



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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**August 2016**

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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](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com) or by contacting your section rep (see names on p.2)



It's been a long hot summer, and there's more to come but believe it or not, it's **BACK-TO-SCHOOL-TIME!** HI SD is geared up and ready to go for another great year of education, sports, competitions and after-school activities. HI SD is officially back in session on Monday, August 22nd. St. Ambrose, St. Rose of Lima and St. Pius X High school start Thursday, August 11th.

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 5th-7th. You save on Texas sales tax on these days for all purchases of clothing, shoes, school supplies and backpacks under \$100 per item.

### SAVE THE DATE!!



The Fall Oktoberfest for the neighborhood will be Friday, October 7th from 6:00—9:00 p.m. at the Liederkrantz Hall on Ella Blvd. There will be an auction, games, good food and a lot of fun! Combined with National Night Out (see below), it will be a great week to get to know your neighbors and catch up with old friends.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2016

National Night Out is an opportunity to meet your neighbors, discuss safety, **enjoy some good food and just GET OUTSIDE!** This year's NNO is **Tuesday, October 4, 2016.** We are looking for hosts, so if you are interested in hosting your block or street in SPP, please contact the Pulse Editor at [Pulse@ShepherdParkPlaza.com](mailto:Pulse@ShepherdParkPlaza.com). Hosting is mostly about having a central place on your block for neighbors to gather, but it can also be organizing a meal, getting volunteers to bring snacks and drinks, having kids games available, or any combination of these.

## Board of Directors

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Hospitality Holly Inderrieden  
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Garden Club Rep. Vicki Brandt  
Plaza Moms Co-Rep.  
Shauna Tysor, Nicole Fowler  
**Men's Group Rep.** Chuck Blesener  
Pulse Editor: Romi Sandel  
713-316-9688 or [pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com)  
Pulse Co-Editor: Laurie Hardwick

The hottest day on record in August in Houston, Texas was set on August 13, 1962, when temperatures reached a scorching 106 degrees!

## SHOW ME A SIGN! Or NOT!

The deed restrictions for all four sections of Shepherd Park Plaza are very specific as to what signs are allowed - "No sign of any kind shall be displayed to the public view on any residential lot except one sign of not more than five square feet advertising the property during the construction and sales period." Since our deed restrictions were written the courts have ruled that political and religious signs are an expression of free speech and should not be restricted. Even on these signs we ask that residents be considerate and keep the size and number of signs in their yard reasonable.

**Many of our neighbors have contractors' or vendors' signs in their yards.** While these signs are prohibited by our deed restrictions, we have for some time allowed them if they are displayed only during the actual work period and removed when work is completed. Numerous signs left up for long periods are unsightly to your neighbors and detract from the beauty of our neighborhood. Remember - no contractor can require you to place their sign in your yard. If you take pride in the appearance of your home, keep the signs to a minimum.



## SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

On Wednesday, August 31st, the SPP Travelers will journey by bus to Orange, Texas to visit the Stark Mansion and the First Presbyterian Church. The bus is already full for this trip but for more info on future trips contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or [cbles77@gmail.com](mailto:cbles77@gmail.com).



Want up to the minute conversations on our neighborhood? Check out our Facebook page for the latest on traffic, lost pets, services, neighbors asking for tips or other social items.



Hallie Ray Moore, DVM  
Stephen Turek, DVM  
Susan Cardenas, DVM  
Lisa Box, DVM  
Veterinarians  
713.682.6351 fax  
713.682.0933 fax  
[www.OakForestVet.com](http://www.OakForestVet.com)  
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Houston, Texas 77018



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Area Specialist  
Circle of Excellence Award Winner  
Certified Marketing Specialist  
Lifelong Shepherd Park Plaza Resident  
*Martha Turner*  
PROPERTIES



## CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

A group of Shepherd Park Plaza residents met recently at Berryhill for the Christmas in July party. The idea was to promote Christmas Decorations in Shepherd Park Plaza which has been a tradition for years. There were several presenters that helped get everyone in the holiday spirit, including lighting companies and a yard art sign artist. In addition, there were several residents who made suggestions for building arches, setting up light timers and getting your block motivated to decide on a street theme. One spirited resident showed up in a Christmas sweater despite the 95 degree heat! Several showed up in Christmas attire and hats. We want to keep the momentum going, so here are some ideas, contact information and recommendations for you to consider for your own home or for gathering some neighbors to work on a theme for your street.

