



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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August 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)



Don't tell the kids yet, but it's back-to-school time! HISD is geared up and ready to go for another great year of education, sports, competitions and after-school activities. HISD is officially back in session on Monday, August 24th. St. Ambrose, St. Rose of Lima and St. Pius X High school start Wednesday, August 12th.

Remember that school zones have a lower speed limit than the surrounding area and are no-cell-phone zones. Safety first!

And don't forget about tax-free weekend on August 7th-9th. You save on Texas sales tax on these days for all purchases of clothing, shoes, school supplies and backpacks under \$100 per item.

Need some tips for first time students? Check out these links:

http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/classroom_solutions/2011/08/planning-for-the-first-day-of-kindergarten OR

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/starting-school/tips/>



WOMEN'S SAFETY PROGRAM - SIGN UP NOW!

Shepherd Park Plaza is a supporter of the Precinct 1 Constable program. One of the benefits of being a participant is that SPP female residents can participate in a free Rape Aggression Defense ("RAD") program. The RAD approach to personal safety begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, and progresses to hands-on physical defense techniques designed especially for women. Participants in the program will learn a wide range of tactics to protect themselves if attacked. The practical techniques are designed to maximize the strengths of a woman's body and build upon existing instinctive responses to provide women with effective self-defense options.

This safety program is available to women age 14 and over. Women ages 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. This is a 12-hour program that will be taught over four consecutive nights beginning August 10th from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. each night. The class is designed for 8 to 25 female participants and is open to residents who live in Shepherd Park Plaza and Candlelight Plaza. This training will take place at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church at 2003 W. 43rd Street. You can sign up by going to the Constable's Office website at <http://pct1constable.net/community/crime-prevention-unit/r-a-d-system/>. This link can also be found on the SPP website.

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713-316-9688 or pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com
Pulse Co-Editor: **Laurie Hardwick**



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA MEN'S GROUP

The SPP Men's Group honored a special guest at their July meeting. Precinct One Constable Deputy James Moulden was surprised when the group awarded him with their annual John Wayne Award. This award is given to an individual who has exemplified true leadership and worked to make SPP a better neighborhood. While it is his job to protect our neighborhood, Deputy Moulden has taken ownership of SPP, works hard to solve crimes here, and is always a strong and friendly presence, ready to meet residents and answer questions. He is the first non-resident to receive this award and was treated to lunch and given a plaque. Thank you Deputy Moulden for all you do for us.

Because of a planned bus trip on August 13th, the group will meet on August 6th at the La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant. The group is open to all men of the neighborhood with no dues, rules, officers, or commitments. They meet for lunch at local restaurants every month and have open discussions on various topics. For more information contact Chuck Blesener at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.



Christmas in July Event Brings Out Holiday Spirit



The SPP Christmas in July event was held on Wednesday, July 15th at Berryhill Baja Grill with approximately 70 neighbors attending. The event focused on outdoor Christmas holiday decorating in our Neighborhood. Many residents agreed that the decorating in the past 10 years does not resemble the decorating in the prior 10 or 20 years. Many new residents who attended are truly interested in jumping on board to join the theme of their block or help establish a theme. Presenters included John Emanuel of No Fuss Lights. John's company is a professional Christmas outdoor lighting service company which rents, installs and removes the very efficient LED lighting for residential customers. The company can be reached at 281-809-7021. Elizabeth Gardner, a new SPP resident on Candlelight Ln presented her company, Houston Yard Art, whose services include designing, building and painting wood yard art for the Christmas season and other holidays. Elizabeth can be reached at 713-542-6844 or HoustonYardArt@gmail.com. Bob Warren, a resident on Thornton Dr, presented info (including specifications & drawing) on his experience in building the popular Christmas arches which we enjoyed seeing in sections of Thornton, Apollo and Richelieu. The cost to build these is approximately \$120 each. Tommy Peterson, resident on Chantilly Ln, offered to donate his services to professionally cut and drill the conduit for any resident wanting to undertake this project since he is in the pipe fabricating industry. The evening wrapped up with some Christmas-themed door prizes.



