

PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

AUG./SEPT. 2015

WWW.3PA.ORG

Post

An Update from the 3PA Board

Thank you to everyone that came out to the Annual Picnic, the Movies in the Park and our monthly Member Happy Hours this summer. A very special thank you goes out to The Greenway Foundation for providing the speaker system for the picnic and to Jolon Clark, District 7 City Councilman, for DJing the party.

Our plan is to continue to host events throughout the year that bring us together as a neighborhood and provide an opportunity for a stronger community. Check out some of the great pics from the Picnic:



We received a lot of great submissions for our logo contest and have selected a winner. Jon Pasquini created an option for 3PA that we feel provides an updated look for the organization and captures a current sense of the neighborhood.

Thank you to everyone that submitted a logo for the contest and make sure to high five Jon when you see him around the neighborhood.

Lastly, if you haven't done so already, please go to www.3pa.org to sign up for the Platt Park Yard Sale on August 22nd.

As always, we encourage you to email us with your ideas and concerns at board@3pa.org.

Thank You – *the 3PA Board*

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This Month's Contributors:

Tom Snyder
Mariah Raymond
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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.

PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Platt Park People's Association is a Registered Neighborhood Organization with the City and County of Denver. The Platt Park People's Association is notified directly by the city of various activities in the neighborhood. Be involved. Be Informed.

Send the membership form with annual dues of \$20 payable by check to "3PA" to: 3PA, P.O. Box 100848, Denver, CO 80250-0848

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This is a: Renewal

New Membership

Optional (additional) donation:

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Q&A with Jolon Clark, District 7 City Councilman

Q: What are your ideas for getting more Denverites involved in city governance issues?

A: I will be launching a monthly email survey to District 7 residents. Anyone interested in getting on the list for these monthly surveys, can email me at jolon.clark@denvergov.org.

Q: What do you expect to be your greatest challenge in the first year of your term?

A: Getting up to speed. My biggest challenge will be to get these logistics set up and my staff in place and up to speed as quickly as possible.

Q: What steps do you plan to take to encourage connectivity between the various neighborhoods in District 7?

A: We have some huge opportunities to build. We need to work to build better connections across Santa Fe at Mississippi and at Alameda. We are going to have to be creative to find the funds to make all of these connections happen, but I think it can be done. I also think we need to break down some of the nonphysical barriers between neighborhoods, and I will be hosting some events to bring residents from all of the District 7 neighborhoods together to start meeting each other and talking about the issues that face the district and affect all of our neighborhoods.

Q: We hear many complaints about the City's 311 information system (long wait times, difficulty connecting with the right people, getting timely responses, etc). How do you think this system can be improved?

A: 311 is a critical service for all residents to interact with our city government. We need to make sure to staff 311 at an appropriate level so that we provide high quality service. The city computer systems are being upgraded so that I can monitor all calls/request from District 7 residents and help move them through the system, so feel free to call my office anytime you need help getting an issue resolved if you are not getting the results you need from 311.

Q: Parking is one of Platt Park's challenges. What approaches do you suggest to improve parking in the neighborhood?

A: We just launched a Platt Park Parking group that will be looking at parking in the neighborhood. It is modeled after the Broadway Parking Plan that was a great example of how government can bring various groups together to try to solve parking issues. We have to stay committed to implementing the plans that we make and then evaluate them to make sure that they are actually working as planned and achieving the goals that we want. We have a lot of tools when it comes to parking, but we need to continue to look at what the pinch points are on a block-by-block basis and then try different things until we find something that works. We also need to continue to build neighborhoods that are pedestrian and bike friendly with easy access to public transportation so that we can diversify how people move around our neighborhoods and our city.

Q: What improvements do you think are appropriate to improve pedestrian and bicycle movements in Platt Park and the city as a whole?

A: Making sure that we have safe sidewalks, curb-cuts, and stop signs throughout our neighborhoods are essential for pedestrian safety. Creating a network of protected bike lanes that provide safe and convenient corridors to move bicycles through the city and in and out of our neighborhoods is not only critical to creating a bicycle friendly city, but also to relieving the congestion issues we are currently experiencing on our roads. We have to stop looking at our streets just as routes to move cars through our city, but look at them as a network to move people across all modes of transportation. In order for people to choose a mode of transportation other than a car, we need to make those options safe and easy.

Q: Do you have plans to make yourself available to residents who have questions or problems they want to ask you directly?

