



PLATT PARK POST

WINTER 2024/25

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YOGA IN THE PARK

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SOUTH PEARL STREET BEAT
Every Issue!





NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES BY TOM SNYDER

Since I am writing this before the November election, I assume that we have all survived and that Platt Park is still standing. Whew, that is a relief! Sometimes presidential elections are like trips to the dentist... necessary, but wow I don't want to do that very often. Enough about that. On the bright side I believe a "Happy Holidays" is in order. The holiday tree in the park will be lit soon and hot toddy's will need to be consumed at Winterfest on South Pearl. Hopefully you have fun plans, as I do, to spend the holiday with loved ones, friends, neighbors or just quiet evenings by the fire getting some much-needed rest.

On a personal note, this is the twentieth year I've been writing this little collection of meandering whatnot. Thanks to my faithful readership for following along all these years. Thanks to Sharon Withers (then 3PA president) for the innocent sounding invitation 20 years ago to *help out with the newsletter*. I had no idea....

Speaking of 3PA, I went to the October 15 neighborhood meeting at Highlands Church. This is always a good use of time as you learn a bunch of stuff about the neighborhood. Here are a few highlights worth passing along.

Flor Alvidrez (Councilperson in District 7) gave some updates. She let us know that construction on the Jewell Ave/Santa Fe bike and pedestrian overpass will finally be underway in the first quarter of 2025. Then, construction will begin for the new bike and pedestrian path under the railroad bridge on Iowa connecting Platt Park to Overland and the Platte River trail system. Both projects should make riding a bike or walking from Platt Park to the trail system a much more pleasant and safe experience. Excellent!

The cops showed up. Well, they do that for most every meeting to give a report and answer questions. Community Resource Officer (CRO) Kate Young and her colleagues reported that overall crime has been trending down in our neighborhood which is great. It occurred to me as I listened, that Denver has extensive systems in place to deal with anything that comes up with city life... from homelessness to graffiti, street racing, public nuisances, zoning concerns, and crime of all sorts. If it is a problem in the city, there is probably a phone number or community resource to help deal with it. It was encouraging to hear a few neighbors (who were having an issue on one of our blocks) share that by working with the police, the problem was addressed and solved. Here are just a few key phone numbers to keep as a resource:

311 - This is the general go-to phone number for the City of Denver. Have a question about most anything and don't know where to turn? Start here and they will direct you.

720-913-2000 - This is the non-emergency Denver Police number. If you are pretty sure it is a police matter but not an emergency, then give them a call.

911 - As you know, go here when there is an emergency of any sort. Officer Young emphasized the importance of leaving your name and phone number in the event that follow-up information is needed by the police.

You probably have noticed by now the hard-to-miss bright pink tiny home looking thing parked on the old 7-11 parking lot on the corner of Louisiana and Pearl. I didn't think much of it until one day the teal shutters were flung wide open and there were about 50 people queued up out front. The lines seemed to last for days on end which finally triggered my highly tuned investigative instincts that something might be going on. The tiny home is named **Call Your Mother**, which on the surface, told me nothing. It wasn't until I finally got in line and figured out that it was a deli of sorts. Labeling themselves a "Jew-ish deli", the name "Call Your Mother" was an allusion to the owner's Jewish roots.

Call Your Mother is a national chain that began in Washington D.C. in 2018 and soon thereafter expanded to the Denver market with brick-and-mortar locations in Berkeley, Hilltop and Cap Hill. Co-founder Andrew Dana wants to add a fourth permanent location in Platt Park but opted first to debut the concept via the food truck. Said Dana of Platt Park after visiting the Farmers Market one Sunday, "Oh my God, this place is amazing"—duh.

They are open for breakfast and lunch (7am till 3pm) and the menu features an assortment of bagels, breakfast and lunch sandwiches, coffee, sodas, and juice. I tried the sesame bagel with plain cream cheese and smoked salmon, and it was fantastic. The bagel was fresh, the salmon portion was generous, and the cream cheese was soft - just the way my mother would make it (maybe?). Lines have died down for the most part, so drop by and check it out. callyourmotherdeli.com



Call Your Mother Deli

While we are at it, we have a brief update on what is happening to the old 7-11 and south half of the 1200 block of Pearl. The block is now owned by the Denver-based Kentro Group. Kentro has submitted plans to the city to build a nearly 200,000 square-foot apartment complex with ground floor retail space. That block is zoned U-MS-5 which allows for a five-story building, but the ground floor must be retail so that gives you an idea of what is in the works.

