



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB



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June 2014

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Share Your News!

Please pass along any news of note about SPP residents so we can spotlight them in future issues of the Pulse.

If you have news to share, please let us know by emailing pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com or by contacting Romi Sandel at 713-962-4171.

4th of July Patriotic Parade and Celebration

Save the date for this fantastic annual event! It's a great opportunity to get out and socialize with the neighbors and see how the kids are growing. The 4th falls on a Friday this year, and we hope you will be in town as we want to see you there! We have a big change this year, too—the parade begins at 10 am (instead of 9 am as in past years due to the Fire Truck scheduling)

When Friday, July 4th, 10 AM—Noon

Where Parade begins at the corner of Bethlehem and Apollo

Bikers and faster vehicles start here, and slower walkers with strollers, wagons and such can jump in at Bethlehem and Alba. Follow the parade route with us along Alba to Candlelight to Dunsmere and all the way to Shepherd Park for a post-parade celebration.

We again welcome our constable deputies and local firefighters to join the fun! We hope you will be there, too.

Testimony about the Constable Program from one of our Neighbors:

We are so glad Shepherd Park Plaza neighbors support the Constable program! We are prime examples of needing our Constables from Precinct One. My husband and I were the unfortunate victims of a 'kick and grab' burglary in March. Both my husband and I were away from the house; when I returned and opened the locked back door and seeing the front door wide open, I knew we had been burglarized. I quickly left our home and called both HPD and our Constable Dispatch. Within 10 minutes Constables were on the scene (we never did hear from HPD); they ensured the house was safe, requested a police case number from HPD, lifted fingerprints from an item perhaps handled by the burglar(s), calmed me down and stayed on the premises until all paperwork was completed and my questions answered. The next day, James Moulden, our patrolling deputy, checked in with us to see how we were doing.

When talking to Deputy Moulden during our situation, he told me he takes these cases personally because he has a vested interest in Shepherd Park Plaza – it is his neighborhood as well as ours. In the time of need, it is reassuring to know that the deputies assigned to our community are personally committed to our safety and well-being.

A further example of that commitment occurred in a separate incident. We had a concern about our next door neighbor. She was feeble and we had not seen her for a couple of days. After not getting a response from knocking on her door or calling her, we contacted Constable Dispatch. They were able to quickly track down relatives and report the incident to the family. Our neighbor was transported to a hospital as she had fallen in her kitchen and was unable to get up.

We have been supporters of the Constable program since its inception. The annual \$200 fee (less than \$20 a month) to the program provides us with peace of mind knowing there is a continual presence patrolling the neighborhood and a familiar face in time of need. If you don't already support our local Constable program, we strongly encourage you to do so. The program makes our neighborhood stronger and if, heaven forbid, you should need a quick response to a security issue, you would want our Neighborhood Constable to be on patrol in Shepherd Park Plaza. Please make your donation today.



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Men's Group Rep. Chuck Blesener

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around the neighborhood



Several neighbors have recently commented about the fact that we as residents are beginning to be marketed to by “investors” and “builders” who are interested in buying property in Shepherd Park Plaza. While there are surely many upstanding individuals out there who will pay a fair price, there are also unscrupulous individuals out there that prey on the elderly and uninformed. In order to avoid any gut-wrenching situations from happening in our neighborhood, we’ve prepared a few pointers to consider.

- ◆ If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- ◆ It’s always best to engage a professional, even if only for consultation to ensure you’re being dealt fairly with.
- ◆ In today’s market, there are so many buyers out there, that now more than ever, it really pays to expose your home to as many people as possible. A secretive, backroom deal rarely results in the highest price being paid to the homeowner. Be wary of anyone that suggests it best to deal in secret.
- ◆ Don’t be afraid to talk to those you trust and ask for guidance.
- ◆ Never sign something that you don’t fully understand.

Shepherd Park Plaza is a great place to call home, and we welcome everyone here with open arms. Please just be cautious and alert in all things.

SAFETY ALERTS

by Charli Merchant

Twice in about a week’s time, gunshots were heard in SPP. One event was a home invasion, which resulted in injury to a resident and to a dog, as reported by local media.

As Karen Cruse and our neighborhood Citizens Patrollers have stated before, darkness is a perfect environment for crimes to be committed. As responsible homeowners/landlords, it is our duty to take necessary precautions and actions for our own safety.

1. Use outside lights at night. Cost of the electricity is substantially less than cost of injuries to family or pets, or loss of possessions.
2. Use locks--on doors, or cars, on fences and gates. Patrollers report that many driveway gates are not closed, even overnight.
3. Never leave anything of value in your car.
4. When possible, park cars in garage (with door closed) or behind a locked driveway gate. If cars are left out, LOCK them.
5. Get to know your neighbors--- talk with each other. If several of you think something is suspicious, then report it to the constable. Usually, if something FEELS wrong, it is. Gut feelings about things do have merit.
6. Talk to your neighbors.
7. Know who belongs in your particular area. Call a neighbor if something seems off. (Recently, a former student was visiting me, but since our neighbor had not seen the person or the car before, he was concerned, and called to be sure that all was ok. This is NOT an intrusion. This is a courtesy, as it could just as easily have been a problem.)

