the grief and fear it has caused.

In moments like these, I return to the Constitution that I was sworn to defend. It is our guide and a responsibility. As conversations continue around issues like anti-masking legislation, I believe it's critical that we understand our rights, our laws, and the values they are meant to protect.

That's why I'm launching a District 7 Book Club on the Constitution in 2026. We'll meet at local libraries and create space for thoughtful, respectful conversation about democracy, civil liberties, and civic responsibility. If you'd like to participate, please email district7@denvergov.org.

As always, thank you for being engaged, caring neighbors. It's an honor to serve Platt Park.



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1230 South Pearl Street- Platt Park- Denver www.foodlabinc.com

A Letter from Senator

Robert Rodriguez

Senator of District 32, Colorado State Senate

Hello Platt Park residents, I hope your new year is getting off to a good start. Here are some updates from our new legislative session. This is my last session as your senator, as I am term-limited and in my 8th and final year. It has been an honor serving and working with you over this time. I'm proud of the work that we have done but also looking forward to what we can still accomplish this year and into the future. Here are my legislative priorities:

Artificial Intelligence

Stewarding the passage of reasonable AI legislation will continue to be a top priority for me this session. Groups on all sides of the issue - consumer protection organizations, tech companies, and data-privacy experts - met and deliberated throughout the interim. We will work to consolidate ideas and compromises that hit the sweet spot of protecting consumers while not overly burdening businesses.

Affordability

Hardworking Coloradans are feeling the squeeze of rising everyday costs, from groceries to housing to skyrocketing health insurance premiums. We will continue to build on the work we did in the special session last fall to stabilize and lower costs for the people of our state.

Responsible Governance

We enter another tough year of budget decisions, as rising costs in areas like healthcare strain the state's budget. We will have to be thoughtful in managing this reality, making sure we prioritize key services and are putting every dollar to its best and highest use. Our wonderful Joint Budget Committee will take the lead on this task, working across the aisle with diligence and compassion to minimize the impact of these cuts.

Listening to You

Did you know that anyone can testify before a committee on any bill they choose? This is an important part of the legislative process, as legislators get to hear directly from people who care about and will be affected by the bills being considered. Both in-person and remote testimony options are available. I encourage you to make your voice heard on issues that matter to you. [Sign-Up Page to Testimony](#)

Sometimes the world can feel overwhelming, with turmoil and tragedy happening abroad and here at home. I have found that it can be helpful to focus energy on things that I can directly influence, including the important work being done at the state and local levels. There are a lot of good things happening, and together we can work to build a brighter future for all.

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SCENES FROM WINTERFEST





COLD AND SNOWY WINTERFEST!

If you were brave enough to bundle up and head out in the December chill, you were rewarded with a truly magical day. Winterfest was an absolute blast, featuring horse-drawn hayrides, live music, festive vendors, Olde World Santa, roasted chestnuts, and of course, cozy hot toddies to keep everyone warm.

For the third year in a row, we kicked off the weekend with our holiday tree lighting ceremony on Friday night. Against the snowy backdrop of Platt Park, we lit the tallest pine tree at an impressive 60 feet. The tree continued to glow throughout January, keeping the neighborhood festive long after the holidays had passed.



HOLIDAY TREE DECORATING CONTEST!

For the second year, all 60 of South Pearl's potted pine trees were decorated by local merchants and residents. The competition was fierce, with bragging rights and \$100 in South Pearl Bucks on the line. In the end, the pink tree on the 1400 block in front of Jack's claimed victory. With so many creative entries, all six blocks sparkled with holiday cheer.

RECORD PARTICIPATION FOR SOUTH PEARL HOLIDAY PASSPORT PROGRAM

We saw nearly double the number of Holiday Passports turned in this season. Families shopped up and down South Pearl for holiday gifts, collecting stamps along the way. One lucky family walked away with \$300 in South Pearl Bucks and plenty of reasons to return for more shopping and dining.



