

PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

JUNE/JULY 2015

WWW.3PA.ORG

Post

Summer Events in Platt Park

brought to you by your the 3PA (Platt Park People's Association)

The rain has finally stopped and spring has sprung in Platt Park! We all enjoy living in this wonderful neighborhood thanks to the merchants on Old South Pearl Street, friendly neighbors, and of course Platt Park itself. The 3PA board has been working very hard to give you even more reasons to love your neighborhood. We have a great lineup of events coming your way that you will not want to miss.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Tuesday, June 16th 4:00 – 6:00 PM	3PA Member Happy Hour	Session Kitchen, 1518 South Pearl Street
Saturday, June 20th 5:00 – 8:00 PM Picnic: 5:00 – 8:00 PM Movie: Starts at Dusk	Annual Platt Park Picnic & Inaugural Movie in the Park Movie: The Lego Movie	Platt Park
Tuesday, July 14th: 5:00 – 7:00 PM	3PA Member Happy Hour	Atticus, 1135 East Evans Avenue
Saturday, July 25th: Starts at Dusk	3PA Movie in the Park Movie: To be determined by 3PA Member Vote	Platt Park
Saturday, August 22nd: All Day	Platt Park Yard Sale	Sign up for eBlasts to learn more!

WE NEED YOU!

The Platt Park Post needs you! We are always looking for ways to highlight the unique people, places and events happening in our neighborhood and need help doing it. Help us ensure that the *Post* not only features interesting content, but interesting writers. For more information, or to help us with article creation and generation please email communications@3pa.org

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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

NAME _____

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This is a: Renewal

New Membership

Optional (additional) donation:

\$ _____

An Update from the 3PA Board

In the last issue of the Platt Park Post, we outlined our plan for creating a succession plan and build the membership base of the Platt Park People's Association (3PA). As a Board, we meet on a monthly basis to update each other on how we are doing against our goals. We are proud of the work we've been able to do so far.

As you read on the first page, we have an exciting summer of events lined up. The addition of two movie nights in Platt Park is the product of Bryn Sneddon's tireless efforts to secure the necessary permits, line up vendors for audio and video, and think through the long list of tasks needed to pull these two big events off. He has the full support of the Board and we are excited to make the Annual Picnic + first Movie Night a huge success.

We are continuing our tradition of Member Happy Hours throughout the summer and are excited that Sessions and Atticus are going to allow us to host at their restaurants. We are trying to make sure that there is an opportunity for members to meet each other on a monthly basis while enjoying great drinks and fare at our local establishments. Sophia Stone has been working with local merchants to build a stronger connection between residents and businesses in our area. She's done a great job finding opportunities like Member Happy Hour events to bring us all together.

Our hope is that these events provide an opportunity for 3PA members to build a better community and make new connections with their neighbors. It also provides those interested in joining or renewing their membership an opportunity to see the benefits having an engaged community brings us all. If you aren't a member yet, go to www.3pa.org to learn more and signup.

We hope to see you at any one of the events this summer and, as always, would love to have you share your ideas for more events and to volunteer to help us pull them off. Feel free to email us at board@3pa.org.

Thank You – 3PA Board

Tom & Denise Snyder

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Neighborhood Notes

Ah summer in Platt Park, undoubtedly when our little neighborhood shines like no other time of the year. With so much going on just steps from our door there is no excuse for not enjoying yourself so let's make sure you are up to speed!

What would summer around here be without the **Farmers Market** now back in full swing! In case you are new to the neighborhood the market is held each Sunday morning from 9:00 am till about 1:00 on the 1500 block of South Pearl. Fresh produce from local farmers, hot out of the oven baked goods, artisan cheeses, locally made spices and rubs, of course **Marsha's Cookies** baked right here by Marsha on Emerson Street, live music in front of Leo's automotive, food trucks, art work and so much more make this one of the best Farmers Markets in Denver.

Pearl Street will also come alive, as it has for the past nine years with **BrewGrass** and the **Blues & Brews** music festivals held on the 1200 block, June 13th and August 8th respectively. Sponsored by the Old South Pearl Street Merchants Association these events have become a summer highlight where we and a couple thousand of our best friends can enjoy some great music and craft beers, or as the organizers like to query, is it a music festival with really good beer or a beer festival with really good music? Only one way to find out.

For a little twist on an old theme the annual Platt Park **Picnic**, sponsored by The Platt Park Peoples Association (3PA) will this year be both a picnic and movie night! Saturday June 20, grab the family or anyone else you want to bring along, I'd recommend food and libations and head on over for a great evening of hanging out with the neighbors and watching the Lego Movie. The picnic starts at 5pm and the movie around 8:30. Side note, if you want to see how the demographic of our neighborhood has changed just observe how many kids will be running around the park that evening. Ten years ago when we started this event, lots of adults, few little ones—just a sign of the on-going Denver renaissance.

