



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

## {CONTENTS}

August 2012

### [Departments]

- Citizens Patrol
- Deputy Constable Patrol
- SPP Clubs
  - Men's Group
  - Plaza Moms Society
  - Garden Club
  - SPP Travelers

NEW

### [Features]

- A Quick Note about our Neighborhood Facebook Page
- Crime Report
- FYI
- Tennis Anyone?

### [Reviews]

- Around the Neighborhood
- What's Happening Around Houston
- Yard of the Month
- Calendar
  - Important Dates
  - Numbers to Remember

## A Quick Note about our Neighborhood Facebook Page

We are so glad to have so many of our SPP neighbors contributing to our Facebook page! What a great way to meet and keep in touch with each other. However, please keep in mind that Facebook is a publicly accessible medium, and all posts can be searched and read by anyone on the world wide web. Please remember this before posting specific details about individual addresses and neighbors. Details about neighbors' habits and whereabouts or posting details about break-in methods can actually serve as motivation for future criminal activity. Even this article is public information since it is included in the Pulse which is posted online. Let's all be careful to use social media and the web to inform our neighbors without putting them at risk.

## Crime Report *By Chuck Blesener*

There are over 200 known gangs in the Houston area with many thousands of members. Not all of the gang members are adults or ex-convicts. Many are students in our local schools, trying to influence and recruit our children. HPD has replaced the DARE Program in the schools with the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Program. They are working with students in the fifth and sixth grades because gangs are recruiting kids at a younger age than ever before. They started in the schools with the biggest problems but you can request participation at your child's or grandchild's school.

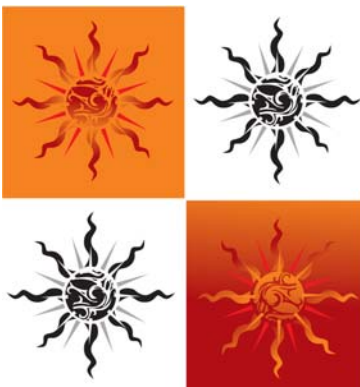
Some of the signs that may indicate gang involvement include: poor progress, grades, or achievement in school; truancy from school; lack of hobbies or something to do with leisure time; frequent negative contact with the police or authorities; sudden change in dress attire or friends they associate with. The reasons for joining a gang are as varied as: wanting to belong to something or feel normal; for monetary or material gain; for love, attention, or recognition; peer pressure and protection; problems at home with parents; economic and emotional problems; distractions of violent movies, music, and video games.

Here are some things the police say you can do as a parent to help prevent gang involvement: get involved - go to PTA meetings and teacher conferences; talk to your children and listen to what they have to say; know where your child is - check on them; ask to meet the parents of your child's friends; peer affiliation - know who their friends are; be aware of suspicious behavior - be vigilant; give consistent and reasonable discipline and structure; be a parent and not a friend. To report gang activity—[stophoustongangs.org](http://stophoustongangs.org).

**REMINDER**—A large number of the homes in our neighborhood have gates across the driveway but many of our residents fail to close them. Many of the recent burglaries involve criminals breaking into the back door after determining that no one was home. If your gate is closed and locked it makes it more difficult to get to the back of your house and also protects your vehicles behind the gate. If you are in the habit of only closing your gate when you are gone, this sets up a pattern and criminals can easily determine when you are not at home.

## Tennis Anyone?

Men's tennis team is looking for intermediate tennis players to join its combo singles/doubles tennis league team that plays in USTA League, NTRP ratings 3.5. Next season begins in September. Matches are on Thursday evenings. Home court is Memorial Park Tennis Center. Two (2) SPP residents are already a part of this team. Contact SPP resident **Tom Dornak** at 713-683-6502 if interested



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**Men's Group Rep.** Chuck Blesener

**Pulse Editor:** Emily Leffler  
713-628-4210

**Pulse Design:** Paula Collins  
713-594-5295  
[pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com)

## FYI *By Chuck Blesener*

**STREET LIGHTS**—We regularly drive the neighborhood and check for lights that are out or broken. As soon as we find one it is reported to Centerpoint and they usually repair it within a few days. If it is a wiring problem or something serious it can take as long as ten days to two weeks. If you see one out and wish to report it yourself, you can call them at 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143 or go to this link online—[cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage](http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage). You will need the six digit pole number on the side of the pole and the street address.

311To report a non-emergency involving any City of Houston Department, you can call 311 or go to this link—[hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php](http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php). You can also find the link to Centerpoint at this site. To sign up for the City of Houston eNewsletter called CitizensNet go to this link—[houstontx.gov/citizensnet/index.html](http://houstontx.gov/citizensnet/index.html).

**DEAD TREES**—There are several dead trees in yards in our neighborhood. If a live healthy tree falls because of a storm, or for any other reason, it is considered an act of God and damages are covered by the insurance company of the homeowner who receives the damage. If a tree is dead, and you and your neighbors know it is dead, you should have it removed immediately. If you do not have it removed and it falls on your property or your neighbor's property, then you are considered negligent and can be held personally responsible for any and all damages.

