



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

July 2018

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PLAZA MOMS PARADE

The annual Plaza Moms July 4th parade in the neighborhood is Wednesday, July 4th, so shine and polish those bikes, dust off that banner, unfurl the flags and get ready for a fun family event to celebrate our nation's Independence! The parade will start at 8:30 a.m. at the corner of Apollo and Bethlehem and it will be followed by activities at Shepherd Park. There will be a bike & wagon decorating contest again this year as well as prizes for the top five decorated bikes. Snacks and drinks will follow at the park. Pssst- Did we mention it's not just for kids?!?!



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

Where: Parade begins at the corner of Apollo and Bethlehem



INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4th 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 4th, 1776. Many of our nation's founding fathers signed the document so we could move forward as a new nation. Today, our nation celebrates the date with parades, BBQs, fireworks and flying the American flag.

PATRIOTIC DECORATING AWARD

The Civic Club is ready to present its annual Patriotic Award to a home in SPP that best reflects patriotism of our country by the decoration of the exterior of their home. It will be awarded around July 1st.

Speaking of activities going on this time of year, when you're driving in our area, please remember to watch for children in their yards, on their bikes, chasing after balls, crossing the street, playing near the park or throwing frisbees. Safety first!

SPP
Wants to Welcome You

New to the neighborhood?
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welcome you officially.

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Practice HEAT SAFETY
Wherever You Are

We all know what it feels like in July and August in Houston. It feels like you stuck your head in an oven! Despite this silly phrase there are hidden dangers with the heat, and certain groups are at increased risk for heat-related illnesses.

Outdoor Workers. Whether you are gardening or your job involves being outdoors for extended periods, prepare for the heat by wearing protective clothing and hats, taking frequent breaks, drinking water or electrolyte drinks or finding shade.



Athletes. If you are a runner or sports team member, you can be at risk during practice or during the big competition or game. Stay hydrated. Sit in the shade when you are able. Practice during early hours or after dusk and wear sunscreen, hats or visors.

Children. If you are going to be outside playing, schedule pool time or sprinkler time during the heat of the day. If you take your children in the car with you, ALWAYS check the back seat just to be sure. If your child is playing outdoors for a good portion of the day, bring them cool drinks with silly straws to keep them drinking. Or try some fruit popsicles. Or maybe some watermelon or flavored Gatorade. Dress them in light-colored clothing. Put sunscreen on them. And NEVER leave them in the car unattended!



Pets. Water - quite simply the best thing to remember about pets. During the summer keep extra water bowls out for your outside pets in case one bowl gets knocked over. And don't forget to keep your pets' paws away from hot concrete by walking them early in the day. The concrete can raise temperatures by 15 degrees and blister your pups' paws. Make sure your pet has shade in the yard. Bring them in during the heat of the day. And NEVER leave them in a car - even for 5 minutes!

Older Adults. These individuals can suffer heat-related illnesses if their air conditioning is not working properly or their medication affects their ability to realize they are not properly hydrated. Check on your neighbors including the working condition of their A/C and fans.

First Responders. This group is often overlooked because their job is to help OTHERS, but the heavy uniforms, vests, boots, and helmets can impact First Responders quicker than other groups. If you are a first responder, carry extra liquids with you or pick up a personal battery-operated fan or find some shade.



Don't forget to grab an umbrella when heading out to the park, ballpark, air show, concert or playground. An umbrella is often overlooked in the summer, but it's not just for rain! And lastly, alcohol consumption can impact your body's natural hydration mechanisms so don't forget to hydrate with water or electrolyte drinks.

Helpful websites/links:
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>
<https://lifehacker.com/5913149/top-10-ways-to-beat-the-heat>
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/heat_app.html



Be a fan of fans and stay cool this summer!

MEN'S GROUP NEWS!

By: Chris Wooldridge

"Supporting Our Neighborhood Through Fellowship & Acts of Service"

Quietly, Dennis Woodward has been leading our effort to reintroduce native plant species into Shepherd Park. With the help of Civic Club leaders and representatives from the Houston City Parks Organization, Dennis has selected 15-20 native plants and has reintroduced them around five areas where Texas fan palms are currently flourishing. The plants include pipevine, turks cap, American beautyberry and Carolina buckthorn. These plants are particularly beneficial for the park as they are well suited to the climate and soil, and are known to attract many species of birds and butterflies. These areas will soon be marked with signs, making them easy to find. Please stop by the park and take a moment to observe Dennis' handy work!