Also planned a bit later in the summer will be a special **3PA Member, Movie in the Park** slated for Saturday July 25th starting around 8 pm. Great reason to join 3PA (visit www.3PA.org for details on how to do that) or likely you can just show up and join that night—we'd love to have everyone!!

Part of what makes our neighborhood a charming, fun place to be is our porches and patios that are made for hanging out, chilling out, meeting neighbors and just generally slowing down for a bit. If you are looking for a more public patio to spend a few summer nights, here are some of my and your favorites:

Best patio period. Kaos Pizza wins this discussion hands down. Feels like your back yard but my back yard does not come with fresh wood fired gourmet pizza and awesome beer on tap.

Über-cool impress-your-friends patio. Where else but Izakaya Den's upstairs patio or I guess we could really count the entire upstairs when the roof is rolled open. Nothing says summer patio dining like Truffled Mushroom Beef Carpaccio sipping a Shiso Gimlet under the stars like an evening at the Den.

Best patio to meet friend for coffee where you might actually find a place to sit. No doubt we are talking about the patio at Steam Espresso. Great coffee and an old airplane—what could be better and if the tables are taken just sit on the steps or heck lean up against the wall and get a suntan.

Best patio that masquerades like an indoor restaurant.

Of course we are talking about Fourteen Seventy-Two where basically the whole restaurant is a patio, save a few tables inside. This place was made for summer!

Best patio (maybe) that we wonder if it will every actually materialize. Had to somewhere slip in an update to the Tavern on Pearl, which is still under construction and moving along slowly. There is a patio there—you can make it out now. Guess we could also call this the patio of endless controversy and delay.

Best looking patio table that probably in your lifetime you'll never actually get to sit at because it's always full. That's easy—the patio table with fire-pit at The Black Pearl. Got to admit it's cool. Even won a "best of" in Westword one year—just never able to sit there unless you want to dare it in January.

Those are just a few of the patio dining options around but the vast majority of our local haunts have some sort of patio or sidewalk places to sit, catch some sun have some great food or drink and just enjoy one of the many reasons you live here.

Rumors, half-truths, exaggerations and other items of dubious origins. Sometimes I don't know what to make of the information that comes my way so we'll just go with that label for this update section:

Ototo Den to reopen! If you've been sniffing around 1501 S Pearl like me then you've noticed lots of activity going on at the former home of Ototo Den that was shuttered back in 2011. Now we know getting information out of the Kizaki brothers is like trying to open a Kumamoto Oyster with your bare hands but I have it on good authority that a reopening is not far off and will feature a new face and menu. Stay tuned.

The City wants your input on the Gates Redevelopment. Officially known as the I-25 and Broadway Station Area Plan the city is making some efforts to reach out to the community to get input for what the future of this site will hold. A number of public workshops will be held throughout the year. Go to www.denvergov.org/i25broadway for more information about coming events and meetings.

My apologies to the Heron (as in "bird") community that I publically blamed for the recent disappearance of one of my Koi from my pond. Turns out the little rascal had swam into the pond filter and gotten caught, but amazingly no worse for the wear after a couple weeks hanging out there. Sorry birds for my derision.

As I've written this, the weed population in my garden has doubled in size I'm pretty sure. Never seen so much rain in Colorado. Thought it was "April showers bring May flowers" not "April showers are a harbinger of biblical downpours coming in May that will never end". Hopefully by the time you are reading this the sun has reappeared. Best get out there and get serious about that other rite of summer—yard work. Hope your summer gets off to a grand start!

See you around the neighborhood!

Tom Snyder



Platt Park Post Artist Profile: Susan Bell

By Mariab Raymond

Denver native Susan Bell touches up her paintings in a small, sky-lit room in the middle of her gallery on South Pearl Street. The morning we met, she wore a red bandana around her neck and a well-used smock decorated with all breeds of dogs. Her hair was pulled into a loose and wily bun. Though she lives in the city, Bell carries a touch of the wildness that inspired people to head out West, and my guess is she'd feel most comfortable in a saddle, covering the open land. Her warm and lively character suits the impressionistic, plein-air style in which she paints and makes her gallery a comfortable environment for perusing art.

Bell paints wildlife, livestock and landscapes en plein air, which is essentially French for "painting outside." "Plein air is so fun," she says, "it's an adrenaline rush because animals move so quickly." Her paintings are fresh and colorful and her brushwork is central. The plein air technique results in an impressionistic style (think Monet), where the paint applied is generally bolder and more opaque and there is little blending of colors. The goal is to capture an impression of a scene, as though glancing out of the corner of your eye, rather than depicting every detail in a literal way. Bell loves that by painting from life, she's able to witness and preserve "a point in time that's not going to happen again."

