



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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April 2015

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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 your section rep (see names on p.2)

Saturday, April 25
8am-noon

SPP Neighborhood
Garage Sale



Contact Patricia Dornak at PDornak@gmail.com or 713-683-6502 to participate and have your address included in handout maps. Our neighbors in Candlelight Plaza will join us in hosting garage sales. This event has had a healthy participation over the past several years. Have fun selling and shopping!

Here are a few tips for a successful garage sale:

- ◆ Be visible from the street. Put a sign or balloons in your yard if you are holding your sale at the back of your driveway or in your garage.
- ◆ Make items visible. Consider moving some items to your driveway, toward the front of your house.
- ◆ Hang clothes instead of leaving them in boxes or folded on tables.
- ◆ Price some items. It is not necessary to price every single item, but give shoppers an idea of what prices you expect so they aren't scared to ask.
- ◆ Save your used grocery sacks to bag up items shoppers buy.
- ◆ Have plenty of change and small denominations ready.
- ◆ Be prepared for early bird shoppers arriving at or before 8 AM!

MANNA (Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance) located at 43rd St @ Rosslyn will pick up any unsold or unwanted items beginning at 12 noon if desired. Or you can take steps to deliver to them. If you plan to participate, please contact Patricia Dornak at [Pdornak@gmail.com](mailto:PDornak@gmail.com) or 713-683-6502 to get your address included in the advertising publications and indicate whether you want to donate to MANNA.

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Shannon Zierau, Megan Rasmussen

Men's Group Rep. Chuck Blesener

Pulse Editor: Emily Leffler
713-628-4210

pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com

Neighbor News

Our neighbor, George Boerger, is an officer with the Wendish Museum in Serbin, Texas. He has submitted award winning coffee cakes at the annual Wendish Fest celebration for the last several years. This year he won 1st place in the Special Coffee Cake category and 2nd in the Streusel category. Our neighbor, Chuck Blesener, purchased that first place cake at an auction benefitting the Wendish Scholarship Fund. Congratulations, George!

Spring Decoration Awards

1st place Best Overall : 4618 Chantilly Circle
Malcolm and Priscilla Phillips

2nd place Best Overall : 1119 Candlelight
Daniel and Carolyn Barrett

Sec 1 Favorite : 1062 Curtin
Scott and Ally Hilsher

Sec 2 Favorite : 1011 Thornton
Charles and Rose Marie Sacco

Sec 3 Favorite : 1101 Martin
Ray and Debbie Elliot

Sec 4 Favorite : 1012 Candlelight
Derek and Amy Adams



Citizens Patrol Stats

Patrol Hours *Prepared by Chuck Blesener*

WEEK	January	February
1	18	16
2	20.5	25
3	20	25
4	36.5	33
TOTAL	95	99

New Patrollers are Needed!!

Contact **Chuck Blesener** at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com for information.

Training for Citizen Patrol certification is the second Tuesday of each month at 9455 West Montgomery at 7 pm. Anyone 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 bonus for January is **Gus Oppermann** and for February is **Bruno Majewski**. Congratulations Gus and Bruno! Patrollers who turn in at least 4 hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for a random drawing for a \$10 card. Gift cards for accumulated driving hours will be distributed at the monthly meeting. Please turn in your hours on time!

Durham Elementary, an IB World School

Please welcome Mr. Tim McKenna who recently became the new International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator for Durham. Mr. McKenna is a great addition to the administration and brings many years of IB knowledge from his experience teaching in IB World Schools in Venezuela, Peru, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the USA. We are building our international focus with his addition to leadership.

Spring will bring our 2nd Annual International Festival on Saturday, April 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a culmination event of year-long learning on a country in each grade Level. The countries that have been studied and will be highlighted are Madagascar, El Salvador, China, Greece, Sweden, Argentina, and Japan. This is truly a fun and enjoyable cultural experience for all the families at Durham!

New for Fall 2015 will be a Dual language program (Spanish/English) starting with two PreK classes and two Kindergarten classes. We are excited about this new opportunity for our community to help each other by learning in English and Spanish every day. Our vision is that this program will expand each year! What a great way for us to grow in our commitment to becoming world citizens.