**PARKING**—Usually around the holidays we remind residents to have guests only park on one side of the street when having a party. We are concerned that it is often difficult to drive down the middle of a street clogged with parked cars and an emergency vehicle might not be able to get to someone in need. There is actually a city ordinance that covers this. Section 26-84 of the Parking Ordinance provides for a citation and fine if you park on a roadway and leave less than ten feet of the width of the roadway available for free movement of vehicular traffic. Allowing for the width of the vehicles and extending mirrors, and the fact most people do not park right up to the curb, on many of our residential streets this means that you can't park on both sides of the street legally. Remember to be a good neighbor when you visit someone for a meeting or party and try not to park across from another vehicle. Also inform your friends and guests to only park on one side of the street.

**LOST ANIMALS**—We sympathize with families who lose animals, but please be thoughtful when posting lost animal notices. It is actually illegal to place signs of any type on light poles, street sign poles, esplanades and the city right-of-way. If you are posting a sign in a neighbor's yard, please first ask their permission and be sure to remove all signs in a timely manner. Also, please, please, please have your phone number or other contact information on your animal's collar and tags so that those who find your animal can contact you quickly.

## What's Happening Around Houston

### Houston's Downtown Art Deco

*On the second Sunday of every month at 2 pm (6 pm June through September; there is no tour in December), Preservation Houston presents a docent-guided walking tour of an architecturally and/or historically significant area of Houston. The cost is \$10 per person (\$7 for Preservation Houston members and students), with a \$2 discount if you walk, bike or ride public transportation to the tour. They offer private tours for groups of almost any size. A tour of Houston's Art Deco Buildings is truly fascinating.*

In the 1920s and 1930s, Houston was quickly transforming from a regional center into a city of national importance. As the city grew, many builders and architects embraced the modernistic style—bold, modern and elegant—as the ideal embodiment of Houston's new spirit. This tour includes the modernistic downtown buildings that are still standing

*(Continued on page 3)*

MAY 2012

## CITIZENS PATROL STATS

### Patrol Hours *Prepared by Charli Merchant*

WEEK	WALK/BIKE PATROL	AUTO PATROL	TOTAL HOURS
1	32.5	16	48.25
2	21.75	13.5	35.25
3	27.75	14.5	42.25
4	30	27	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111.75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>182.75</b>

**Interested in patrolling?** Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or [kjcfm4954@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

Auto patrollers who logged either 10 hours this month, or who reached 10 hours cumulatively this month are:

**Jeanette Blesener**, 12.5 hours · **Chuck Blesener**, 12.5 hours · **Karen Cruse**, 24 hours · **August Galiano**, 10 hours

These patrollers receive a \$25 gas bonus this month. Hours begin again with each bonus.

Winner of the \$10 gas bonus (chosen randomly from patrollers who turn in at least 5 hours by the 5th of the month) is **Ernie Gessner**.

(some beautifully restored, others forgotten gems) as well as lost architecture, which we explore using descriptions and historic photos. Circumstances permitting, the tour ends with a visit to the former Gulf Building (now the JPMorgan Chase & Co. Building), a 1929 masterpiece with some of the city's most magnificent Deco interiors.



[1922 Gulf Building  
Now the JP Morgan  
Chase & Co. Building]

The German poet and philosopher Von Goethe called architecture "frozen music." If so, Houston's magnum opus is the 1929 Gulf Building (now the JPMorgan Chase & Co. Building). The Art Deco skyscraper's exterior is richly detailed in a modified Gothic style; inside, its public areas, including the three-story Banking Hall, are among the city's most magnificent. The tour tells the story of the building's construction, engineering and architecture; Jones, the man who built it; and how Texas Commerce Bank saved the building against advice to demolish it in the mid-1980s.

Another of the Art Deco Masterpieces in our mist, is the Esperson Buildings. The Niels and Mellie Esperson buildings have been landmarks for generations of Houstonians. Mellie Esperson commissioned architect John Eberson to design the Niels building as a monument to her late husband; when it opened in 1927, it was the tallest and finest office building in Texas. In 1941, Mrs. Esperson built a 19-story Art Deco skyscraper as an accompaniment and named it for herself. The tour



[The Niels & Mellie Esperson Buildings]

explores the exterior and interior architecture of both buildings, traces the story of the Espersons, dispels a few urban myths and, weather and circumstances permitting, includes a trip to the long-closed observation deck atop the Niels building.

**For further information contact Preservation Houston, 3272 Westheimer Road, Suite 2, Houston, Texas 77098. (713) 510-3990.**

### CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE



JUNE 2012

Arrests..... 3  
Alarm Responses ..... 6  
Citizen Contacts..... 185  
Disturbances ..... 3  
Investigations ..... 1

Park Checks..... 25  
Vacation Watch ..... 32  
Misc. Calls ..... 29  
Dispatched Calls ..... 21  
Total Calls ..... 282

Miles Patrolled... 1946

Traffic:  
Verbal/Written Warnings... 0  
Citations... 0

# 4th of July Album

*Thanks to all who participated in this year's Parade and Celebration...*



To Susan Fitzpatrick for serving as our Parade Marshall!