As a young girl, Bell painted and drew regularly. Throughout junior high and high school she enrolled in art classes of all kinds and received her undergraduate degree in art history at the University of Colorado. After graduation, Bell and her father butted heads. He wanted her to be a lawyer and, like many parents of free-spirited creative types, worried about her ability to earn a living. Their compromise was for Bell to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. After graduating with a degree in fashion design, she opened her own sweater-designing business in Manhattan. One year later, Bell decided running her business would be easier from Denver and she moved back, opening a sweater store in West Wash Park, in the same building that Wash Perk Coffeehouse now inhabits.



Change came for Bell when she ran into a fellow student friend from CU who was selling paintings with galleries. Bell thought, "I can do this," and sold her sweater business. Waitressing at night and painting during the day, Bell took classes at the Art Students League to brush up on her skills. She started painting allegorical faux windows depicting verdant landscapes and, often, a cat or bird idling in the sill (the wife of Ginger Baker, drummer from the band Cream, commissioned a faux window including the likeness of their cat to give Baker as a gift). Though the window paintings were profitable, they were time consuming and Bell yearned to paint something more engaging. The Art Students League introduced her to plein air and she's never looked back.

One of Bell's first art shows took place at Stella's Coffee and, coming full circle, she curates all the art shown there now. "If you can buy a \$4 dollar latte, you can buy a \$200 dollar painting!" She's lived in the area (okay, in West Wash Park) for 25 years and recalls the days on South Pearl when a Float-to-Relax store, or "saltwater coffins" as she calls them, existed in the current Sushi Den building. She opened her gallery on South Pearl in 2003, frustrated by other gallery's tendency to "pigeon-hole" artists into recreating the same types of images over and over. She says the biggest challenge as an artist is staying true to herself despite the forces of the art market. At her gallery, which used to house a doll hospital, Bell shows her paintings alongside twenty other artists and craftspeople from around the world. She also shows work around the country, has collectors around the world and is represented by galleries in several other states. Come next January, you might spot her painting animals at the National Western Stock Show, but if you care to meet her in the flesh, stop by Bell Studio Gallery at 1573 South Pearl. You can see her paintings at the Cheyenne Frontier Days from this July 17-26, or visit www.bellstudiogallery.com or www.susanbellfineart.com.



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Tips for Planting in the Rocky Mountain Region

By Kate Cibon

Gardening season is upon us! After plenty of rain in May, it is now time to plant and get your yard or garden ready for a blossoming summer. Our arid, dry climate can sometimes be challenging when it comes to planting. Have you ever wondered why your dahlias die or why those hydrangeas just don't thrive like they should? Enter www.plantselect.org. This fantastic website was designed to specifically help determine what plants will succeed in our region. The plants that they feature in the program are beautiful, adaptable, durable, water-wise, and easy to care for and impose a lower environmental impact. To download their 2015 guide to planting, visit the following URL: <http://plantselect.org/new-plant-guide-available-online/>



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Paws and Reflect

By Kit Escher

...Featuring the dogs of Platt Park.

I don't remember my first 7 months of puppyhood, but somebody left me behind and I ended up in jail in Cleveland, Ohio. They were going to take me to the big farm in the sky so a lady with a kind heart picked me up and took me to a place full of Jack Russell terriers! That's where I met Eric, my forever best friend who's always by my side now. Eric says I got really happy for the first time after getting me out of jail when he played Reggae music. So he named me Rasta. After Cleveland, we lived in Idaho Springs where I ran around all day in the mountains, chasing deer, birds, and my favorite squirrels. (Never caught one, darn!) Then I went to Los Angeles with him and we would go for rides together on his paddle board. He said I was a really good girl because I never tipped the paddle board or jumped into the water. Now we live near three parks in Platt Park on Emerson St. I love more than anything to have you hug me! You can pet me too and see the spots on my tummy. I love to go in Eric's truck and watch people and cars and other dogs through the windows. I love kids too, all sizes. Eric taught me to do some "tricks" that seem to make everybody happy. He says "shake" and I lift up my paw to touch his paw. He says "sit" and I put my butt down and don't move. He says "down, roll over" and I roll around on my back. It makes him happy so I like to do these things for him, since he was nice enough to get me out of jail. Eric says "bath" too and I don't like that so I hang my head down. But we all have to do things we don't like once in a while for the humans we love, so I obey and sit down in the bathtub. He washes me off and then, because he knows I don't like baths, he gives me a treat. Then I don't mind so much. People ask Eric what kind of dog I am- I don't know, what kind of human are you? He says maybe a mutt mix. Mostly he says "the best kind".