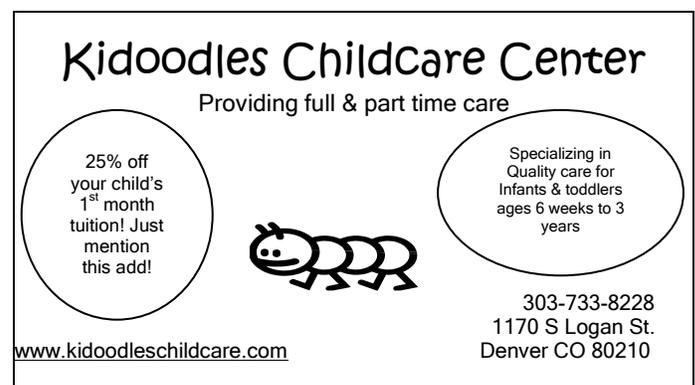
A: Yes! Residents can always call or email me directly with questions and problems.



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Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

Tornadoes, golf-ball sized hail, floods, lights shattered, cars wrecked...and that was just in my backyard, how about yours? Yes, summer around here got off to an interesting start. The good news is that, although my garden looked like a bunch of toothpicks planted in the ground after HAIL-AGEDDON, most everything eventually survived.. Hopefully by the time you are reading this I'll be enjoying fresh tomatoes and the inevitable watermelon size zucchini (want some?). Doubly good news, I feel better about making all those homeowner insurance payments as my insurance is springing for a new roof, a fresh coat of paint on my fence and dent removal for my son's car. Like me, I'm sure you also had about ten wonderful roofing companies volunteer their services to you after the storm, but just in case you didn't, you might want to call your insurance company and join the roofing party. As my adjuster said about my roof being covered, "It's a no brainer". I believe most companies will fix the damage long after the fact so no big need to rush but check it out if you have not.

Why you should love your Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) otherwise known as the Platt Park Peoples Association (3PA)? Unless you are new to the city, one thing you know for a fact is change is inevitable in these parts. Some of that change is generally regarded as good (Light Rail, TREX, Broadway Redevelopment), other changes are not quite as well received. Ultimately the likeability of it all is a very subjective thing. Few changes, however, tend to rankle us more than new development, especially when we feel it is going to affect the character and lifestyle of our little Eden. I am often asked what we can do about proposals and projects we don't particularly care for, which raises an excellent question.

A strongly protected tenant of our law, for better or worse is the principle of "use by right" which in short means if I own a property I should be able to do whatever I want to with my property, without interference, as long as I obey criminal laws, zoning laws/regulations and fire/safety/building codes. In 2011 the City of Denver, following the guidelines of a multi-year study known as Blueprint Denver, installed a new zoning code to replace the antiquated, 50 year-old previous code. Many of us in the neighborhood met publically and privately with city officials to help shape those decisions. Part of the intent of the new code was to provide a measure of protection for neighborhoods such as ours from losing its hundred-year-old character (Exhibit A: North Cherry Creek) while providing a 'blueprint' for the growth and redevelopment that would eventually have to take place (all things wear out).

There have certainly been some positive results of that effort from a preservation perspective. Prior to the change, the old code allowed the construction of duplexes and triplexes on lots greater than 6000 square feet. Once the financial numbers made sense, developers jumped at the opportunity to build such projects and we saw the proliferation of those types of dwellings throughout most of the neighborhood. The new 2011 codes effectively ended the construction of duplexes and triplexes. Based on the results of my informal poll, (which usually involves chatting with you over a beer) most of you are really happy with that change. So far so good.

Probably important to note, building and zoning codes provide some rules about height, set-backs from property lines and the like, however, they do not provide rules or guidelines about the

overall design and esthetics. If an owner wants to build something that, in your opinion, is ugly there is little to be done about it as long as they obey the other rules—use by right.