### Christmas house light installers (outside):

- \* Bright Lights of Houston. They can be reached at 281-377-1055 or email [info@brightlightshouston.com](mailto:info@brightlightshouston.com). They have an early bird special for residents booked by September 30<sup>th</sup>, so get with them for a site visit and estimate.
- \* No Fuss Lights. Contact them at 281-809-7021 for an estimate.
- \* Christmas Lights Installers Houston: They are a resource for finding a lighting installer, and they can be reached at 713-963-8311.
- \* Unique Renovations and Lighting Co: Recommended on Oak Forest Homeowners Facebook page by several users. Call them at 832-815-6649.

### Outdoor Lights to purchase:

- \* Bronners. [www.bronners.com](http://www.bronners.com) or 989-652-9931
  - \* Christmas Lights Etc. [www.christmaslightsetc.com](http://www.christmaslightsetc.com) or 866-962-7382
  - \* 1000Bulbs.com [www.1000bulbs.com](http://www.1000bulbs.com) or 800-624-4488
  - \* Lights for All Occasions. [www.lightsforalloccasions.com](http://www.lightsforalloccasions.com) or 360-659-1010
  - \* Novelty Lights [www.noveltylights.com](http://www.noveltylights.com) or 800-209-6122
- Plus Lowes, Home Depot, Target, Wal-Mart and Amazon!



Christmas Timers. Timers are a great way to ensure your lights turn on and off every evening. You can get them at Home Depot, Lowes and Target along with several on-line resources.

- \* Amazon. Check out Woods 59746 Outdoor 24-hour Photoelectric Timer with remote or Woods 13547 6-outlet Power Stake Timer with Light Sensor & 6-foot cord. Both under \$25.
- \* Lowes. Utilitech 15-amp 2-outlet Mechanical Residential Plug-in Countdown Light Timer or Utilitech 15-amp 6-outlet Digital Residential Plug-in Countdown Function Lighting Timer. Both under \$12.

Arches: Several streets have gotten this project under-way and expanded it over the last few years. Kevin Schiffer (an SPP resident) can purchase the required materials for constructing an arch at a cost to you of about \$140 (excluding garland). Assembly not included. The plans and materials list is on the SPP website if you are a DYIer. If not, contact Kevin at [kevin\\_schiffer@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin_schiffer@hotmail.com) or 281-435-4902 by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Yard Signs: Wooden painted art work is often a great way to celebrate a holiday, and the festive, colorful signs by Houston Yard Art can be a great addition to your yard during Christmas. Contact SPP Resident Elizabeth Fryer Cardner at [HoustonYardArt@gmail.com](mailto:HoustonYardArt@gmail.com) or at 713-542-6844. She can give you some great options, a design preview, and get these made before Christmas.

Starting A Theme on Your Street: It takes 10 houses on a street or cul-de-sac to be considered for an award during the Holidays. So grab a partner and spread the word on your street. Print up a flyer, send an email or gather on National Night Out (October 4<sup>th</sup>). If you go the flyer or email route, make some suggestions for theme, form a committee, and send out information about how to carry out the theme. This includes phone numbers for companies, email addresses, store locations or website addresses. Convenience is the key for this option to work!

I hope this information helps you and your neighbors get motivated to keep the great decorations in Shepherd Park Plaza part of our history. *Please remember that time flies, so contact these companies and individuals as soon as possible. Think about setting Labor Day weekend as the date you'll get going on your Christmas decorating project.* A special thanks to Elizabeth Cardner for organizing the Christmas in July event!





# around the neighborhood

A special Happy Birthday to Dan Boone and Sharon Boone! Dan turned 90 years young and Sharon turned 81 in July! Both are seen around the neighborhood walking, visiting and just staying active.

Have any news you want to share? Milestone birthdays? Careers accomplishments? Graduations? Finish a marathon? Send the details to the Pulse Editor.

