

Platt Park

The Official Newsletter of
Platt Park People's Association
Aug. / Sept. 2013
www.3pa.org

Past

SUMMERTIME

FUN in the Parks

Nothing beats summertime in Platt Park. Warm weather and longer days mean more time to explore and enjoy Denver's great parks. From our own neighborhood park to the nearby regional parks, there is a lot going on including improvements and the possibility of new policies that will affect how these open spaces can be used. Here are some quick updates to keep you in the loop.

► **Platt Park** – The old and worn merry-go-round was replaced. This improvement also fixed the potholed base that previously surrounded the old equipment. If you haven't been to the playground to check it out! The kids will love it!

► **My Denver Card** – Denver students from 5 to 18 years old can now have free, year-round access to the city's 23 recreation centers and 29 pools with the new My Denver Card! Most recreation centers also have free activities and classes for kids as part of the program. The card also acts as a library card allowing you to take full advantage of the newly extended library hours. The card is free, and you can sign up at any recreation center or library.

► **Washington Park** – After the Memorial Day weekend saw a jam-packed Washington Park, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver Police, Traffic Enforcement, and the Denver Park Rangers developed a coordinated plan to address neighborhood concerns and park use. Denver Park Rangers now have new tools to enforce rules, ensure safety, and issue administrative citations for non-compliant behavior. These efforts have led to an increase

in Park Ranger presence, traffic enforcement, more trash receptacles and port-a-potties, as well as a new parking agreement with South High.

► **Ruby Hill and the Levitt Pavilion** – Ruby Hill Park has seen big improvements through the implementation of Phase I of the Ruby Hill Master Plan. Phase II implementation will be underway soon, and fundraising for the Levitt Pavilion at Ruby Hill is in full swing. The Pavilion, when completed in 2016, will host more than 50 free concerts a year.

► **South Platte River** – More than \$22 million of new investment in the South Platte River will kick off this fall and be completed by June 2015. The bulk of this investment is in the stretch between Evans and Alameda Avenues. Grant-Frontier Park, Pasquinel's Landing Park, and Johnson Habitat Park will all see major facelifts. Additional improvements will also be made to widen the regional trail, add an adjacent soft surface trail, and improve the river water quality and habitat.

► **Private Outdoor Fee-Based Activity** – Denver Parks and Recreation has been working on a
Continued on page 2



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 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

You can now join 3PA at 3PA.org where you can fill-in the form on-line and pay through paypal. Go to 3PA.org, click on "Join 3PA."

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Mail with check payable to 3PA, P.O. Box 100848, Denver, CO 80250-0848	



Summertime Fun

Continued from page 1

policy that addresses the upswing in fee-based activities in Denver's parks. Private Outdoor Fee-Based Activity (POFA) is defined as a class, clinic, camp, guided activity, program or related service organized and offered by a permittee for which a payment, fee or other consideration is expected to be made to the permittee. The policy also defines the specific park and areas within that park where these types of activities would be allowed. The full policy can be found on the Denver Parks and Recreation Website (<http://www.denvergov.org/parksandrec>).

The Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted in May 'to recommend' the policy as drafted and in June again voted to recommend the proposed permit fee schedule as amended. The policy still has to be adopted by City Council, but if it is, expect increased enforcement when a valid permit is required for those types of activities.

Have a question, concern, or update about the parks that Platt Parkers use? Drop me an email anytime at jonclark@gmail.com

— Jolon Clark

3PA Board Member and District 7 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Representative

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Neighborhood Notes

So a heron ate a fish out of our pond last month, at least I think it was a heron. We've had the same five koi in the pond for the past four years. They've survived four winters, children using the pond as a wading pool, one black lab (enough said) and constant owner neglect until our own version of the wild kingdom came to visit. Didn't get a good look at the perpetrator, but it was big and white and it flew, thereby ruling out a cat, I think. Guess nature wanted to serve up a little sushi at our expense but I suppose that is a proper way for a fish to go. So now we have foxes, coyotes, herds of squirrels and herons to contend with around here—oh well guess they were here first.