Now it's time to look ahead to spring. Mother's Day is just around the corner, so be sure to book your dinner reservations and find that perfect gift for the neighborhood moms in your life. Final Friday Art Walks begin on April 24th, and the countdown to the Farmers Market is officially on, with opening day set for May 3rd. We can't wait to see you out on South Pearl this spring! southpearlstreet.com

Platt Park Artist: Elaine St. Louis

By Greg Pulliam

[Elaine St. Louis](#), a long-time resident of Platt Park, pursues her passion for painting from her studio on South Pennsylvania Street. For the fifth year, Elaine will be one of the jury-selected artists at the Governor's Art Show at the Loveland Museum (www.governorsartshow.org), from April 25 through June 6. Put it on your calendar; it's worth the hour drive to Loveland. You can see examples of Elaine's art at her website (www.elainestlouis.com) or contact her through the website for a studio tour. In 2024 Elaine was honored that one of her works was selected by the Loveland Art in Public Places committee.

PPP: How would you describe your style of art?

Elaine: I have returned again and again to painting songbird nests. By layering polymer glazes creating a chiaroscuro effect, I interpret the ephemeral nests in giant scale, giving the viewer a bold perspective with which to connect with the natural delicacy of their construction. Something so small and humble depicted in a majestic size. Though extremely intricate, when viewed up close, my nests have a loose, impressionistic vibe. I feel a connection with songbirds in that I "weave with glazes." [Editor Note: Chiaroscuro is a technique employed in the visual arts to represent light and shadow as they define three-dimensional objects.]

PPP: What influences your art?

Elaine: I am delighted to see deep emotion when people experience my paintings. We humans react with visceral connection to the natural world — research has proven the calming effects of walking in a forest. This points to the biophilia bond between human beings and other living systems which I see as a spiritual manifestation of connection to the created universe. My work reaches into this experience and provides a place of peace on canvas.



PPP: How did you get started?

Elaine: Working as art director and photo stylist for home interior and style magazines for most of my career, I developed a strong appreciation for architecture and design. When looking at the nests of songbirds, I see architecture and design in its purest form, which follows their simple function. My interpretation of them floating on a bold, empty space (whether white, black or metallic gold) separates them from traditional still life observations and gives them a space all their own.

PPP: How long have you lived in Platt Park?

Elaine: We're going on 34 years and have seen so much change! I love the new and diverse selection of restaurants in the area and seeing many young families moving in.



Hey, neighbors! Are you or do you know an artist who resides in the Platt Park neighborhood and who should be considered for an article in the Platt Park Post? The artist's medium may be music, writing, visual, performing or something else. If so, email your suggestion to communications@3pa.org.

President's Corner

By Shelby Drulis

Board President of the Platt Park People's Association

Seeing a 9News notification creep down from the top of my phone screen always gives me pause. Is it a snarky clip from Kyle Clark that I need to check out, or am I going to end up reading another national news story that fills me with dread and despair? I felt worn down seeing headlines about intractable crises that seemed impossible to fix, so I resolved to find a way to make a positive impact on my world.

I joined the 3PA Board to help strengthen my community, form bonds with my neighbors, and provide opportunities for others to develop meaningful connections. Our role as a Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) is to facilitate interactions between neighbors and create moments of community for the residents of Platt Park.

Community-building isn't a formal process that only takes place at RNO meetings. Community is created in the conversations before or after meetings, running into a neighbor at the playground, and shoveling the sidewalk in front of the other houses on the street. What I love about our neighborhood is the smaller pockets where people carve out their space to forge connections. It's seeing Alex's smile behind the counter at Homedog when I stop in with my dog. It's chatting about a rare vinyl popup with Jesse and the barbers at Fortune Cat. And it's watching the eyes of a third grade student light up as Quetzalli helps her pick out her new library card at the Decker Library.