**Cheerfully Serving Shepherd Park Plaza**



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**2016-2017 Kick Off Party**  
**Monday, August 29th**  
**8:00 –10:00 p.m.**  
**1057 Candlelight**



Join Plaza Moms to Kick Off a new year with an adult celebration! The evening will feature lite bites and plenty of "mom juice"!

Bring a SPP or CP neighbor (or nearby!) mom or mom-to-be with you or come solo to this casual come and go event. The Kick Off is a great time to meet joining members and catch up with current ones. Please use this time to pay your annual dues of \$35. This covers all our fun events throughout the year including the Fall Festival, Breakfast with Santa, Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Parade and much more!

Sign-ups will be available to volunteer for Plaza Moms activities throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

A big thank you to all who volunteered to help make the celebration such a success. Checkout the photos from sponsor Bouchet Images: <https://bouchetimages.shootproof.com/gallery/spp-4th-july-parade/>

## New School Year, New Look

Check out Plaza Moms Society's flashy new logo designed by member Kelly Maxson (and sponsor Sweet Tooth Stationery). A huge thanks to Kelly for volunteering her time and skills.

## 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 the [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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms) \*Note: This is a closed group for members who are current on their membership dues.

We have recently had numerous contractors working in our area. They are at times surveying, placing stakes and flag markers of differing colors in yards, painting lines or markings on curbs and streets, and digging in yards and streets. Some of this activity is related to moving utilities for the pending storm drain and repaving project on Alba/Chamboard/Brinkman. The contract for that project has finally been officially awarded to a contractor and work should begin on the Alba section before too much longer.

Some of this activity is for other reasons. The contractor installing the new sanitary sewers does return occasionally and install a new section. AT&T has street markings and there are other lines showing the location of power lines between street lights indicating someone is planning on digging in these areas. The workers often say they are doing this work for an engineering firm but they do not know what for.

The latest, and most interesting work in the neighborhood, is by Boone Exploration out of Huntsville. They are the ones stringing wires and sensors down some of our streets and using the large white vibrating trucks to take seismic readings. Yes our deed restrictions prohibit any drilling for oil or gas, or any other activity relating to mineral production or processing. We do not own the mineral rights under our homes but somebody does. They are not going to drill new wells, but want to know the existing oil and gas reserves in the ground for the existing wells in the area. They have the necessary permits from the City to do this testing.



The 2016 Olympics start on August 5, 2016, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Cheer on your favorite team, athlete or coach, including a couple from the Houston area. GO USA!



## ILLEGAL TRASH DUMPING

Recently, the Plaza Pulse had an article about the trash and tree trimmings frequently seen near the corner of Alba and Chamboard. Also seen nearby are abandoned furniture and other heavy trash on various streets leading out of the neighborhood. One of the challenges at some of these dumping sites is that they are on dividing line between Shepherd Park Plaza and other neighborhoods that have a different heavy trash day.

**If you are leaving your trash here, please know that it's illegal to leave trash at this location, not to mention unsightly.** Please also remind your yard maintenance crews and renovation crews not to use this location to leave tree trimmings, grass, wood, debris or other trash. The Civic Club has notified the deputies to be on the lookout for the guilty parties participating in this illegal dumping. It has also been reported to the City of Houston on several occasions.

**In the past, we've recommended that you contact 3-1-1 to notify them of this tree trimmings or heavy trash.** This can still be done, however, we have another avenue for you. Try calling 713-525-2728 and **reporting these violations.** You'll need to provide a description and size of the trash.