In case you missed it, our annual **Platt Park Picnic** was a wonderful success. Good call to whomever's idea it was to switch the event to a Saturday. Much easier to wander over after a leisurely Saturday than to try to pull the clan and a picnic dinner with all the trimmings together after a long Friday at the office, as in the past. Mother Nature cooperated with perfect weather which was a welcome change. The band did their usual wonderful job. Seems each year there are more and more little ones running around attesting to my perception that the neighborhood keeps getting younger—a good thing. Thanks to all who work hard to make this a fun yearly event and to the ongoing partnership between 3PA and the Old South Pearl Merchants Association who were ultimately responsible...bravo!

The long awaited opening of the new **Izakaya Den** took place last month as promised when Toshi and Yasu Kizaki unveiled their newest creation on Pearl Street. Now few would argue that the brothers didn't get it right the first time around with the old Izakaya Den but the new restaurant gave them an opportunity to refine even further their vision. The building is certainly impressive and has that "spare no expense" feel to it. Much of the custom woodwork from the old space was moved to the new space so certain aspects look familiar. As promised, much of the dining action takes place on the second level, which features the patio overlooking the street, several dining areas, including a private room and a large bar under a retractable roof. A staircase that wraps around a glass elevator flanked by a bamboo garden serves as a central focal point to the restaurant. Beautifully done, indeed.

The menu looks familiar but with many new additions from the hands of new Chef of Cuisine Scott Hybbeneth (of Gaslamp Grill, Barolo Grill and Luca D'Italia, to name a few). While still serving the full array of sushi, seafood and other favorites from the old menu there is a greater emphasis on small plate items some of Japanese origin along with many options from a more global cuisine perspective. Overall an impressive rebirth to what was already a wonderful place to dine.

Kudos are in order for a few of our local purveyors of excellence all of whom were recognized in 5280's "Top of the Town" annual issue. **Kaos Pizzeria** got the nod for, you guessed it, pizza. "Dining at Kaos feels like a grown-up house party with wood-fired pies and Colorado microbrews"—

enough said. Our own **MK Style** (1882 S. Pearl St.) got the tip of the hat for best Home Furnishings. **Scandinavian Antiques** over on antique row (1760 S. Broadway) was awarded for its great variety that "almost always contains something that can give our living room that coveted old-is-new-again feel". The **Black Crown Lounge** (1446 S. Broadway) was awarded for best gay bar. "This two-year old piano lounge and watering hole doesn't bill itself as only a gay bar, which is cool because it would be a shame for anyone to miss out". And finally from the useless knowledge part of my brain a bit of Platt Park trivia, the award for band/musician went to **The Lumineers**—did you know that Jeremiah and Wesley in their pre-fame days worked at Sushi and Ototo Den respectively? Yes famous people used to serve you noodles.

Summer has seen the abrupt departure of a promising restaurant, Cinque Soldi Salumeria, which closed its doors in July. By press time a familiar name to those who frequent the farmers market will take its place. **Aiko Pops** will open its first bricks-and-mortar shop at the refurbished location at 1284 S. Pearl St. Aiko pops are made from locally sourced organic ingredients and come in a wide variety of flavors. Now we don't have to wait until Sunday to get our popsicle fix, but wait there's more: Aiko Pops will also be offering a variety of soups, sandwiches and interesting accompaniments to round out a full meal before you hit that popsicle. Should be a fun addition to the Pearl Street scene. Aiko will be open daily from 11am until 8pm.

One last newcomer to our area is **The Gym**, located at 1351 S. Broadway, taking over the old auto parts supply building. The Gym is a full service workout facility that includes a full array of weight lifting equipment, yoga and spin room, indoor climbing walls, a variety of cardio machines, classes and locker rooms. Open daily offering monthly rates for as low as \$39. Drop over or check them out at www.gym303.com.

Construction dust is flying at the old Izakaya Den location and the soon to be new location of the Tavern on Pearl—we'll try to have updates on those "big players" for you in our next issue. We'll also give you our thoughts on the new **Uno Mas Cantina y Taqueria** (see accompanying article) opening in the former home of Budapest Bistro. It is certainly never dull around here. Have a great rest of the summer. Watch out for hungry herons and other varmints as you're out and about.