Our communities grow stronger and deeper when these spaces become a familiar part of our routines, and the people in them become fixtures in our everyday lives. At its core, 3PA exists to foster these connections and create opportunities for people to build community. If you are looking for meaningful relationships, if you need support, or if you're in need of a new friend, you might not have to look further than just down the block. This year, I invite you to join me and 3PA in our mission to strengthen and build our community in Platt Park.



THANK YOU to the following neighborhood merchants who supported the 2025 Trash Pickup by donating food to fuel the participating picker-uppers or gift cards to encourage their participation.



Why Composting Matters Now

By Andrew Sonstroem

One-third of all food produced in the United States is never eaten. That adds up to more than 30 million tons of food waste every year, much of which ends up in landfills. When food scraps break down in landfills without oxygen, they produce methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide. Composting is one of the simplest ways our neighborhood can help change that.

Composting turns everyday food scraps like fruit peels, coffee grounds, and vegetable trimmings into a valuable resource instead of trash. By composting at home or through local collection programs, we reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and lower harmful emissions. Even small household efforts add up when an entire neighborhood participates.

Beyond environmental benefits, composting improves soil health. Finished compost enriches gardens and landscaping by adding nutrients, improving soil structure, and helping soil retain moisture. This can mean healthier plants, fewer chemical fertilizers, and lower water use, especially helpful during hot, dry months. Many community gardens and green spaces rely on compost to thrive.

The city's solid waste program includes weekly curbside compost collection at no extra cost for residents who use city trash services. Residents can request a green compost cart and have food scraps and yard waste picked up right at their curb alongside trash and recycling. [This citywide program](#) helps reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions while making sustainable habits more accessible for everyone.

McKinley-Thatcher Elementary

By Ingrid Hoff, Technology & Communications Specialist

[McKinley-Thatcher](#) students have been hard at work this year in the school's state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) lab. With a fleet of 30 Chromebooks, 16 all-in-one OptiPlex stations, four iPads, two 3D printers, and numerous robotics and engineering kits, students keep busy with projects focused on computer coding, circuitry, graphic design, animation, and more!

Throughout the school year, 4th and 5th grade students have been building and writing code for Vex IQ robots. Vex Robotics is usually a middle school project, but McKinley students and their creations routinely complete skills challenges in the robotics showcase at the school district's annual STEAM Expo (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Students code and operate the bots to perform specific tasks, such as picking up and moving objects. Children also utilize LEGO WeDo kits to build LEGO robots with a "brain" that can be connected to a software program that allows them to be coded to do things like move, light up, make sounds, and sense other objects!

The STEM lab's 3D printers use the Tinkercad 3D modelling software by AutoDesk. Students complete eight starter lessons to learn the basic tools of the program and create a keychain, luggage tag, and game piece pawn as practice before going on to create their own designs. 3D-printed figurines, boxes, rings, houses, cars, and useful objects like pencil holders are the most popular creations!

Students also dive into electrical engineering and circuitry through learning about series and parallel circuits (conductors, resistors, power sources, short circuits) and then building those



McKinley-Thatcher students with their Vex robotics project.

circuits in class to make greeting cards that light up! Children have the opportunity to use Squishy Circuits kits to build creations with playdough. They then use wiring and batteries to make them light up, as well as Snap Circuit and Snap Circuit Green Energy kits, which teach the fundamentals of building electronic circuits and how they interact with various green energy technologies. McKinley-Thatcher is so proud of its future scientists, engineers, and mathematicians!

Grant Beacon Middle School

By Tyler Fuller, Assistant Principal

Our students returned from winter break ready for second semester learning. We paused to celebrate our academic growth, achievement, and character development, and then dove right back in. Our English learners took the annual required Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) test the second week back at school. In April, all of our students will be well prepared for our state Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests. At [Grant Beacon Middle School](#), our students show up prepared and ready for these tests by showing that we work hard, we play hard, and we show our GROWTH.