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**June 21st – Car Show Sponsored by
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July 19th – Healing Fest

August 16th – HarvestFest

September 20th – Pet Adoption Fair

October 11th – Chili Cook Off

June 5th – 7th South Pearl Street Sidewalk Sale
This is your opportunity to get clothing, shoes, bicycles, jewelry, home décor, and other great stuff at great prices. Early shoppers always find the best one-of-a-kind deals. When you need a break, stop for lunch or snacks at one of Pearl Street's popular restaurants or coffee shops.

Saturday, June 13th BREW GRASS featuring:

Nora Jane Struthers
Dead Winter Carpenters
The Ragbirds
Blackberry Bushes String Band
Halden Wofford and the Hi Beams
Blue Gamma

Saturday, August 8th BLUES & BREWS featuring:

Selwyn Birchwood
Markus James
Chris Daniels and the Kings featuring Freddi
Delta Sonics
Michael Hornbuckle
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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:

Summer of Reading – Read and win prizes!

Program Dates: June 1 to August 8

Last day to register: July 25

<https://summerofreading.org/>

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 & 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.

Zooper Heroes, Friday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.

Come and learn the stories of animals from the Denver Zoo who have fantastic adaptations to help them survive the perils of the natural world. Spiderman and Ironman have nothing on these amazing Zooperheroes! All ages. No registration is required.

Watercolor Secret Messages and More, Tuesday, June 16, 1 p.m.

Discover fun ways to play with watercolors, from hiding secret messages to designing with tape and glue. For grades 1-5. Registration is required. Please call to reserve your space.

Safari Sally presents Animal Heroes, Friday, June 19, 10:30 a.m.

Learn about the superheroes of the animal world. Discover the many ways animals benefit the environment, even those animals that are misunderstood. All ages. No registration is required.

Tie-Dye T-Shirts or Pillowcases, Tuesday, June 23, 1 p.m.

Learn how to tie dye! Each participant will take home their own unique tie dye project. For grades 6-12. Registration is required. Please call to reserve your space.

Superhero Masks, Tuesday, June 30, 1 p.m.

Protect your secret identity with a superhero mask. Come design and create your own unique mask. For grades 1-5. Registration is required. Please call to reserve your space.

Three Best Friends, Friday, July 10, 10:30 a.m.

Help Suzalloonz tell a story with balloon costumes! Unlikely best friends, Lion, Dog, and Duck need help ridding their town of flies. The next day Frog moves into town and soon becomes a new best friend! The moral: Time's fun when you are having flies! All ages. No registration is required.

Superhero Beacons, Tuesday, July 14, 1 p.m.

Call on your local superheroes with these DIY light-up superhero beacons. For grades 1-5. Registration is required. Please call to reserve your space.

Zine Fiends, Tuesday, July 21, 1 p.m.

Long before there were blogs and tweets, the printed zine was king. Learn how to construct your own cleverly folded zine, ready to be copied and distributed to the world. For grades 6-12. Registration is required. Please call to reserve your space.

Up In The Air, Friday, July 24, 10:30 a.m.

Award-winning juggler, dancer, and kinetic comedian, Peter Davison, brings ordinary objects to life in amazing ways. See THINGS differently! All ages. No registration is required.

Found Object Action Figures, Tuesday, July 28, 1 p.m.

Get creative and put together your own action figure in this recycled object toy hack. For grades 1-5. Registration is required. Please call to reserve your space.

Michael Stanwood presents Sound Ideas, Friday, July 31, 10:30 a.m.

Take a fun, hilarious, and interactive journey around the world with musical instruments. You'll even get to play some! Includes the theme song "Heroes". All ages. No registration is required.

Super Rabbit and the Hero Hares, Friday, August 7, 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.

PLATT PARK PARENTS EVENTS:

Moms' Night Out (MNO) – Thursdays,

7:30pm, June 18 and Aug 20

Dads' Night Out (DNO) – Thursdays, 7:30pm,

June 25 and Aug 27

Play!Play!Play! – Saturdays 10-noon, June

20, Aug 15

Check out PlattParkParents.com for more information.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER EVENTS IN PLATT PARK

First Fridays Art Walk

First Fridays: Friday, June 5th, Friday, July 3rd, Friday, August 7th, Friday, September 4th, Friday, October 2nd, Friday, November 6th, Friday, December 4th

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.

Farmers Market

Every Sunday through November 15th

Flea Markets

The Last Sunday of Every Month