See you around the neighborhood
Tom Snyder



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The 2013 Platt Park Picnic

On June 22, neighbors gathered at Platt Park to enjoy the annual picnic. The Platt Park People's Association (3PA) would like to thank everyone involved for helping put on a great event. The picnic started at 4pm and, as is tradition, ice cream was served! Thanks to Pajama Baking Company for providing the tasty ice cream that was scooped by our friends from Hope Church and Jim, the official Platt Park Ice Cream Scooper. The Platt Park Children's Center, a new neighborhood pre-school, provided carnival games for our youngest of neighbors on the north end of the park. While on the south end of Platt Park, members from the South High School girls' volleyball team and their coach were there to play the game with anyone wanting to join them. Adding to the festivities, the music was provided by Denver Municipal Jazz Band. The 3PA also hosted a free raffle for members. Prizes from local merchants and service providers were given away to 21 lucky neighbors. The board of the 3PA was happy to see and meet so many neighbors. A special thanks goes out to all the above organizations and our neighbors who helped to coordinate all of the activities.



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Uno Mas Cantina y Taqueria:

Mexican street food on Pearl Street

by Amy Vaerenyck

Ask Trish White where to find the best food in Mexico, and she'll have a simple answer: "the street."

As general manager of the new Uno Mas Cantina y Taqueria, White is helping to bring the best food in Mexico to Old South Pearl Street. Located at 1585 S. Pearl St.—the old site of Budapest Bistro—Uno Mas has been scheduled to start serving tacos and tequilas in late July 2013.

"Every town in Mexico has a town square where you can get amazing street food," said White, who has spent a lot of time visiting family in Puerto Vallarta and traveling throughout Mexico. "It's really fresh food, without a ton of ingredients, and it's actually very healthy."

Uno Mas is owned by White's brother, Patrick Mangold-White, along with Dagan Thomas and his wife, Sara Andrew. Mangold-White owns and co-owns two other Platt Park neighborhood restaurants—Kaos Pizzeria and Gaia Bistro, respectively—and Thomas has served as manager of Kaos. Former Gaia head chef Drew Middleton will take charge of the Uno Mas kitchen, and the backyard smoker.

White, Mangold-White and Middleton share a deep love for the country of Mexico and are excited to introduce its food to the Platt Park neighborhood, which, White said, it currently lacks.

"You'd have to go to a food stand on Federal Boulevard to get authentic Mexican street food like this," she said.

Uno Mas tacos start at \$2.50 apiece, so eating on the cheap is an option ... unless you take advantage of the full bar, which White described as "heavy on tequila." It'll also have margaritas (of course), Mexican and Colorado-brewed beers and a few signature cocktails.

Like Mangold-White's other eating establishments, Uno Mas will source the majority of its ingredients, and nearly all of its meat products, from local and regional providers. It will also have a focus on home-made and low-waste. So, when you come in for lunch or dinner, you don't need to worry about whether the beef was trucked in from Texas—you can just focus on your taco.

White, whose background is in fine dining, said visitors to Uno Mas will find a casual atmosphere and a fun vibe: copper lighting fixtures, terra cotta walls and bold colors you might find in a Mexican village. One wall of the restaurant will have a mural on it that White said will be a surprise for visitors.

"You have to come in to see it," she said.

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Upcoming 3PA General Meetings

August 13 General Meeting: Resources for Homeless and Crime Update from Denver PD

Denver PD has reorganized. Platt Park is now part of District 3. Commander Montoya will speak on what the reorganization is all about and address crime trends and police efforts to combat criminal activity in Platt Park. Denver's Road Home provides resources to prevent homelessness and assist the homeless. A speaker will present information about their programs and how homelessness affects our community.

September 10 General Meeting: Happy Hour

Happy Hour will replace our monthly meeting. Location will be posted on 3PA.org and emailed to those on 3PA email distribution list. You can now sign up for 3PA E-News on the website.

October 8 General Meeting: Platt Park Schools Committee

At the 3PA General Meeting, Platt Park Schools Committee will have experts discuss how DPS evaluates schools through use of the School Performance Framework (SPF) and the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Experts will advise on the how to look through all of the school data that is available to parents. Please join us to help navigate through all of this important information available to you on our neighborhood schools!