Our students are fully engaged in their spring enrichments taught by over 50 community providers including: Chess Wizards, Aerospace Engineering, yoga, Mobile Cinema Lab, Structural Engineering, Coding, YouthBiz, and so many more. If you are

walking down S. Pearl, you may see our students launching their rockets or hear our drumline drumming! In a world full of change, we are proud that the innovative programming, spirit, and positive learning environment at Grant Beacon Middle School continues to thrive.

With the school choice window behind us, we are THRILLED at the energy that came out of recruitment this year. We hosted over 150 families from this neighborhood and beyond - all excited about the middle school environment that we are creating. We are incredibly excited about our future enrollment and the years ahead.

Grant Beacon would like to thank so many of our neighborhood partners for their support, generosity, and collaboration. Sweet Cow, Esters, Uno Mas Taqueria, Kaos Pizza, Platt Park Brewery, and Illegal Pete's have all consistently donated to our teacher celebration efforts. Thank you to Stella's Coffee Haus for hosting a Grant Beacon art exhibit.

If you or your business would like to partner with us to fundraise, provide enrichment opportunities, or celebrate our teaching faculty, please email tyler_fuller1@dpsk12.net.

Decker Library Spring Updates

By Quetzalli Hammar

Spring is almost here and we're happy to announce more library programs!

On March 5 from 11am-12:30pm, we will be holding a Book Study for older adults. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the online event announcement to find out the name of the selected book and register for this program online. Limited to 20 people.

Babies and caregivers are welcome to join us for our Instrument Creation program on Thursday, March 12 from 10:30-11am. Children and their grownups will create instruments and explore instruments and music. No registration is required. Children ages 0-5 are encouraged to attend.

We invite elementary-aged children to join us for our Family Book Celebrations in March and April. For each month we will have a different theme that kids will be asked to read about prior to coming to the program. At the program, kids will go over what they read and participate in a fun activity related to the theme. No registration is required.

Check out our Upcoming Events page on [our website](#) to learn more about these and other winter programs at Decker Branch. See QR code above!



Asbury students participating in 2024 Field Day

Asbury Elementary

By Lauren Walser, Asbury Elementary PTO co-president

One of the surest signs of spring at [Asbury Elementary School](#) is that our calendar gets packed. Really, really packed, with everyone's favorite things.

The fun starts the first week of March with our annual Read-A-Thon, a friendly competition where the whole school – students, teachers, and staff – rack up as many hours reading as they can. Top readers in each grade win prizes and bragging rights. The friendly competition continues the following week with “March Mathness,” where our students engage in daily math challenges, followed a couple weeks later by the Spelling Bee.

For the final hoorah before Spring Break, Asbury students dazzle their classmates and families at the annual Talent Show. We see everything from music and dance performances to stand-up comedy routines, magic tricks, and karate demonstrations.

After the break, our families come together for Dish-A-Story, a schoolwide potluck, and then a student art show. Come May, there's Field Day, a beloved tradition with games, races, and water balloon tosses. Later, everyone gathers either on the blacktop or via the livestream for the kindergarten classes' Great Guinea Pig Race. Their class pets navigate small obstacle courses the students designed using what they have learned about shapes, physics, and what motivates a guinea pig to move fast (usually carrots or apples!).

The hardest part of spring is saying goodbye to our fifth graders. Their final days at Asbury are full of fun, like a field trip to Coors Field for the Colorado Rockies' annual STEM Day game, with science demonstrations on the field. They also complete their Legacy Mural project, contributing to the vibrancy of our schoolyard's wall along South Marion Street. And then they cross the continuation stage and move on to their next phase of learning.

It's a full, fun Spring, capping off a full, fun year!

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Simplify Your Life by Eliminating Clutter

By Jill Wisheart of ExitElegantly.com

There are many reasons we accumulate papers. The ever-growing pile of bank statements, bills, medical records, and catalogs can feel overwhelming. Whether you manage the influx of paper daily, weekly, or annually, it takes time and creates unnecessary stress. Most of us hold onto far more paperwork than we need.