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- * Competitive Pricing Program

Citizens Patrol Stats

Patrol Hours *Prepared by Chuck Blesener*

WEEK	JUNE
1	30
2	26
3	32.5
4	45
TOTAL	133.50

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 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the neighborhood is invited to join the COP group. More eyes on our neighborhood means more awareness of suspicious activity.

The winner of the random \$10 bonus for June is August Galiano. 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!

Correction from last month: Bob Wottrich was the winner of the random drawing for May.

CITY OF HOUSTON CONNECT

Have you ever wondered how to contact particular Departments at the City of Houston? This new section of the Pulse should give you some direction. Check back frequently, as new items may be added. The main number is 713-837-0311.

Website—www.houstontx.gov/

City Ordinances—www.houstontx.gov/codes/

Non-emergency concerns (street issues, traffic signal problems, fire hydrant issues).

<http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php> or Dial 3-1-1. There is also a mobile phone app for this.

Permit questions—www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/

Interactive map (to find information about your City Council district, police department, solid waste schedule)—<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public>

CenterPoint Energy has a new website to report street lights that are out at <http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/sloreporting/>



LET'S TALK TRASH!

Rollout! is a simple app to make figuring out the City of Houston's trash pickup easy!

Forget about peeking outside to see if your neighbor's bins are out, with Rollout! we use your phone to look up your location and instantly let you see your schedule for your neighborhood. You can set up reminders to tell you when to take out your trash to make sure you don't miss recycling day again. Rollout! was created as part of the City of Houston Hackathon by Kenton Gray (@kentonue). Joel Cook helped with the design. Special thanks to Mayor Parker, Jason Herbst and Jeff Reichman (@fileunderjeff)

NOTE: This app is only available for areas covered under City of Houston waste management and for iPhone users.



The hottest day on record in August in Houston, Texas was set on August 13, 1962, when temperatures reached a scorching, dead-grass, turn-on-the-A/C, jump-in-the-kiddie-pool, short-shorts, grab-a-popsicle kind of day at 106 degrees!

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around the neighborhood

Laura Rickaway, daughter of Laurie and Darryl Rickaway, a graduate from Auburn University with a degree in Interior Design, has just recently completed her certification both in tenure and testing and is now NCIDQ certified. She is working for Lucas/Eilers Design Associates in Houston. Congratulations on surviving 3 extra years of college and grueling tests to achieve this well-deserved certification.

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Cook's Corner



Bubble Bread

1 lb. bacon, fried and crumbled into bits
3 cans of plain biscuits (not buttermilk, butter or flaky type), cut into quarters
1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
1/4 cup chopped white onions
1/4 cup parmesan cheese
1/2 cup melted butter
Optional: Chopped red bell pepper or chopped pimientos

In mixing bowl, combine all ingredients mixing lightly with a fork. Pour into greased bundt pan. Bake for 20 minutes at 400 degrees. Pull apart and serve hot.

All recipes are printed without being tested. Cook at your own risk! Want to submit a recipe? Go to our website and email the Pulse Editor.



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

The travelers will be staying in Houston for their next trip on Thursday, August 13th. They will mix things up by touring the Federal Reserve Bank Houston Branch, enjoy a 50's era lunch of hamburgers and malts at Prince's, and be given a tour and presentation at the Southern Apache Indian Museum. The next trip after that will be on Wednesday, September 16th to Galveston.

For more information on the group, or to be put on the email list for trips, contact Chuck Blesener at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.

Free Child Safety Seat Checkup. Please check our website for more information on this service provided by the Harris County Precinct One Constable's Office on August 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon BY APPOINTMENT ONLY at the White Oak Conference Center.



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CURB NUMBERS PAINTED

By: Chuck Blesener

In June a contractor painted new curb numbers in front of the homes in Section II. Curbs were painted in Section I last year, and we will complete Section III in 2016 next year, and Section IV in 2017. Then we will begin again with Section I. The numbers contain glass beads and are reflective but can be damaged by car tires, especially when freshly painted. The SPP Civic Club and SPP Citizen's Patrol are jointly contributing to this project so that emergency vehicles, our patrollers, and our deputies can better find your home when necessary.