Our May Third Thursday Lunch and Men's Group Meeting took place the at The Wakefield Crowbar. Lunch was expertly prepared by Chef Victor Garcia. Particularly tasty were the Pork Bahn Mi and the Wakefield Burger. Business items included finalizing our next social event to take place in the afternoon on August 11th, celebrating Back-To-School." The menu will include burgers, dogs and plenty of watermelon. Kids can bring their bikes for a tune up and washing. More will follow about this event in the August Plaza Pulse. Please reserve this date on your calendar!

Finally, mark your calendars to attend our Third Thursday Lunch July 19, 2018, from 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. taking place at **Govinda's Vegetarian Cuisine** at 1320 W. 34TH St., Houston, TX. 77018. This award-winning restaurant is sure to offer a great tasting, unique experience.

All of us at The Men's Group wish you a great summer!

Good things are continuing to happen within the Men's Group! Please contact Chris Wooldridge at 832-623-4268 or chris@chris-properties.com for membership and volunteer opportunities!

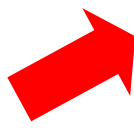


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713.906.4148 Cell
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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Hey Neighbors! The Civic Club is a group of neighborhood volunteers that helps coordinate events in SPP, works with the City on issues affecting our area, manages the Constable program and Citizens Patrol, prints and distributes the Pulse, and so much more. But we need more volunteers! Right now, we have a need for a few **volunteers to help with the Hospitality committee's** functions, which include planning the Octoberfest gathering, Spring Fling, Crawfish Boil, various Holiday yard decorating awards and other events. So if you have a knack for planning parties, or just like being a volunteer for your neighborhood contact us for more information at leslie.bordelon@gmail.com THANKS!

JUNE Yards of the Month

<p>Section 1: 975 Curtin Sandy & Randy Klander</p>	<p>Section 3: 1046 Cheshire Karen & Jack Key</p>
<p>Section 2: 4710 Brian Haven Kylie Greenfield & Brian Havinka</p>	<p>Section 4: 1029 Richelieu Dorothy & Jim Worthing</p>



Chris-properties.com
832-623-4268
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chris wooldridge mba, gri
RE/MAX Signature - 820 Gessner Rd, Suite 120, Houston TX 77024
chris@chris-properties.com

Call is handled by Deputy Constable
 *Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza



May 2018

Animal /Humane...2	Contract checks...216	TRAFFIC CITATIONS...5
Follow-up...5	Miles Patrolled...3745	Traffic Hazards...5
Writ...7	MEET THE CITIZEN...59	Park Checks...4
Suspicious Vehicle...9	Suspicious Persons...8	Traffic Stops...17
Alarm...5	WELFARE CHECK...3	Traffic Initiative...5
Disturbance/Loud Noise...3	Open Door/window...1	Accident/Minor...1
Vacation Watch...47	Information...1	Other...2

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

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LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY– A BRIGHT IDEA!

Last month, the Pulse contained an article about lighting up your house and a few safety tips for protecting yourself and your property. Why not establish a plan to get your outside lights on timers in July? There are two ways to accomplish this. One is to buy timers that plug into an outlet outside that can turn on your landscaping lights. The other is to install a timer to replace the light switch inside your house for your porch list. There are a lot of do-it-yourself kits at home improvement stores for both of these options, or for about \$100, an electrician can install a light switch with a timer for you. DO IT FOR SAFETY!



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES INCLUDING THE ADVERTISERS THAT MAKE THIS PULSE NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE!



The Garden Club's May yard of the month is awarded to Susan Fitzpatrick and 902 Bethlehem. The flower beds are filled with an interesting variety of plants including butterfly weed, bird of paradise, assorted begonias and impatiens, foxtail ferns, hummingbird plants, ixora butterfly iris and Mexican honeysuckle. The yard is framed with lovely shrubs including crepe myrtle, yesterday today and tomorrow, loropetalum and azaleas. A red passion flowering vine fills the space between the two front windows.

The Garden Club meets from September through May and is currently on summer hiatus.

Citizens Patrol Stats

May 2018 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Deborah DeBram & Katherine Peale

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	0	12
2	0	12
3	1	1
4	1	19
TOTAL	2	44

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 August Galiano. 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.

AVOID COMMON VIOLATIONS IN HOUSTON

The City of Houston has published an article entitled, *Avoid Common Violations*. To see the entire list, go to http://www.houstontx.gov/ips/avoid_common_violations.html.

OVERGROWN LOTS

Overgrown weeds, shrubs, grass, and vegetation are fire and safety hazards. The property owner/occupant is responsible for maintaining weeds and grass at 9 inches or less and brush and shrubbery at 7 feet or less.