Problems arise because there are limitations to the code and the inevitable flaws-in-the-plan, no one saw coming, that are discovered. The zoning of Pearl Street, for example was designated as "Main Street Zoning" which in short was intentionally created to keep it looking more like the Pajama Baking Company and not like a bunch of 7-Elevens with parking lots in front of shops (could have happened). What no one saw coming was the proposed 16-unit apartment building likely going in at 1411 S Pearl Street—yes also allowed by the code it would seem. (Search, "Main Street Zoning arriving with a "Thud" on South Pearl Street" in the Wash Park Profile to read the 3PA letter to the editor for more on this specific subject)

So what can be done about projects like this? This is where 3PA can provide an important service and is an excellent place to get involved. Denver Community Planning and Development (CPD) and the City Council do listen to RNOs and they do have influence. RNO's are but one of many voices in a process, but they are pretty big voices from my experience. Do we always get what we want? Certainly not, and I've been at many a hair-pulling meeting where things go completely against all logic and reason it would seem but I can also give many examples where the tireless efforts of 3PA, through the years, did affect positive change on issues to the betterment of our neighborhood. If you have concerns about something write to the board board@3pa.org and get involved yourself. I guarantee the next controversy is just around the corner and there's plenty of room at the table. And while 3PA does it's best to provide a voice for the neighborhood, you can and should always contact your councilman yourself and/or march down to CPD and make your voice heard. A collective and consistent voice from the neighborhood is always a powerful tool. 3PA cannot do it alone!

The system is certainly not perfect but, then again, it kind of works as long as it stays dynamic and we stay involved. There is, of course, an alternative...the fine folks down in Highlands Ranch and other communities like it figured out years ago that all this can be avoided by creating a Home Owners Association (HOA) that would control everything from the color of your paint job to where you plant trees in your yard. It's wonderful, creating perfectly homogenous, cookie-cutter neighborhoods where everything is controlled, every home looks the same, every restaurant is a national chain and we all live happily ever-after paying our \$200/month dues that include mowing and a pool! As far as I've seen that is the alternative.

The next issue of Neighborhood Notes will get back to our normal fare with updates on cool new stuff around the hood. Should be plenty to catch up on as the summer is in full swing with openings, closings and lots of construction. Stay tuned and as always...

We'll see you around the neighborhood
Tom Snyder



Parking in Platt Park

Sophia Stone

Everyone loves our neighborhood as much as we do, and therefore people love to come to our neighborhood, and park in our neighborhood. While parking can be a hot topic in most mix use zoning areas of Denver, it is also a hot topic in Platt Park. A few months ago the city council office, in district 7, decided to form a group in order to better address the parking issues in Platt Park and work as a group to come up with a long term solution. The South Pearl Parking Group was established and it is comprised of a diverse group of people that represent Platt Park. Please stay tuned for more information about parking as our group continues to meet. If you are interested in sharing your feedback about parking and would like to be an active voice send an email to: parking@3pa.org

Tom & Denise Snyder

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Calling all Citizen Scientists to Count Squirrels

Diana Hornick



We live in a beautiful, biodiverse neighborhood just a few miles from downtown Denver. Platt Park has various forms of fauna, and those of us who live and play here can observe robins and sparrows on any given day, as well as spot rabbits, raccoons, and red-tailed hawks. And, of course, we can count on both hands the amount of squirrels we see in our trees, on our lawns, at our birdfeeders, and along the phone wires.

The fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) is the largest species of tree squirrel native to North America. As we've all heard, fox squirrels communicate with vocalizations, like clucking, chucking, high-pitched whines, and distress yells. They also communicate with their body posture, tails, and scent marking. Fox squirrels eat bark, nuts, seeds, and pine cones, as well as some fruits and vegetables. And as you know, they are very opportunistic, also eating from the park's trash cans or left-over pumpkins on a front porch. Some species of squirrel eat small birds and insects, but the fox squirrels in our neighborhood are mostly herbivores, being scatter hoarders at times and burying their food. Squirrels love our neighborhood as much as we do because they thrive in large- and medium-sized treed environments. Plus, the more oak trees, grassy areas, and shade covered by buildings and canopies, the more squirrels want to share our outdoor urban environment with us. We don't want to share our homes, however, because squirrels can cause damage and for decades have been thought of as pests, even though humans introduced them to city parks to bring back "nature" a couple of centuries ago. Whether we love them or loathe them, we as citizens of Platt Park can work as scientists to help naturalists, city planners, and wildlife managers understand and better cope with this ubiquitous city-dwelling species.

Unfamiliar with the term "citizen science?" It's simply when anyone of any age volunteers time and energy to help scientists by submitting data and sharing experiences and observations. Citizen scientists actively participate and collaborate in scientific research, increasing everyone's knowledge. Plus they gain or enhance research, computer, observation, leadership, and networking skills.