Got kids? Well, the **Washington Park Early Learning Center** is moving to a new home in Platt Park at Hope Church (1801 S Logan St.) in January 2025. The preschool has been a fixture in the area for 50 years and is excited to bring their part-day cooperative model to Platt Park. As a co-op, families play a huge role in the operation and success of the school. Participants I've communicated with were very enthusiastic about the school and all it offers. To learn a little more about the preschool, go to their website www.wpelc.org. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year will be up in mid-January and tours are happening now.



From my desk, all the wonderful people at the Platt Park Post, the 3PA board, and all the volunteers who make this work, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

See you around the neighborhood,

Tom Snyder

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The Platt Park Postcard is a series created by neighbors Barbara Lewis and Sharon Withers to highlight the colorful history of our community. What are you curious about? Email us at catalystbel2@gmail.com

Then & Now

Then School for Christian Instruction, Now Townhomes

In the early 1900s, the Christian Reformed Church in North America encouraged immigration to Platt Park, creating what soon became known as Little Holland. Three Dutch churches then created the nine-grade School for Christian Instruction at 735 East Florida, between Clarkson and Washington. In 1977, The Denver Waldorf School moved into the building, where many neighborhood children were educated during the Waldorf's 26-year history in Platt Park.

When The Denver Waldorf School outgrew the Platt Park site, the school sold the building. Developers demolished the building to make way for townhomes but retained the brick facade and trim reminiscent of the old school. The townhomes were completed in 2005.

The Dutch Reformed Church also built Denver Christian on the south side of East Evans, between South Pennsylvania and South Pearl. Interestingly, this building is the current location of the Denver Waldorf School.



Then – School for Christian Instruction (1910 - 1930)
Photo Credit: DPL Digital Collections

Now – Townhomes at NE corner of S Washington & E Florida
Photo Credit: Sharon Withers

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SCARECROWS ABOUND

We had some amazing scarecrows in the 'hood to celebrate the fall season. This was our second annual scarecrow contest. Thanks to all of our neighbors who went all out to deck the yards of Platt Park with their fabulous scarecrow creations. All funds that were raised by this contest were donated to the 3PA and reinvested back into Platt Park community efforts.



AN AUTHENTIC MIX OF REAL PEOPLE, LOCALLY-OWNED ONE-OF-A-KIND SHOPS,



SCENES FROM OKTOBERFEST





SOUTH PEARL OKTOBERFEST = FUN
 What a great September day on the 1800 block of South Pearl! Thousands of people showed up for some live music, German costume contests, bratwurst, stein hoisting, turkey legs, face painting, pretzels, and of course... BEER!

ANOTHER GREAT FARMERS MARKET SEASON HAS COME TO A CLOSE
 November 10th marked the last Farmers Market of 2024. With over 180 vendors setting up every Sunday for 27 weeks out of the year, the final market is always a little bittersweet. This year's market season was yet another record-breaking year for attendance and we can't thank you enough!

DECORATE OUR TREES AND WIN!
 Did you know that South Pearl has 60 holiday trees in giant flowerpots along our sidewalks? This season, we are having all of our neighbors pitch in to decorate those trees for a chance to win \$100 South Pearl bucks and bragging rights!

YOUR HOLIDAY BANNER ART IS UP!
 You submitted your beautiful holiday pieces of art, and now you can see all of them displayed on our lightposts on the 1400 and 1500 block of South Pearl! Go check them out!

SOUTH PEARL WINTERFEST IS HERE!
 December 6th and 7th will be the dates for our annual Winterfest on the 1500 block between Florida and Iowa. We will have holiday wagon rides, live music, an open air market, olde world santa claus, merchant open house, cocoa, cider, toddies, and roasted chestnuts for the whole family!

60 FOOT HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING!
 Join us on Dec 6th as we kickoff Winterfest with our annual holiday tree lighting in Platt Park at 5:15pm sharp! The park will be filled with festive candy canes, glow sticks, and santa's helpers to spread the holiday joy! Don't be late! Once the tree is lit, we will lead a parade into Winterfest from the park that everyone can join in on! See you there!