To Brad Field for building our bean bag targets!



To the Zierau men for being our sno cone kings for the day!



To our local fire fighters and constable for leading the parade! To all our bikers, joggers, stroller pushers, wagon pullers, bike collision picker-uppers (Sarah O.), flag wavers and cheer-us-on-ers!



To Carol Jean for taking photos (and here's one of your cute pie!)



To Lorraine Cole, Durham Elementary teacher and Plaza Moms' member for serving as our Durham liaison!



And to Debbi, Veronica, Jenny, Shannon, Heidi, Sarah and all our volunteers and neighbors for decorating, showing up early, staying late, cheering us on and generally sweating out the morning. We couldn't have done it without you!



*Most Sincerely,*  
4th of July Event Co-chairs, Erin Field and Emily Leffler

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**POLICE/FIRE: 911**

**CITY HELPLINE: 311**

Citizens Patrol  
**713-824-4799**

Deed Restrictions  
**713-305-5035**

Plaza Moms  
**713-775-0307 or 832-477-7871**

New Neighbor/Greeter  
**713-305-5036**

Garden Club  
**713-344-7013**

CP Vacation Watch  
**713-682-5959**

Architectural Guidelines  
**713-301-4054**

Plaza Pulse News  
**713-628-4210**

SPP Historian  
**713-681-1552**

Traffic & Safety  
**713-824-4799**

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**



## SPP CALENDAR

AUGUST 2012



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**Call Deputy Dispatch • 713-755-7628**

A Note About Trash: You can legally put your heavy trash out at 6pm the Friday before your heavy trash day.

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 pm Plaza Moms MEETING	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Heavy trash JUNK waste only	29	30	31	



Mon - Fri: 7 AM - 6 PM  
Sat: 7:30 - 11:30 AM

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## Plaza Moms

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 4TH OF JULY FESTIVITIES!! WHAT A GREAT SHOW OF SPIRIT AND FAMILY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!!

The Plaza Moms Annual Kick-Off Party will be held **Tuesday, August 7** at 7 pm at the home of **Holly Inderrieden** at 1008 Candlelight. Please come join us to relax by (and in) the pool and play a bit before summer ends and school begins.

## Around the neighborhood

By Romi Sandel

**Jonathan Moroney**, son of **Ryan & Kathleen Moroney**, recently graduated from St. Pius X High School in May. He will attend Texas A&M University in the fall. He has also committed to play baseball at Texas A&M. Gig'em!!!

**Share Your News**—Please pass along any news of note about SPP residents so that 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](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com) or contacting **Romi Sandel** at 713-962-4171.



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--Stuart F., Houston, TX

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## Garden Club

Garden Club members receiving Yard of the Month designations and honors are: June,

**Geraldine Gurley** at 1043 Martin, and July, **Cindi Phelps** at 1162 Chamboard. The Fall organization meeting will be held September 10, 7 pm at 1103 Cheshire. New and old, men and women, all welcome to attend.



## Men's Club

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group will have their next luncheon and meeting at Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead at Dacoma, on Thursday, August 9th. All men of the neighborhood are welcome and there are no officers, dues, or commitments. Contact **Chuck Blesener** at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945 for more information.



## Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

By Chuck Blesener

We now have more women going on our bus trips, but many women do not sign up because they think the trips are for men only. We are splitting the travel group off from the Men's Group and changing the name. The trips will remain on County Precinct 4 buses and be for those over age 50. Nothing will change but the name. We currently have members of the SPP Men's Group and their wives, SPP Garden Club and spouses, Oasis Book Group, and others not tied to any group traveling with us. All residents of SPP and their friends and relatives are welcome on a space available basis.

The group traveled to Round Top for a Czech Heritage Musical and dinner on July 29th. They will be going to Old Town Spring on Friday, August 17th, to Puffabelly's Old Depot Restaurant for an Old West Melodrama and dinner. A trip to Texas City for a guided tour is planned for October 18th. For more information contact **Chuck Blesener** at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945.

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## Welcome to the Neighborhood!

**SECTION 1** **Scott & Ally Hilsher**  
1062 Curtin

**SECTION 1** **Victor & Eva Saabedra**  
1002 Chamboard

## June YARDS OF THE MONTH

### Section 1:

JIM & LISA PETREE  
1111 CURTIN

### Section 3:

GERALD & NORMA GARCIA  
1009 MARTIN

### Section 2:

CHRISTOPHER & JOANN  
SCARDINO  
1123 CHANTILLY

### Section 4:

RAY & DEBORAH  
PANTOJA  
1009 RICHELIEU

# SPP

## Wants to Welcome You

Thanks to **Spaghetti Western**, 1608 Shepherd Drive (713) 861-1313, who graciously donated gift certificates for our newest neighbors.  
<http://www.spagwesthouston.com/>.

New to the neighborhood? Even if you are not-so-new, but haven't gotten around to introducing yourself yet, contact **Eileen Hartman** at 713-305-5036 or [Eileen@hartmanassociates.com](mailto:Eileen@hartmanassociates.com) so we can welcome you officially.

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