Patrol Hours *Prepared by Charli Merchant*

WEEK	Hours Patrolled
1	8
2	12
3	24
4	29.5
TOTAL	73.5

New Patrollers are Needed!! Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or kjcfm4954@yahoo.com for information.

Training for Citizen Patrol certification is the second Tuesday of each month at 9455 West Montgomery at 7 pm. Anyone who regularly walks in the neighborhood is invited to join the COP group. More eyes on our neighborhood means more watching for suspicious activity.

The winner of the random \$10 gas bonus for April is **Jeanette Blesener**.

Congratulations Jeanette! Patrollers who turn in at least 4 hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for a random drawing for a \$10 gas card. Gift cards for accumulated driving hours will be distributed at the monthly meeting.



Graduation Announcement!

Kelsey French, daughter of Bill and Cathy French, graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Finance and a concentration in International Business. She is employed by AIG as a financial analyst in Kansas City.



Lived in SPP since 1982; Garden Club Member; Experienced in Residential sales. Interact with investors nationally & internationally.

Volunteer and Fund Raiser for the 100 Club, the Ronald McDonald House, the HLS&R, the Food Pantry at St. Rose of Lima and the TX Cattlewomen's Organization.

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Calls handled by Deputy Constable



April 2014

Arrests..... 0
 Alarm Responses 2
 Citizen Contacts..... 49
 Information Calls 8
 Welfare Check..... 2
 Park Checks 13
 Weapons Calls 2

Vacation Watch37
 Vehicle—Speeding..... 1
 Traffic Hazard..... 1
 Traffic Stop..... 4
 Open Door/Window..... 1
 Miles Patrolled.....2,217

Meet the Citizen.....356
 Meet the Officer 4
 Verbal/Written Warnings... 0
 Solicitors..... 3
 Suspicious Persons.....5
 Suspicious Vehicles..... 6
 Animal (Humane) 1

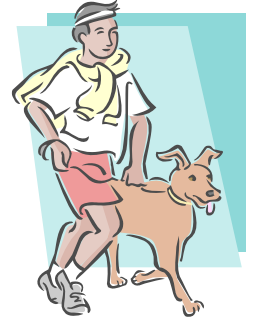
Vulnerable Traffic Codes

The season is here for outdoor activities and there are more and more people riding bicycles, walking pets, and just enjoying the time outside. Vulnerable road users include bicyclist, pedestrians, stranded motorists, construction workers, tow truck operators, utility workers, horseback riders or baby carriages and scooters among others. Thanks to Ted Dwigans for putting this information together for us—please review and keep these rules in mind when you are out and about the neighborhood.



An operator of a motor vehicle or motorcycle **shall**:

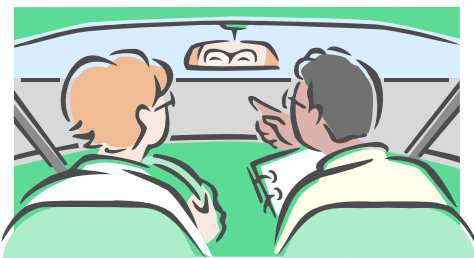
- * Vacate the lane in which the vulnerable road user is located if the highway or street has two or more marked lanes running in the same direction if such action can be taken safely; or
- * Pass the vulnerable road user at a safe distance, or
- * When making a turn at an intersection (including an intersection with an alley or private road or driveway), yield the right-of-way to a vulnerable road user who is approaching from the opposite direction and is in the intersection, or is in such proximity to the intersection as to be an immediate hazard.
- * While passing, a separation of no less than 3 feet if the operator's vehicle is a passenger car or light truck and not less than 6 feet if the operator's vehicle is a truck (other than a light truck) or a commercial vehicle as defined by Texas Transportation Code Section 522.003; or
- * While trailing, a separation that, when all road, traffic and weather conditions are considered, provides the motorist sufficient space and time to avoid a collision with a vulnerable road user.



PROHIBITED ACTION: An occupant of a motor vehicle **may not**:

- * Knowingly throw or project any object or substance at or against a vulnerable road user, or the user's animal, equipment, vehicle or conveyance;
- * Overtake a vulnerable road user traveling in the same direction and subsequently make a turn in front of the vulnerable road user unless the operator is safely clear of the vulnerable road user, taking into account the speed at which the vulnerable road user is traveling and the braking requirements of the motor vehicle making the right-hand turn; or
- * Maneuver the vehicle in a manner that is intended to cause intimidation or harassment to a vulnerable road user or threatens a vulnerable road user.