Hallie Ray Moore, DVM
 Stephen Turek, DVM
 Susan Cardenas, DVM
 Lisa Box, DVM
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 713.906.4148 Cell
SPP Resident

Debbie Kotzur, REALTOR®
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 713.822.4951 Cell



Calls handled by Deputy Constable

*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candl el ight PI aza



January 2015

Arrests..... 0	Vacation Watch.....36	Meet the Citizen.....218
Alarm Responses 7	Open Door 1	Vehicle Stolen 0
Disturbances 2	Burglary of Motor Vehicle . 0	Solicitors..... 1
Information Calls 3	Traffic Initiative..... 5	Home Burglary..... 1
School Check 0	Welfare Check..... 1	Suspicious Persons.....4
Park Checks 27	Miles Patrolled.....2,632	Suspicious Vehicle..... 5
Traffic Stop..... 14		Animal (Humane) 2

Calls handled by Deputy Constable

*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candl el ight PI aza



February 2015

Arrests.....0	Vacation Watch26	Meet the Citizen445
Alarm Responses 3	Open Door 0	Solicitors..... 4
Disturbances 4	Burglary of Motor Vehicle . 1	Criminal Mischief 0
Information Calls 1	Traffic Initiative 11	Theft—Other 1
School Check..... 0	Welfare Check..... 2	Suspicious Persons.....5
Park Checks..... 19	Miles Patrolled.....2,783	Suspicious Vehicle..... 7
Traffic Stop..... 13		Animal (Humane)..... 1

TRAFFIC INITIATIVES

We regularly receive complaints about speeders on many of our streets. Our deputies do patrol all of our streets and do give tickets when warranted. Many residents have received warning tickets but will receive a real ticket if guilty of repeated violations. Both deputies have radar in their vehicles and will park at perceived trouble spots occasionally to catch violators.

If your street experiences a high volume of speeders, please report this and have it investigated.

The established procedure is called a Traffic Initiative and it begins with you calling the Constable Dispatch number (713-755-7628) and requesting one.

When there are no posted speed limits, as in our neighborhood, then by city ordinance the speed limit is 30 MPH. That is actually too fast for many of our streets and road conditions. Someone doing 30 will often be perceived as speeding when they are not. Rarely does the radar show anyone driving over 30 MPH in our neighborhood. The two Justice of the Peace Courts, that hear contested speeding cases from our deputies, will not even accept tickets unless they exceed 5 MPH over the speed limit. Please be more considerate of your neighbors and drive a little more carefully and a little slower on our streets.

Another serious traffic problem we face is the number of residents who fail to stop at stop signs. On a recent morning our deputy gave six warning tickets on a single street. All of the drivers were older residents of our neighborhood, or adjoining neighborhoods. They each had excuses and reasons for their behavior but failed to understand that traffic laws apply to each and every one of us. Just because we have our own officers and we contribute to help pay for them to be here, does not give any of us the right to pick and choose which traffic laws we obey. The five seconds we might save by speeding through a stop sign might be all the time it takes to kill or injure a neighbor or a child.

Please take care while driving (always, but especially) through our neighborhood!

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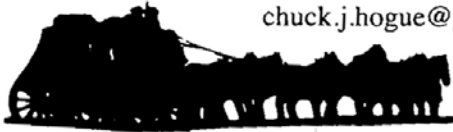
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Important Numbers

Police/Fire: 911

City Helpline: 311

Citizens Patrol
713-683-9945

Deed Restrictions
713-316-5255

Plaza Moms
713-775-0307

New Neighbor/Greeter
713-688-5016

Garden Club
713-681-1552

Architectural Guidelines
713-316-5255

Plaza Pulse News
713-628-4210

SPP Historian
713-681-1552

Traffic & Safety
713-683-9945

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

SPP Membership
713-683-6502

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

April 2015



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<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>						Mar 27	28 Plaza Moms Egg Hunt
29	30	31	April 1 SPPCC Board Meeting	2 Plaza Moms Ladies' Night Out	3	4	
5	6	7 	8	9 Men's Group MEETING	10	11	
12	13 Garden Club MEETING	14	15	Heavy trash 16 JUNK waste SPP TRAVELERS	17	18 SPP TRAVELERS	
19	20	21 	22	23	24	8am 25 Garage Sale 6:30 pm Movie in the Park	
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2	
3	4	5 	6 SPPCC Board Meeting	7	8	9	
10	11 Garden Club MEETING	12	13	14 Men's Group MEETING	15	16	



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28 11 am in Shepherd Park

Join Plaza Moms for our annual Easter Egg Hunt with a special appearance by the Easter Bunny himself! Our hunt will kick off at approximately 11:10am and will have 3 designated hunt areas (0-2, 3&4, 5&Up). There will be plenty of eggs to hunt, food, drinks, and treat bags for everyone. Don't forget your baskets and cameras to take pictures with the Easter Bunny after the hunt!

