



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

## July 2017

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 Pulse Editor: Romi Sandel  
 713-316-9688 or [pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com)



## PLAZA MOMS 4th of July Patriotic Parade and Celebration

It's finally here! The annual Plaza Moms 4th of July Parade. Make plans to join the fun or sit along the sidelines and enjoy the colorful display.

When: Tuesday, July 4th, 8:30—10:30 a.m.

Where: Parade begins at the corner of Apollo and Bethlehem

Go grab your red, white & blue hats, flags, banners and join us! Follow the parade route with us along Alba to Candlelight to Dunsmere and all the way to Shepherd Park for a post-parade celebration. There will be a bicycle/wagon decorating contest this year and we will have prizes for the top five decorated bikes/wagons. Snacks and drinks will follow at the park.



### NEW PATRIOTIC DECORATING AWARD

The Civic Club is proud to announce a new Patriotic Award to be given to a home in each section in SPP that best reflects patriotism of our country by the decoration of the exterior of their home. It will be awarded during the weekend of July 1st. So get out your banners, your yard signs and your flags and show our nation's colors proudly.



## Calls handled by Deputy Constable

\*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza



May 2017

Alarm...6	CONTRACT CHECKS...232	SOLICITORS... 1
Traffic Citations...1	Miles Patrol Led...3546	Information Call...1
Traffic Initiative...2	CITIZEN CONTACTS...244	Traffic Hazard...1
Suspicious Vehicle...3	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...6	Traffic Stops...4
Burglary of vehicle...1	Animal /Humane...3	Park Checks...20
Vacation Watch...80	Meet the officer...3	*****

Vacation Watch registry (1 week in advance)...<http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/>  
**SIGN UP FOR THE CONSTABLE OFFICE'S NEWSLETTER...**<http://pct1constable.net/sign-up> then click Newsletter

### HURRICANE SEASON

One of the realities of living in the Gulf Coast area is that at some point in your life, you may be faced with dealing with a Hurricane or Tropical Storm. The key is being prepared and keeping up with weather reports or maybe even tracking it yourself with a cell phone app. Houston's hurricane season runs from **June 1** through **November 30**. While the last few years have been quiet, it's always a good idea to be prepared in case a storm threatens our area. What do you need to do to be prepared? Find complete information, including detailed checklists, at the [Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management](http://www.hcoem.org). [link to [www.hcoem.org](http://www.hcoem.org)]



#### July General Meeting Cancelled

There will be no July General Meeting due to hectic summer schedules. Enjoy your vacations, stay-cations, family and friends!

#### Save the date!!! Plaza Moms Annual Kick Off Party - Let's Taco Bout a Fiesta!

Wednesday August 23rd from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. @ 1036 Martin Street

Join Plaza Moms to Kick Off a new year with an adult celebration! Look for more details in the August newsletter.

#### Annual 4th of July Parade

Tuesday, July 4th from 8:30—10:30 a.m. @ the corner of Apollo/Bethlehem.

Wear your Red, White and Blue and decorate your bikes and wagons to join Plaza Moms for the annual 4th of July Parade. We will start the parade at the Apollo/Bethlehem intersection and parade through the neighborhood to Shepherd Park for more festivities. There will be a bicycle/wagon decorating contest this year and we will have prizes for the top five decorated bikes.

Volunteer Opportunity: We are still in need of volunteers to help with the parade. Please consider signing up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054badae2ba1f94-201617>

#### Babysitter Resource

Just a reminder that if you are looking for a sitter, PMS has a Babysitter Resource on Facebook under Files (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms/files/>). Some of the listed sitters even provide other services like pet sitting, lifeguarding, or decorative cookies for parties. If you know a sitter/nanny that would like to be added to our list please email us.