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Free Social Site for Neighbors:



NextDoor.Com

by Ginger Collins

Three hundred (300) Platt Park neighbors have now signed up to use a new social site to connect with each other. Nextdoor.com is a free private social network designed for neighbors to share information and communicate with each other online. When you sign in to nextdoor.com you have access to a running discussion within your neighborhood, with bordering neighborhoods, with the local police department and with the Denver police department.

How are people using it? Recently, in our neighborhood, nextdoor.com helped reunite a lost parrot with its owner. For the Fourth of July weekend, I was able to find someone to water my plants. Neighbors are also posting about recent crimes, asking for recommendations for handymen and using the classifieds section to notify each other about things for sale.

You can check out the company's policies and philosophies on their website. Among other sincerely altruistic statements, they commit to not selling member information. Like all social sites, the more users we have, the more useful the site becomes to our neighborhood. Sign up and see what you think!

Neighborhood Watch

What exactly does it mean to be in Neighborhood Watch?

To become a part of the program—and get Neighborhood Watch signs and stickers—residents must meet the following requirements:



- Designate a block captain. At least 75 percent of your neighbors in a set area—typically a block—should be willing to participate. It is up to the neighbors how to define a block. For example, a block might be both the east and west sides of a street. Some block organizers decide to include the neighbors across the alley.
- Next, participants must complete a Valuable Property Inventory and Registration Card. The Inventory Record is stored by residents in a safe place and the registration card is returned to the police department.
- Finally, the neighbors hold a block meeting to get to know each other. A Denver Police community resource officer will attend to train residents on how to prevent crimes and to detect and report crimes.

Neighborhood Watch does not mean taking on a vigilante approach. According to the Police Department FAQs on Neighborhood Watch, residents should not expect to “patrol” their blocks or act as security guards for the neighborhood. They should stay a “safe distance from any potential crime and be a good witness.”

To sign up or learn more, contact Carrah Torrence at ct-3PAsc@gmail.com

Historic Denver

In the 1970s Denver's historic structures faced demolition in epic numbers. In true pioneer spirit, a group of citizens created Historic Denver, Inc. just in time to save one of our city's most celebrated historic homes – that of “unsinkable” Molly Brown. Since then Historic Denver, Inc. has been the leading voice for preservation through Advocacy, Education and Technical Assistance.

Historic Denver, Inc. still runs the Molly Brown House Museum which offers authentic tours, interactive youth education, exhibitions and events. In addition to Advocacy, Education and Technical Assistance Historic Denver, Inc. offers many programs including Denver Story Trek, Sacred Landmarks, Discover Denver, Publications, Tours, Lectures and special young professional happy hours. To learn more visit www.historicdenver.org.

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Platt Park Events Calendar

Tuesday, August 13
3PA General Meeting
Fleming Mansion, 1510 S. Grant St.,
6:30pm

Tuesday, September 10
3PA Happy Hour
Location TBD (3pa.org), 6:30pm

Friday, August 2
Ann Lincoln presents
The Dino Girl Show
All Ages. No registration is required.
Decker Library, 10:30am

Monday, August 5
Button Making Craft
For grades 6-12. No registration is
required.
Decker Library, 1pm

Tuesday, August 6
Stained Glass
Candleholder Craft
For grades K-5. Registration is
required. Please call to reserve your
space.
Decker Library, 1pm

Friday, August 9
Safari Sally presents
Through the Eyes of
Animals
All Ages. No registration is required.
Decker Library, 10:30am

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Saturday 9am - 5pm
Sunday CLOSED

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Tales for Twos, Thursdays, 10:15am
Book Babies, Wednesdays and Thurs-
days, 11:15am

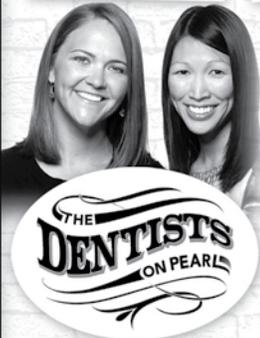
No Storytime, Tales for Twos or Book
Babies August 14, 15, 21 and 22.

Platt Park is a great place to live and we all want to keep it looking nice. So please do the neighborly thing and keep your weeds under control. Because weeds disperse their seeds prolifically, when you keep your own weeds in check, you're helping out your neighbors in their weed battle, too.



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