Call is handled by Deputy Constable

*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza



JUNE 2015

Burglary motor vehicle...5	Miles patrol led...2023	TRAFFIC STOP...8
ALARM RESPONSES...4	Citizen contacts...363	Traffic initiative...6
DISTURBANCES...3	Medical emergency...1	Traffic hazard...1
SOLICITORS...2	Welfare check...3	Vacation watch...48
Vehicle speeding...1	Suspicious person...9	Park check...33
Theft...2	Suspicious vehicle...9	Open door...1

Vacation Watch registry (1 week in advance)...<http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/>

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Fourth of July Parade Update!



What a great day the neighborhood had for the annual July 4th parade. Bikes, cars, Constables, walkers, wagons, flags, stars, banners could all be seen in RED, WHITE and BLUE! Thanks Plaza Moms for keeping the spirit going!





GARDEN CLUB NEWS



SPP Garden Club July Yard of the Month

Annie Marie McReynolds at 1044 Martin St.

Garden Tip

August in Shepherd Park is all about water, Water deeply especially trees. Do not rely on sprinkler systems to adequately water in the heat of the summer. Remember to stay hydrated and protect yourself from UV rays with sun screen hat and sunglasses.

Thanks to David Bartula and Luxury Lawns for fixing the broken sprinkler at Shepherd Park!

Garden Club Next Meeting: September

The SPP Garden Club is on hiatus this summer but the board is busily planning a fun and interesting new year which begins in September. More about the club's upcoming plans later in the summer.



REMINDERS

By: Chuck Blesener

Head-in parking is not permitted anywhere in our neighborhood. All vehicles must be parked parallel to the curb, facing in the direction of traffic, and wheels within 18 inches of the curb. It is always illegal to block a sidewalk, even in your own driveway.

It is a violation to place any signs on City property, light poles, traffic sign posts, or someone else's property without their permission. Our deed restrictions prohibit placing any signs on your property except ones advertising the property for sale. You never have to place a contractor's sign in your yard regardless of what the contractor tells you.

By city ordinance, no vehicles can be left on the street for more than 24 hours without being moved. No trailer can be left in the street for more than two hours, whether connected to a vehicle or not. All vehicles visible from the street must have current licenses and be in an operable condition or are considered an abandoned junk vehicle subject to towing.

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DURHAM ELEMENTARY NEWS AND UPDATES

HISD is proud to announce the new principal for Durham Elementary. Mrs. Amy Poerschke will be joining the school for the 2015—2016 school year. Principal Poerschke joins Durham from Garcia Elementary School, where she was the Assistant Principal. Prior to that she taught reading and language arts at Dodson and Garcia Elementary Schools. Meet Principal Poerschke at one of the Meet and Greet events on Thursday, July 30th, from 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m. or Tuesday, August 4th, from 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m at the Durham campus.

Make plans also to attend one of the Ice Cream Socials and Meet the Teacher events at Durham Elementary's campus. The first is from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19th for Pre-K through 2nd grade students and their families. The second is from 4:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 20th for 3rd through 5th grade students and families.

Are you or your children new to Durham? You can sign up to receive updates and add your voice to the school's events by joining the PTA at www.durhampta.org.

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 713-824-8684	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

AUGUST 2015



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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.

August 1

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			SPPCC Board Mtg	Plaza Moms Ladies Night Out Men's Group Meeting		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Trash and Recycling				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Plaza Moms Kick-Off Party		Trash and Recycling		Heavy trash Junk Waste		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Trash and Recycling				
30	31	September 1	2	3	4	5
		Trash and Recycling				



Plaza
Moms

The Plaza Moms Ladies' Night Out in August is scheduled for August 6th at 8:00 p.m. at Plonk on 43rd. The Plaza Moms Kick-Off Party for the year will be August 17th at 7:00 p.m. with the location to be announced at a later date. Want to be part of a group of area moms that has fun and shares information, then check out Plaza Moms? Learn more at <http://shepherdparkplaza.com/plaza-moms/>



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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JULY Yards of the Month

Section 1:

949 Chamboard
Wallace & Evelyn Kleb

Section 3:

1055 Martin
Shirley Correll

Section 2:

1131 Thornton
Bob Warren
& Michael Pate

Section 4:

1045 Richelieu
James & Carol Sheppard

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 **Lynn Myers**
at 713-824-8684
or myers.lynn@yahoo.com
so we can welcome you officially.