**WINTERFEST KICKOFF!!!
 60 FOOT HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
 COUNTDOWN IN PLATT PARK
 FRIDAY DEC 6TH AT 5:15PM
 FOLLOWED BY PARADE INTO WINTERFEST**

DECKER BRANCH WINTER LIBRARY UPDATES

By Quetzalli Cortez

The end of the year is just around the corner!

With our Summer of Adventure long behind us, we jumped right into our fall programs. From alebrije magnets to infant massages, fall had an abundance of programs for folks to attend! With so many fun programs behind us, it's time to look ahead into 2025 to see what programs await. (Alebrijes are brightly colored Mexican folk art interpretations of fantastical creatures.)

Every January through February, adults are welcome to join us for our Winter of Reading. Adults nostalgic for summer reading are encouraged to participate. We will be celebrating our Winter of Reading here at Decker by decorating bookmarks—we hope you stop by and join us. Come into the library to sign up for Winter of Reading on January 2nd, and make sure to finish before the deadline to get your prize!

Check out our Upcoming Events page on our website to learn more about Decker's winter programs. denlib.org/decker

We hope to see you all soon! Happy reading!



Alebrije Magnet program in the Decker Branch Library Basement. Participants were encouraged to get creative and make their own magical creature in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

PLATT PARK MOVIE NIGHT WAS A SUCCESS!

Movie Night in Platt Park on September 13 was bigger and better than ever. Over 200 neighbors gathered in the park to watch the movie "IF" on the big screen. Shout out to our friend and neighbor, Chad Smith, with Outreach FX for providing us with the screen, projector, and the sound system to make our movie night possible.

Fire Engine 16 came out to support and let the kids take a tour of the fire truck. The Decker Branch Library brought their book mobile out and offered free books, games, and stickers to everyone. Pike's Peak Ice Cream truck was also in attendance and ensured that all had an ice cream treat to enjoy the show with. Thanks to all for helping to make this event a huge success and a beloved night for our 'hood!



ASBURY ELEMENTARY



At Asbury Elementary School, we emphasize community. Through our focus on social-emotional learning, our students listen to each other and support everyone's needs. All our Eagles know about the community snack table, where students can share their uneaten snacks with someone who might not have one. And our community came together on October 9th for our annual "Walk 'n' Roll to School Day," with captains stationed throughout the neighborhood to ensure our students walked, biked, scooted, and skated to school safely. Our community's strength and generosity is a force, and that's particularly apparent around the holidays.

Each December, our school organizes a Giving Tree so that all our students have a gift to open around the holidays. Any Asbury family that needs extra support can put their kids' names on the Giving Tree list. That list gets distributed to the wider school community, and families pitch in to donate gifts. Then a mighty team of volunteers—last year it was some of our young alumni—gathers to wrap and distribute them. It's a tradition we love to uphold.

But this spirit of generosity isn't reserved for the holidays. All year long, our school maintains a pantry of healthy, shelf-stable food that gets distributed through our Backpack Program. Through this program, kids from households experiencing food insecurity are sent home each weekend with a backpack full of food. To keep our pantry stocked, we rely on the generosity of the Food Bank of the Rockies, Bimbo Bakeries, and other amazing local donors. And, of course, the Asbury community. In October, we had a school-wide food drive, and families showed up with bags—sometimes even entire wagons—full of food and hygiene items to contribute. Our pantry was packed!

This winter, all of us at Asbury Elementary wish everyone in the neighborhood a joyful and abundant holiday season.



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3PA HAPPY HOURS

3PA Happy Hours are back! We are having casual monthly happy hours at local businesses to give everyone a chance to meet their neighbors, support local businesses, and learn how to get involved in the neighborhood.

The following merchants have hosted recent Happy Hours: Bird in August, Goldfinch in September, Monolith Brewing in October, and Meier Skis in November.

Go to our 3PA website at 3pa.org and enter your email address under the “stay informed” tab to get email updates about all of our upcoming happy hours and other events.