#### Join Plaza Moms Today!

Membership dues are \$35 per school year. Pay at our next event/meeting with cash or check OR drop a check off in envelope to Treasurer Elizabeth Cardner at 1046 Candlelight. If you would like to pay by credit card you may contact Membership Officer Sarah Morrissey at [plaza\\_moms.houston@gmail.com](mailto:plaza_moms.houston@gmail.com) and she will send you a Big Tent payment link. Make checks payable to *Plaza Moms Society*. Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms](http://www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms)

## TO THE RESIDENTS OF SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA

by: **Chuck Blesener**

Most of you know me if only by my many articles in this newsletter. My wife Jeanette and I have called SPP our home for over 42 years and have enjoyed every minute of it with our many friends and neighbors. It is now time to begin the next chapter in our lives and truly be retired. We will soon be moving to our new home on the lake. The hardest thing we will have to do during our move will be to say goodbye to all the friends we have come to know and love over the years.

Over these past many years we have been involved with most of our neighborhood organizations including the Civic Club, Citizens Patrol, Men's Group, Travelers, PTA, Church Groups, Super Neighborhood, and others. I have been on our Civic Club Board for most of the last 42 years and held most positions at one time or another. It has been an extremely rewarding and educational experience to serve the residents of Shepherd Park Plaza, the greatest neighborhood in Houston. I have some parting thoughts I would like to share.

While your home may be one of your most valuable assets, it is still just a house. Don't let it just be the place where you sleep, eat, and park your vehicles. Become involved in your neighborhood. Meet your neighbors. Volunteer and share your talents with others. Our Civic Club dues are a bargain at \$25 annually and the security provided by our Deputy Constables is more valuable than it could ever cost. Contributing to both is voluntary in our neighborhood but sharing the costs with others is better than getting a free ride at the expense of your neighbors.

If your neighbors ask you to get involved on the Civic Club Board, PTA, Citizen's Patrol or any of our other organizations, try and say yes. It won't hurt or cost you much except for a little of your time. Better yet don't wait to be asked, step forward and say you will help. Don't always depend on others to make things happen. This is your neighborhood, your home, where you live.



## SPP MEN'S GROUP

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group will meet for their regular monthly luncheon and discussions at Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead, on Thursday, July 13th, at 11:30 a.m. There are no commitments, just bring a hearty appetite, your opinions and ideas, and bring a friend. For more information you can contact August Galiano at 713-682-0920.

## Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club



*The Garden Club's successful Backyard Garden Tour was a benefit event that raised money for Durham Elementary and the Constable Program. A few Garden Club members presented a \$1,000 check to Durham Elementary as a result of this event. The picture at the left shows students and adults at the Durham Elementary Garden. Thanks Garden Club members and all who attended the Tour!*

**"Your Shepherd Park Plaza Neighbor & Realtor!"**

Contact me with all your Real Estate needs.

**Leann Salmons**  
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# Citizens Patrol Stats

## May 2017 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Deborah DeBram & Katherine Peale

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	7	18
2	5	16
3	6	13
4	4	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>69</b>

### SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CITIZENS PATROL WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS!

The Houston Police Department is concerned about crime in the neighborhoods and communities throughout the city. In response, the Citizen Patrol Program was established in an effort to bring the citizens and the police department together for a common goal, and that is to improve the quality of life by eliminating crime. You can become a volunteer by signing up today! Contact Deborah DeBram or Katherine Peale at 713-812-7626 or algebrakp@aol.com for more information.

The Citizen Patrol Program is designed to provide a means for citizens to organize into patrol groups for the purpose of reducing crime in their community. Citizen Patrollers are the additional eyes and ears the police can count on to make Houston a safe place to live and work. The value of police/citizen cooperation is well illustrated by the success of the Citizen Patrol Program.

The winner of the \$10 random drawing is Jeannette Blesener. Patrollers who turn in at least 4 driving hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for this drawing.

**We need volunteers. Training is just a few hours and you can be on your way to helping us protect the neighborhood.**



Notice the chairs around SPP in the front yards? They are to encourage us to get to know our neighbors. Buy a chair, sit outside, and introduce yourself to somebody walking or biking by. #plazachairs

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4<sup>th</sup> marks the United States of America's declaration of independence from Great Britain. It occurred when a document principally authored by Thomas Jefferson entitled 'The Declaration of Independence' was signed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. Today, our nation celebrates the date with parades, BBQs, fireworks and flying the American flag.