If you would like to help scientists gather data about our local squirrels, Project Squirrel is a great start. Project Squirrel is a citizen science project originating from the University of Illinois in Chicago, encouraging everyone from everywhere across the U.S. to count the squirrels they see and report them online. Counting squirrels in Platt Park will help scientists better understand the ecology of our neighborhood and help conserve our area's biodiversity. To learn more about Project Squirrel and get started as a citizen scientist, go to <http://projectsquirrel.org/>

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Platt Park Post Artist Profile: Peter Durst

Mariah Raymond

Ceramic sculptor Peter Durst's self-proclaimed spirit animal is the pelican; an unmistakable creature often recognized by its shovel bill, angular neck, and stocky physique, oversized feet and otherwise ungallant appearance. I've puzzled over the connection between this bird and Durst, a towering man whose height might seem imposing if it weren't for his gentle, sociable demeanor, a man whose persona tends toward elegant, rather than clumsy. After some thought, it occurred to me that Durst's spirit pelican is more of a metaphor for the sculptures he makes than for himself. His colorful clay sculptures are large-massed and geometric, yet, akin to feathers on a bird, their surface is intricate and detailed. The pelican possesses an undeniably comical air and much of Durst's work can be tongue-in-cheek, often self-directed (as is perhaps exemplified in his choice of spirit animal). The real similarities set in when the pelican takes flight and its ungainly body adopts a startling grace and weightlessness. Though often straightforward in their appearance, Durst's sculptures are conceptual at heart and convey personal narratives, cultural commentary, as well as references to spirituality.

Durst moved to Colorado from New York in 1969 and soon dropped his "abbreviated legal career" to work in ceramics, which he practiced on the side while earning his law degree. After two years studying at the Anderson Ranch in Aspen, he returned to Denver and spent ten years as a production pot thrower before moving away from functional ceramics toward bigger, non-functional sculpture.

In 1989, Durst found his studio and gallery on South Broadway. The building was under foreclosure and had all the elements he was seeking—skylights, plenty of open space and high ceilings, necessary for large-scale projects. Originally an old Victorian house, the 1940 repair garage addition nearly swallowed the house, but you can still see the front door off to the right of the gallery entrance. Durst has always loved the "mini-community" feel of the neighborhood

and specifically the diversity of his block, which he shares with a 7- Eleven, a radiator and tire shop, Herman's Hideaway, numerous antique stores, and the ARC. He finds recent addition of the treed median on South Broadway particularly pleasing.

A far cry from South Broadway, the natural world is central to all of Durst's work, both in the materials he chooses as well as the subject matter. Themes repeat—birds, animals, nests, arches and walkways, boats, houses and water towers. At times Durst incorporates other materials into his work, such as sticks and grass or wood. He recently discovered the process of adding decals of photographs and words and, though he finds the use of words in three-dimensional work a little tricky, he's found a way to use them without the result being precious or cute. In the "House Rules" series, Durst built themed structures resembling houses and decal writing on the end of each house, some playful, some spiritual and some serious. Much of Durst's more recent work, such as the series of water towers and houses, was influenced by his travels to Southeast Asia and Africa, and many of his pieces include photographs taken during those excursions.

Durst describes the evolution of his sculptures in a way that captures the essence of what it often means to work as an artist: and one thing led to another. Art is about exploration, innovation, quest for meaning, psychological adventure, as well as the mastery of a craft. Over his 40 years working as a ceramic sculptor, Durst has accomplished these things. While he continues to work as a professional artist, Durst also helps others find their way through the labyrinth of creativity by teaching ceramics at the Art Students League.

To meet Peter Durst, see his work and check out his six-foot wingspan—on the small side for a pelican, but still within the normal range—stop by Durst Studio Gallery at 1571 South Broadway, Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 4pm. However, if you're passing by during off hours and the door isn't locked, Durst says, "Come on in." Visit his web gallery at www.peterdurst.com. If you're interested in taking classes from Peter Durst, contact the Denver Art Students League.





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Patricia Campbell Bennett, RN, LPC

Platt Park Crime Statistics

Type of Offense (Reported)	JAN-JUN 2014		JAN-JUN 2015		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Violent Crime (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault)	6	1.9%	9	2.9%	3	50.0%
Part 1 Property (Burglary, Larceny, Theft from motor vehicle, etc.)	105	32.9%	112	35.6%	7	6.7%
Crimes Against Persons (Assault, Sex Offenses, Intimidation, etc.)	20	6.3%	15	4.8%	-5	25%
Crimes Against Property (Arson, Burglary, Damage to Property, Vehicle Theft, etc.)	137	42.9%	150	47.6%	13	9.5%
Crimes Against Society (Drugs/Narcotics, Weapons, etc.)	18	5.6%	10	3.2%	-8	-44.4%
All Other Offenses (Disorderly Conduct, Harassment, Restraining Order, etc.)	33	10.3%	19	6%	-14	-42.4%
Grand Total	319	100%	315	100%	-4	-1.3%

Thanks to Nick Weidner for his help in summarizing the crime stats. These local crime statistics are available at: www.denvergov.org/police. A representative from Police District 3 regularly attends the 3PA General Meetings.