Our fun family event is free for Plaza Mom Members and \$10 per family for non-members. If you need to pay your membership fee you may also do this at the event - it is \$35.

We are currently in need of volunteers--both for day of set up/clean up and to pick up a few items for the event. If you can help, please contact Christine Gorman ccrompton.gorman@gmail.com or Shauna Tysor thetysors@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 2, 8pm Ladies' Night Out @ Lilo & Ella



Men's Group

The SPP Men's Group will enjoy a spaghetti lunch at Whitney Oaks Hall on Thursday, April 9th, at 11:30 A.M.

The group is open to all men of the neighborhood with no officers, no dues, and no rules. Just come when you can and enjoy good food, good conversation, and great neighbors. For more information on the group, contact Chuck Blesener at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.



Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

The SPP Travelers will go on a bluebonnet viewing trip on Thursday, April 16. They will also tour an alpaca farm.

On April 18, the group will enjoy a Shakespeare in the Park performance.

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.

Garden Club



The Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club met on Monday, February 9, 2015 at Spaghetti Western on T. C. Jester. Beth Galiano presented an informative program on Roses.

This was a unique meeting for the SPPGC since we usually meet in members' homes. Instead of a Hostess and Co-Hostesses, the meal consisted of ordering off the menu and separate checks.

The Yard of the Month for February was given to Lou Rice, 1108 Martin.

Linda Morgan, who has recently had knee surgery, was not in attendance but everyone would like to thank her for her continued efforts in staying on top of her game concerning all SPPGC affairs. Wishes were also extended to Susan Fitzpatrick's husband, Havey, and all hope that he has a short stay in the hospital and a speedy recovery. And may Barbara Raines continue to positively progress.

Door Prizes were in abundance and they were won by: Vicki Brandt, Debbie Elliott, Beth Galiano, Geraldine Gurley, Carol Jean Hebert, Carolyn Long, Corinne Oppermann, Lou Rice, and Ruth Rock

*Anyone interested in the Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club is most welcome and encouraged to attend any meeting. Please contact **Carol Jean Hebert** at (713) 681-1552 or CarolJeanHebert@yahoo.com for further details.*

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



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

Addie Smith

Movie in the Park scheduled for our Community on April 25th



A movie in the Park is scheduled at the Durham Elementary School field, next door to Shepherd Park for April 25th. This is a community event underwritten by the **Leather Apron Foundation**, a nonprofit foundation in our community made up of area residents whose mission is service to our community by sponsoring events to promote fellowship, provide assistance to good causes as well as contribute to the well-being of our community. The foundation president is our neighbor, **Jonathan Kolmetz** on Cheshire Ln.

The movie in the park event will be supported by **SPP Civic Club, SPP Plaza Moms, CP Civic Club and Durham Elementary, including the PTA**. The event is free to attend. Food Trucks are scheduled to be on site to sell dinner and snacks to anyone beginning at 6:30 PM.

Event Details are:

- Movie in the Park:** This event is outdoors. The movie will be displayed on a large outdoor screen.
- Who's invited:** Everyone in our community. Spread the word.
- Date:** Saturday, April 25th
- Time: 6:30 PM** Event begins. Food trucks begin selling dinner, desserts and snacks.
- 7:30 PM** Movie: **Big Hero 6**, A Walt Disney animated action/comedy, Rated PG, Released 2014.
- What to bring:** Either a lawn chair or a blanket for sitting on ground.

Texas "Two Steps, One Sticker" Changes to Vehicle Registration

As you probably are aware, the State of Texas Vehicle Registration process is changing from the "two sticker" system we know to a new "one sticker" system.

Change is difficult, so we had one of our great neighbors suggest that we include some information in the Pulse. Thanks, Lou! Coincidentally, I happened to receive my own vehicle registration renewal in the past couple of weeks, so I decided to use myself as a case-in-point.