Our first ever Yoga in Platt Park was offered by Sumits Yoga and April Feldman on Saturday September 14th. April led a gentle 60 minute yoga class that was suitable to all levels of people who wanted to participate. A huge thanks to our Platt Park resident, Kira Getting, for helping to get this event set up and organized. Thanks to all of our neighbors and friends for coming out to support this inaugural event. We had a wonderful turn out and hope to bring more events back to you just like this one very soon.





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SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

Join Us for McKinley Thatcher Elementary's First Colorado Gives Day

Every child's education shapes the future of our community, and supporting your neighborhood school is one of the most impactful ways to invest in that future. This December 10th, McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School is proud to join **Colorado Gives Day** for the first time, with the goal of raising \$10,000. We invite our friends, neighbors, Platt Park businesses, and supporters to come together in the spirit of generosity to make a lasting difference for our students and our neighborhood.

Why is supporting your neighborhood school so crucial? Strong local schools empower not just the students who walk their halls but our entire community by fostering engaged citizens, inspiring creativity, and promoting inclusivity. By contributing to McKinley-Thatcher Elementary, you're ensuring that every child has the resources and opportunities to thrive academically and beyond. And every time you see an elementary student in our neighborhood, you'll know you've helped shape their future.

Why Colorado Gives Day? Colorado Gives Day is our state's biggest single day of giving—a celebration of generosity that showcases the power of a community united for good. Donations can be made by scanning the QR-Code below or by visiting www.coloradogives.org/organization/Mct-Donates on or before December 10th. Your donation will not only go directly to supporting McKinley Thatcher but will also be eligible for additional funds from the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund, amplifying the impact of each contribution.

How You Can Make a Difference:

1. **Scan the QR Code** and donate today or by December 10th.
2. **Spread the word** to friends, family, and fellow neighbors. Sharing our cause multiplies the impact.
3. **Join the spirit of Giving Tuesday** - a global movement emphasizing the importance of generosity and community.



Every dollar counts, and early donations are encouraged to build momentum. Your support on Colorado Gives Day will enrich the educational experience, enhance school programs, and provide vital resources that benefit every student at McKinley-Thatcher.

Together, let's celebrate the power of community and contribute to our children's future. This Colorado Gives Day, be part of a movement that changes lives.

Thank you for believing in the power of education and community. Your generosity is what makes our neighborhood stronger.

PLATT PARK CLIMATE ACTION FORUM

On October 26th, 35 neighbors and guests gathered at the Fleming Mansion to kick off Platt Park Neighbors for Climate Action (PPNCA). Seth Bartholomew Van De Riet, MSOM, of the Shawnee Nation Loyal Shawnee Band, began the day by honoring the landscape beneath and around us and its original inhabitants, by performing two Native American ceremonies.

Throughout the rest of the day, we envisioned and planned grass roots solutions for climate threats to our children's present and future. Five foundational projects emerged to lay the groundwork for our work in the years to come. Plans and commitments were made for the following: **Online Clearinghouse of Information, Climate Educated Community, Platt Park Energy Strategy, Climate-Smart Landscape Team, and a Platt Park Climate Scorecard** (a metrics system for measuring success).

The value of the Forum will be determined by our ability to execute and evolve going forward. In order to succeed, we need you to join us. Contact plattparkclimate@gmail.com for more information. One of the steering committee members will get back to you.

We are grateful to the guest presenters who donated their time to set the stage: Seth Bartholomew Van De Riet, Jolon Clark from Denver Parks & Recreation, Taylor Moellers from Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR), Tracey MacDermott from the Denver Chapter of the Climate Reality Project, and Greg Pulliam.

Special thanks go out to our primary sponsors for their generous cash or in-kind donations: South Pearl Street Association (SPSA), CASR, One Ton Creative, Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action (ANCA) and Uno Mas Taqueria.

Additional thanks go out to the merchants who donated gift cards: Chook Chicken, Common Threads, Duffeyroll Bakery & Café, Kaladi Coffee Roasters, Kaos Pizzeria, Maria Empanada, Que Bueno Suerte, Sexy Pizza, Steam Espresso Bar and Wheelhouse Gifts.

Mark your calendars for the Platt Park Climate Café every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 11:30am to 1pm at Hoja (1284 S. Pearl) Thank you to Hoja for continuing to provide us this great space!!



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