### PIP REPORT Part II

by: **Chuck Blesener**

As we mentioned last month, the PIP meeting in May covered some crime statistics and other information about our area. The guest speaker was Officer Don Egdorf with the DWI Task Force who informed attendees of the following facts:

- Harris County and the state of Texas lead the nation in drunk drivers and DWI fatal accidents
- Harris County has 14,000 licensed alcohol establishments
- Houston averages 5000 DWI cases per year, many occurring during the daytime
- Many of the drivers pulled over for suspected DWI are actually high on the drug PCP
- Unlike adults, minors can't have any amount of alcohol in their system - an automatic license removal
- Hit And Run offenses now have the same penalty as DWI to prevent drivers from leaving the scene drunk
- Three ways to determine DWI - blood test .08 or higher, lost use of mental faculties, lost use of physical faculties.

Law enforcement recommends having the number of a cab company handy if you plan to enjoy a few cocktails out with friends...Or pick a designated driver...Or call a driving service. One of these steps could help you avoid an accident, a ticket or a suspended license.

Benefits local animal rescue. Donations accepted! New and used items.

2128 W 34<sup>th</sup>  
(Next door to Doyle's)

Tues: 11-3  
Wed-Fri: 10-4  
Sat: 10-3



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The Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club was established in September 1975 to promote neighborliness through the beautification of our homes and gardens.

Our meetings are varied, with guest speakers, food, business and laughter. They are held the 2nd Monday evening of each month, September thru May at 7:00 p.m. Our two non-meetings are the annual December Christmas party, and the May Installation of Officers. If you want more information about joining the Garden Club, please contact Colette Robichau at 713-201-3322 or Lou Rice, Membership Chair at 713-686-8681.

We welcome both men and women in the neighborhood to our meetings. We maintain several projects for the neighborhood, including enhancing the Memorial Beds in Shepherd Park, activities at Durham Elementary School, desserts at Civic Club sponsored neighborhood meetings and several other fundraisers to support our maintenance efforts.

Support our Advertisers!

Notice the business card size ads throughout this publication? Their ad fees help pay for the Pulse, so thank them when you see them or better yet, contact one of them the next time you have a need for their service. And if your service or product is everything you wanted, give them a shout out on our Facebook page.

### BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Recently, the news has been reporting of attacks on civilians in Europe. Our own country has experienced some of this as well in NYC, San Bernadino and Orlando to name a few. Of utmost concern is how to stay safe always, but on a different level, being alert and reporting suspicious activity is an important tool in protecting our country.

While there are no specific or credible threats to the Houston area, the Mayor's Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security wants to residents to be aware of the following:

- Suspicious Packages - Be alert to bags or packages that are unattended, that are smoking, or have visible suspicious wiring.
- Surveillance - Be aware of people who may be taking photos or making notes of security measures, such as cameras, law enforcement, or emergency exits.
- Unusual Supplies - If you observe someone buying or possessing a lot of suspicious items that may be used to create explosives, such as fertilizer, chemicals, modified electronics or wires.
- Unseasonable/Bulky Clothing - If you see someone wearing a large jacket when the weather is not calling for it, or clothing with unexplainable humps or shapes.
- Unauthorized Entrance into Restricted Areas - People loitering around, or entering exits or restricted areas.
- Unauthorized or Empty Vehicles - Vehicles without license plates, or those that are parked illegally, or for a long period of time should be treated as suspicious.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**REMINDERS and DID YOU KNOWS and HELPFUL HINTS**