Seniors face an additional challenge: we're hybrid people, even though we think of ourselves as paper people. Consider how many things you access online that you also receive in paper form: bank statements, credit card statements, and utility bills. This duplication is wasteful. Today we'll tackle your paper clutter, but remember we'll also need to address digital organization to create a complete system.

Step One: Gather and Centralize

Collect all your paperwork from every drawer, cabinet, and surfaces. Place everything in one central location; a large box, cleared tabletop, or convenient spot. This creates a clear starting point and helps you see the full scope of what you're working with.

Step Two: Separate Into Categories

Use temporary containers to organize papers into categories: **Action Items** (bills to pay this week), **Short-Term** (review monthly), **Long-Term** (review annually or need for taxes), **Resources** (manuals and warranties), **Keep** (critical documents with original signatures like wills, trusts, power of attorney documents, and life insurance policies), **Recycle**, and **Shred**. This makes the process manageable and allows you to tackle one category at a time.

Step Three: Determine Retention Requirements

Understanding how long to keep documents is key to streamlining your system. Many people keep papers far longer than necessary. Here's a practical retention guide for popular clutter:

Document Type	How Long to Keep
wills, trusts, power of attorney, contracts with signatures	forever or until updated
insurance policies	until cancelled
bank statements (non-tax)	shred if available online
tax documents with backup	6 years
credit card statements	shred if available online
loan documents	3 years after payoff
vehicle docs (with title or loan)	until sold
medical documents	review and shred annually

Step Four: Organize

Use the above steps to sort, organize, and dispose of your paper. Set a timer and tackle a manageable amount of sorting daily (or weekly) until the process is complete.

Step Five: Establish Declutter System

Maintaining your new system is essential. Schedule regular time to sort incoming mail and documents into your established categories. Establish practical rules, an example if it is accessible online, shred the paper version. Keep a shredder and trash can available wherever sorting or organizing.

The most important consideration throughout this process is removing what you don't need while making it easy for someone else to manage your affairs if necessary. A well-maintained paper management system provides genuine peace of mind for you today and creates clarity for your loved ones tomorrow.

Start small, be consistent and watch as the overwhelming paper clutter becomes a manageable and stress-free part of your daily life.

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A Letter from Representative Steven Woodrow

Representative of House District 2 to Colorado State House

I'm beyond excited to have been selected by the Speaker of the House, Julie McCluskie, to serve as the new Chair of the [House Finance Committee](#). House Finance is an exceptionally important committee often tasked with hearing some of the most weighty and difficult bills impacting the State's fiscal outlook. Our office is in the thick of things this year as we tackle our estimated \$1 billion fiscal shortfall.

Land Value Tax (LVT)

Back in 2024, my office explored the possibility of allowing local governments to institute what's known as a "[land value tax](#)" in the State of Colorado; basically an anti-bligh measure. I am working on legislation with Senator Nick Hinrichsen (SD3) that allows local jurisdictions the option to adopt LVT in a revenue-neutral way—no local government would be required to do so. Rather, this bill creates a property tax system under which local governments could "split" the mills charged on land versus improvements (development). This would incentivize development since it would be taxed at a lower rate. Based on a recent survey, in Denver, for example, this would represent a tax cut for most homeowners while spurring development on parcels currently used for surface level parking lots.

Downloadable Software Tax Loophole

We have identified a loophole in current law that doesn't make a lot of sense: in Colorado, consumers are taxed differently depending on where they purchase computer software. If software is purchased off the shelf at Office Depot, for example, the consumer is charged state sales tax. Yet if the same software is downloaded from the internet, it is not taxed. As a result, we under-collect an estimated [\\$15 million - \\$80 million annually](#). By closing this loophole, we can fund things like the Family Affordable Tax Credit which studies show has reduced childhood poverty in our State by over 40%.



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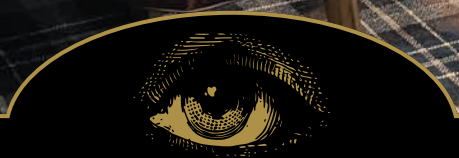
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