Local Police Resources:

Non-Emergency Help: 720-913-2000
 Crime Stoppers Anonymous: 720-913-7867
 Report Graffiti: 311 or 720-913-1311
 As always, call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

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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:

Storytime and Craft, Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Any aged child who can sit for stories, songs, and do a simple craft is welcome to attend! No registration is required.

Tales for Twos with Craft, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs and fun for two-year-olds and their parents or caregivers. Craft activity immediately follows the program. No registration is required.

Book Babies, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:15 a.m.

Stories, songs and rhymes for babies ages 0 - 24 months and their parents or caregivers. Playtime and socialization immediately follow the program. No registration is required.

No Storytime, Tales for Twos, or Book Babies August 12, 13, 19 & 20.

Summer of Reading <https://summerofreading.org/>

Super Rabbit and the Hero Hares Friday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Comedy magician, Connie Elstun, and her live performing bunny, Super Rabbit, star in a family magic show centered around their favorite cartoon rabbit, Bugs Bunny. Join them on a hysterical history tour of the American comic book heroes of the 1940s. Plus Super Rabbit can fly! All ages. No registration is required.

Engage Programs for Adults

Books & Bytes Tuesday, August 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Looking for your new favorite book? Have a question about your e-Reader? Come discover great

books, music and more while getting one-on-one help with your device from our tech-savvy staff. No registration is required.

History of Women in Colorado Saturday, August 22 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Join Active Minds as we focus on the women of Denver and their contributions to the city and the state. We will review both familiar and lesser known figures as we trace the impact of these women and their place in history. No registration is required.

Family Lantern Making Party Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Get ready for the Rosedale Harvard Gulch Lantern Festival coming up on September 26 by joining us for lantern crafting and family fun! Make a lantern to take the festival, or simply make one to enjoy at home. No registration is required.

Ink: Postmodern Reads Book Club @Decker

**Monday, September 14 from
6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.**
We'll explore themes and trends in contemporary literary fiction and nonfiction. September's selection is *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez. Please call 720-865-0220 for more information. No registration is required.

Chamber Music Concert Saturday, September 19 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by various amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society. Performing every third Saturday of the month, September through May. No registration is required.

Urban Waterways Restoration Study Meeting:

Harvard Gulch: Wed, Sept. 30, 5:30 - 7:30pm,
Harvard Gulch Rec Center, 550 E. Iliff Ave.
The meeting will begin with an open-house format at 5:30pm followed by a 45-minute presentation of the preliminary Harvard Gulch alternatives at 6pm. The meeting will then resume an open house format until 7:30pm to provide participants with an opportunity to speak directly with project team members.

PLATT PARK PARENTS EVENTS:

Moms' Night Out (MNO) – Thursdays,
7:30pm, Aug 20 and Sept 17
Dads' Night Out (DNO) – Thursdays, 7:30pm,
Aug 27 and Sept 24
Play!Play!Play! – Saturdays 10-noon, Aug 15
and Sept 19
Check out PlattParkParents.com for more
information.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER EVENTS IN PLATT PARK

First Fridays Art Walk

Join us on the first Friday of each month (April - December) for the South Pearl Street First Friday Art Walk. Enjoy art from local artists and galleries as you stroll the street.
Friday, August 7th, Friday, September 4th, Friday, October 2nd, Friday, November 6th, Friday, December 4th

Farmers Market

Every Sunday through November 15th
South Pearl Street Farmer's Market
Come enjoy cookies from Marsha's cookies, mouth watering peaches from Ela Family Farms or pastries from Styria Bakery all while getting fresh, local produce

Flea Markets- The Last Sunday of Every Month

Featured events:
August 16th - HarvestFest
September 20th - Pet Adoption Fair
October 11th - Chili Cook Off
Saturday, August 8th

Blues & Brews featuring:

Selwyn Birchwood
Markus James
Chris Daniels and the Kings featuring Freddi
Delta Sonics
Michael Hornbuckle
Rachel & the Ruckus

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