Fines: 1st Offense: \$50 – \$1,000; 2nd Offense: \$100 – \$1,500; 3rd Offense: \$200 – \$2,000

To avoid fines: Remove any weeds and shrubbery in excess of the legal limit. Also, remove any trash or rubbish accumulating on the property.


DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

Windows, doors and other openings on vacant buildings and structures must be kept locked and covered to prevent unauthorized entry. A property owner may be required to board up a building/structure if it becomes vacant and is not secured. Storage sheds and garages must also be secured. **Fines:** \$200 – \$2,000

To avoid fines: Close and secure all windows, doors and other openings on vacant buildings and structures. Purchase a permit to repair or secure the building.



PERMITTING CONDITIONS THAT MAY ATTRACT RATS

A property owner/occupant may not accumulate lumber, boxes, barrels or similar materials that may be used as a s. Control of rat infestations is the responsibility of the occupant/owner. **Fines:** \$100 – \$2,000

To avoid fines: Remove garbage, rubbish, lumber, barrels or other materials that may be used to harbor rats or other rodents. For commercial property, all material stored on the lot must be 18 inches above the lot surface with a clear space underneath to prevent harborage of rats or rodents.

STAGNANT WATER

Accumulation or collection of stagnant water may become a breeding place for mosquitoes and presents a health and safety risk.

Fines: 1st Offense: \$50 – \$1,000; 2nd Offense: \$100 – \$1,500; 3rd Offense: \$200 – \$2,000

To avoid fines: Eliminate any holes in the ground or remove containers, including tires that collect water and may promote mosquito breeding.

GARBAGE, RUBBISH, AND TRASH

It is the owner/occupant's responsibility to keep the property free from any garbage, trash or rubbish. Junk, trash, litter and rubbish cannot be deposited or allowed to accumulate on the lot or street. It is a violation to place heavy trash or any oversized items on the curb line prior to the Friday before the scheduled collection date.

Fines: 1st Offense: \$50 – \$1,000; 2nd Offense: \$100 – \$1,500; 3rd Offense: \$200 – \$2,000

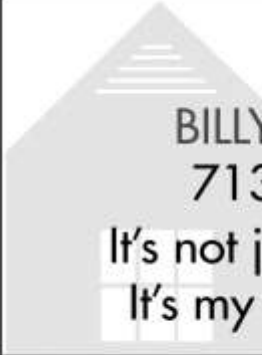
To avoid fines: Remove all refuse and place it in an approved container. Dispose of all garbage according to [Solid Waste Department guidelines and pick up schedules](#). Call 3-1-1 for pick up schedule and guidelines.



This is Part 1 of a 2-Part article. Part 2 will be in the August Pulse.



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HURRICANE SEASON

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit the Houston and surrounding Gulf Coast areas with enormous force and devastating results. The preparation by so many people helped prevent the devastation from being worse than it was. Now it's time to plan for 2018. 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 Hurricane Season can be quiet one year and overwhelming the next year, 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]



Due to busy summer schedules there will not be a July Social. Enjoy your vacations, stay-cations, family, and friends! Cheers to summer fun!



4th of July Parade and Celebration

Wednesday, July 4th, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. @ the corner of Apollo and Bethlehem

Wear your red, white & blue, decorate your bikes & wagons and join Plaza Moms for the Annual 4th of July Parade. **It is a great opportunity to get out and socialize with neighbors and celebrate our nation's independence!** We will start the parade at Apollo/Bethlehem intersection and parade through the neighborhood to Shepherd Park for more festivities. There will be a bike & wagon decorating contest again this year as well as prizes for the top five decorated bikes.



SAVE THE DATE - **Plaza Mom's Annual Kick-off Party** - Aloha!

Tuesday, August 21st, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. @ 1002 Richelieu

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









Join/Renew Your Plaza Moms Membership Today!

We are excited to announce that we have a new website for Plaza Moms Society. The website: <http://groupspaces.com/PlazaMoms/> will allow you to pay your dues online and will be another way to keep up with Plaza Moms. Please login today to create your account. 2017/18 dues are \$35/school year and can be paid online or at our next event via cash or check. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms Please Note: All Plaza Moms events as well as our FB page will be for members only this year. **We wouldn't want you to miss out on all of the fun, so join/renew your membership today!**



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 713-338-2989	City Liaison 713-688-7979	Pulse Advertising 713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600	Men's Group 832-623-4268	HPD 713-884-3131

SPP CALENDAR July 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 1	2	3	4  Annual July 4th Parade in SPP	5	6	7
8	9	10  	11 SPPCC Board Mtg	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19  HEAVY TREE Waste	20	21
22	23	24  	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 	August 1	2	3	4

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.

-  = Trash and Yard Waste
-  = Curbside Recycling (no glass!)



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