The simplest explanation is this—if your vehicle's inspection is current at the time your registration is up for renewal, then you can complete your renewal with proof of that inspection. If your inspection is not current at the time your registration is up for renewal, then you must obtain a current inspection and provide that as proof at the time you renew your registration.

For more details, visit the website: TwoStepsOneSticker.com This site will even calculate your dates for you!

Here is my example. Vehicle A (on the left) will be up for registration renewal in August (per the blue top sticker). In August, Vehicle A's inspection will be out of date (per the green sticker on the bottom). Therefore, I will need to obtain a new inspection in order to renew my registration.

Vehicle B (on the right) is up for registration renewal in April. However, Vehicle B's inspection is valid through April 2016 (since it is a new car and the initial inspection is good for two years).

Vehicle A



Vehicle B



Neighborhood Construction Updates Sidewalk and Curb Maintenance



The subject of sidewalk maintenance has been mentioned before but is worth repeating. We have many locations in our neighborhood where tree roots, subsidence, vehicles or contractors have caused the sidewalks or curbs to be broken, sunken, elevated or missing. With so many of our neighbors out and about walking—especially with children often in strollers or on push toys—our sidewalks are of great importance, and often a contributing factor to individuals purchasing homes in SPP.

In the past we were able to contact the City and get these sidewalk issues repaired. This is no longer an option. For several years now the City Legal Department has ruled that the maintenance and repair of the curbs and sidewalks in front of our homes is our responsibility as the homeowner. Even though the sidewalks and curbs are located on the City right-of-way, the City will not take a report and will not repair them except in very special and limited circumstances, those being - damage caused by a City hired contractor, damage caused by a garbage truck or City owned vehicle, ADA compliance for a disabled person living in the home or nearby using the sidewalk.

Along with the responsibility for maintenance comes the legal liability for anyone injured in an accident caused by the homeowner not keeping the curb or sidewalk in a safe condition. Each of us wants to keep the property in front of our homes safe for our families, friends, and neighbors.

If your home has a problem sidewalk that needs repairs, be aware that the City has fairly strict rules on who can do the work and how they can be repaired. The use of gravel or other fill materials is not an acceptable permanent substitute for reinforced concrete poured to City code.

The Good News!

On October 14, 2014, the Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee received a report on a new program that allows private homeowners to use the city to hire a contractor to fix the sidewalks on their properties. In an attempt to gain economies of scale, the Public Works and Engineering Department has drafted a plan where citizens may apply online for a section of sidewalk to be built or repaired and pay for it themselves.

For reference, the estimated cost for 15 feet (three panels) of sidewalk is \$800. The estimated cost for 60 feet (the length of a standard lot) is \$5,200.

More information can be found here and <http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/>.

Pulse Editor Farewell!

Passing the (tiki) torch!

And so it was, that there was a great sigh of relief that all neighbors collectively exuded upon the news that the current Plaza Pulse Editor, Emily Leffler, was retiring.

I humbly pass my duties to the ever capable hands of (former SPP Civic Club President) Romi Sandel and wish her all the best in the fantastic endeavor that is informing (and occasionally mis-informing) the neighborhood.

So what will I be doing with all my spare time?

1. Honing my skills in making the world's best frozen margarita by pilfering various citrus from neighborhood trees.
2. Putting my recycle bin out on the wrong Tuesday, just to confuse my neighbors.
3. One (female) neighbor suggested I organize a group of neighborhood ladies to develop a calendar, a la "Calendar Girls" - cookbooks be darned, Romi Sandel!
4. Finally, what I am REALLY going to do is get my certification to join our neighborhood Citizens on Patrol group. And now that it is in writing, I have to follow through, right Chuck Blesener? Who's with me?
5. Oh yes, and of course, host the second annual Wine & Craft Beer Crawl, November 2015!! Be there or be square.



All my love to you all!! See you around the 'hood.
Emily



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Previous Yards of the Month	
<p>Section 1: Feb: 946 Chamboard Judd & Megan Ryan Mar: 1162 Chamboard Diane Bell</p>	<p>Section 3: Feb: 1032 Martin Alex & Melissa Taylor Mar: 1010 Cheshire John Decker</p>
<p>Section 2:</p>	<p>Section 4:</p>

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.