- ◆ **Permits are required if you're adding on to your house, adding a pool in the backyard, replacing your roof or making major plumbing or electrical changes. A coat of paint, new carpet, new floors, rebuilt fences under 8', uncovered wood decks under 30", minor wood replacement, cabinetry or landscaping don't require permits. Check the City of Houston's website for more information.**
- ◆ **Our recycling bins (the green ones) don't accept glass for recycling.**
- ◆ **You can put your home on "vacation watch" with the Constable's office. (Did we mention how low the annual dues are for the Constable patrol - \$250 a year!?)**
- ◆ **The sidewalk in front of your house is your responsibility.**
- ◆ **3-1-1 is to report street lights out, stop signs down, major potholes and other city-related items. There's also a phone app for that.**
- ◆ **Front door lights and back yard flood lights are crime deterrents. Keep 'em on at night!**
- ◆ **Fireworks are not legal inside the city limits.**
- ◆ **Dogs should be on a leash when they are outside of your fenced yard.**
- ◆ **Discharging a firearm is not legal within the city limits.**
- ◆ **Storm drains on the street are only for water run-off. NOT leaves, trash, animal waste, paint, chemicals, oil or gas.**
- ◆ **Cars should be parked on the street in the direction of the traffic and not more than 24 hours at a time. Cars should not be parked on the grass of your yard.**
- ◆ **Each section of SPP (there are four) have Deed Restrictions. Check them out at <http://shepherdparkplaza.com/section-information/> **Don't know your section?...There's a map on the SPP website.****
- ◆ **The speed limit inside SPP is 30 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.**
- ◆ **If you, your home or your car are the unfortunate victim of crime, please report it to BOTH the **Houston Police Department and Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office.****
- ◆ **Don't be a victim of Crime or Fraud. Protect your property with lighting, alarms, a safety check by the Constable's office and awareness of surroundings. Protect your identity by protecting your social security number and birthdate, and by shredding unused credit card applications. You can also protect yourself against fraud by not giving out information over the phone when the solicitor initiates the call.**
- ◆ **The Civic Club membership dues and Constable Dues are voluntary for SPP. Many other neighborhoods **have significantly higher dues and they are mandatory. If you haven't paid your dues this year, please check out prior Pulse issues for the benefits received.****
- ◆ **Safety! Safety! Safety! Folks with strollers, dogwalkers, walkers, and joggers – PLEASE use the sidewalks. **It's actually a City ordinance for pedestrians to use the sidewalks where provided. Drivers are often distracted by other things in their cars – kids, cell phones, or blaring music, so the best defense is a good offense. And some cars have blind spots when the driver is turning the corner so it might prevent them from seeing you.****

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**It's not just my business,  
It's my neighborhood.**

*Where do you want to live?*

**Important Numbers Police/Fire: 911 City Helpline: 311**

Citizens Patrol 713-812-7626	Deed Restrictions 713-316-5255	Plaza Moms 281-216-3452	New Neighbor/Greeter 713-775-0307	Garden Club 713-201-3322
Architectural Guidelines 713-316-5255	Plaza Pulse News 713-316-9688	SPP Historian 713-851-3000	Traffic & Safety 713-681-7479	Constable Dispatch 713-755-7628
SPP Membership 832-576-1353	City Liaison 713-688-7979	Pulse Advertising 713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600	Men's Group 713-683-9945	HPD 713-884-3131

**SPP CALENDAR July 2017**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 25	26	27	28	29	30	July 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		 Annual July 4th Parade in SPP	 SPP Board Mtg			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				 Men's Group		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				<b>HEAVY Tree Waste</b>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5
			 SPP Board Mtg			

**FARMER'S TERMITES**  
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- = Trash and Yard Waste
- = Curbside Recycling (no glass!)

**Reminder about Heavy Trash:** Our heavy trash pickup is the 3rd Thursday of each month. Tree waste is picked up in ODD months, and Junk waste in the EVEN months.



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club  
P. O. Box 10453  
Houston, TX 77206  
[www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com](http://www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com)

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## June Yards of the Month

### Section 1:

943 Chamboard  
Marcia West &  
Michael Erickson

### Section 3:

1016 Cheshire  
Velo yce & Michael  
Dorn

### Section 2:

4615 Golf  
Laura Hampton &  
Chris Mouton

### Section 4:

1008 Candlelight  
Holly & Creston  
Inderrieden

**Corrections:** The May Yard of the Month for section 3 was incorrectly listed as Raycene & Bill Hilsher. The correct names are Raycene & Bob Hilsher. Also, the May winner for section 4 was listed as The Romeros. The correct names are Jeanne Warner & David Balthazor. We apologize for the errors.

**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 **Shannon Zierau** at 713-775-0307 or [szierau@yahoo.com](mailto:szierau@yahoo.com) so we can welcome you officially.