BICYCLISTS have a legal right to be on the roadway. In fact, in some instances, they are prohibited from riding on a sidewalk. With this in mind, we must learn to share our roadways to ensure that everyone arrives at their destination safely.



Motorists can be patient, slow down, be alert, check your mirrors, look out for bicyclists at all times.

Bicyclists can obey all road rules, ride defensively, be alert, use reflectors and always wear a helmet.

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Important Numbers

Police/Fire: 911

City Helpline: 311

Citizens Patrol
713-824-4799

Deed Restrictions
713-681-3600

Plaza Moms
281-779-5623 or 713-775-0307

New Neighbor/Greeter
713-688-5016

Garden Club
713-681-1552

Architectural Guidelines
713-681-3600

Plaza Pulse News
713-628-4210

SPP Historian
713-681-1552

Traffic & Safety
713-824-4799

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

SPP Membership
713-683-6502

City Liaison
713-683-9945

Pulse Advertising
713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600

Men's Group
713-683-9945

HPD
713-884-3131



SPP CALENDAR

June 2014



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 1	2	3 	4	5 LADIES' NIGHT OUT	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 Men's Group MEETING	13	14
15	16	17 Plaza Moms Meeting	18	19 Heavy trash JUNK waste	20	21
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28
29	30	July 1 	2	3	4 10 am 4th of July Parade	5
6	7	8 	9	10 SPP TRAVELERS	11	12
						<p>Reminder about Heavy Trash: Our heavy trash pickup is the <u>3rd Thursday</u> of each month. Tree waste is picked up in ODD months, and Junk waste in the EVEN months.</p>



Upcoming Summer Activities

Come out and join Plaza Moms for our incredible summer events!

Thursday, June 5—Ladies Night Out, 8pm, Location TBD

Tuesday, June 17—Monthly meeting, 7pm, at the home of Courtney Zavala, 1018 Candlelight. We welcome back a group favorite—the Recipe Swap! Bring an easy appetizer recipe to share, and if you'd like bring a sample (no need to make a huge amount...we'll have plenty) The last time we did this we had a great turnout and it was a lot of fun.

Friday, July 4—Annual Patriotic Parade and Celebration, 10am, followed by celebration at Shepherd Park.



Men's Group

The SPP Men's Group continues to meet for lunch during the summer! Our next luncheon and meeting is Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 at Live Oak Grill.

For more information on the group, contact Chuck Blesener at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.



Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

The SPP Travelers' next bus trip is on Wednesday, July 9th. Call Chuck Blesener for details.

For more information about the SPP Travelers, contact Chuck Blesener at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945. Chuck sends periodic emails to the Travelers group—send him an email if you'd like to be included in future messages.



The Garden Club's
May
Yard of the Month Award
goes to:

Melba Bruce
1036 Candlelight



Garden Club

The Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club met on Monday, May 12, 2014 at Table 19, on west 19th Street in the Heights.

The new Officers that were elected at the May 2014 meeting were installed. They are President – **Carol Jean Hebert**, First Vice President – **Beth Galiano**, Co Second Vice Presidents – **Debbie Elliott** and **Lori Kubin**, Treasurer – **Colette Robichau** and Secretary – **Susan Fitzpatrick**. Thank you, Lori Kubin for your innovative poetic touch to this installation.

The true highlight of the evening was a surprise presentation to **Melba Bruce**. She was given a beautifully framed historical photo collage which was matted with the best wishes of SPPGC members. Melba is the only remaining founding member of the 39 year old Garden Club. She is a treasure and is treasured!



During her thank you speech, Melba emphasized the importance of this vital organization. It is one of the threads that weaves the quality fabric of our neighborhood. The friendships born and supportive relationships that are nurtured within the SPPGC contribute strongly to the feelings of this being a good place to live.

And a well earned SPPGC Yard of the Month for May 2014 was awarded to Melba Bruce, 1036 Candlelight. You might say that May 2014 was the Melba Bruce month!!

The SPPGC does not have monthly meeting during the summer but the Officers will be diligently working on designing and preparing for an interesting and rewarding 2014 -2015 season.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Carol Jean Hebert, 1103 Cheshire Lane.

This will be our social and organizational meeting. Anyone interested in the Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club is most welcome and encouraged to attend this or any meeting.

Garden Club meetings are held on the Second Monday of the month, September through May at 7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested please contact **Carol Jean Hebert** at (713) 681-1552 or CarolJeanHebert@yahoo.com for further details.*





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MAY Yards of the Month

Section 1:

946 Chamboard
Judd & Megan Ryan

Section 3:

4727 Apollo
Greg & Lisa Getty

Section 2:

1030 Thornton
Robert & Julie Barrow

Section 4:

1018 Richelieu
David Baltazor

SPP
Wants to Welcome You

New to the neighborhood?

Even if you are not-so-new, but haven't gotten around to introducing yourself yet, contact **Sheri Beasley** at 713-688-5016 or MammaMia_54@yahoo.com so we can welcome you officially.