**Let's continue to push for these areas to remain free of debris!**



4TH OF JULY

PLAZA MOMS SOCIETY JULY 4TH PARADE



*Independence Day!*



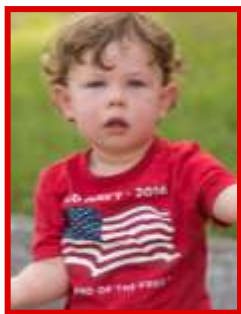
*Fun*



*Celebration*



*Fireworks*



*Food*



*Outdoors*



*Friends*



## Call is handled by Deputy Constable

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



June 2016

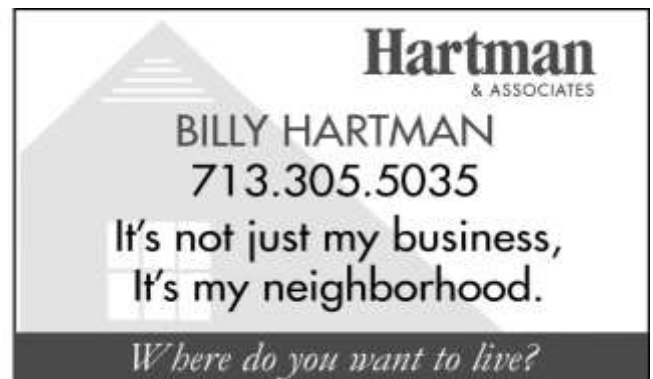
ALARM...4	CONTRACT CHECKS...137	Warrant/Writ Service...3
Theft...1	1 MILES PATROLLED...4084	DWI...1
Information Calls...3	CITIZEN CONTACTS...341	Drug Possession/OD...1
Suspicious Vehicle...9	Loud Noise Disturbance...1	Traffic Stops...15
Solicitors...2	Follow-Up...8	Park Checks...12
Open Door/Window...1	Welfare/Death Notice...3	Vacation Watch...158
Traffic Citations...2	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...6	Animal /Humane...1

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

### SIGN UP FOR VACATION WATCH

Did you know that if you are a member of the SPP Constable Patrol Contract you have the benefit of HAVING OUR CONSTABLES WATCH YOUR HOME WHILE YOU ARE AWAY? IT'S EASY TO DO. GO TO <http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch> and fill in the form. Nothing could be easier and you will have the added assurance that our Constables will take extra care in watching your home while you are on vacation.



**STOP MEANS STOP  
30 MEANS 30**



Sorry to say that a majority of the traffic stops our Deputy Constables make in SPP are SPP residents. This is our neighborhood, and the safety of our residents is focus #1 for our Deputy Constables. They can't accomplish that task if they are busy stopping our own residents for breaking traffic laws, particularly speeding and running stop signs. According to Texas traffic statistics, the #2 cause of serious traffic accidents is speeding and the #7 cause is running a stop sign. What do you gain by breaking these two regulations? Maybe 10 or 15 seconds on your trip out of the neighborhood. Avoid getting a ticket! Drive safe and follow the rules.

### HISD FIRST DAY OF CLASS AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>

Be aware that school zones will be back in effect on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a bunch of excited (and maybe a little tired!) kids starting school again and they not be watching for traffic like they should. So you watch out for them! Our neighborhood has several school zones, including Durham Elementary, Garden Oaks Elementary and Oak Forest Elementary. Remember that there are no second chances for speeding in a school zone, passing a school bus when warnings lights are flashing, or any other moving violation.



## GARDEN CLUB NEWS



### July Yard of the Month

Carolyn Long – 1163 Chamboard

In this sweltering July heat, Carolyn's yard holds up well. Her pentas, porterweed, and purple butterfly bush are in full bloom – all favorites of butterflies and hummingbirds. She said she finds treasures at the annual White Oak plant sale (held every April at the White Oak Conference Center on Antoine). A lovely respite in these hot summer days.

The Garden Club will resume its regular meetings in September.



### Durham Elementary News

By Principal: Amy Poerschke

First, I'd like to thank all of our Durham supporters who have come alongside us to keep Durham great. I firmly believe that Durham is thriving because of our active SPP parents. But why keep all the fun to ourselves? I would like to see more new faces on our campus nurturing our village. Won't you join us?

There are many ways that you can support Durham this summer – here's how!

**Saturday, August 6 – Community Workday** – Everyone is invited to help keep Durham beautiful. There are projects for various skill levels and interests.

**Tuesday, August 16 – Playdate at Chick-fil-A (near Home Depot)** – An indoor playdate and fundraiser for our school. Mention that you're a Durham supporter from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and we will receive a portion of sales. Dine-in or carryout.

**Thursday, August 18 – Classroom Finishing Touches** – Lend teachers a hand ensuring their classrooms are ready to go for the first day of school. You can sign-up to help online at <http://signup.com/go/bWDPUK>.

**Saturday, October 29 – Save the date for our annual Fall Festival.** Everyone is welcome to enjoy our carnival style games, video truck, face painting, food, and so much more! The fun goes from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I hope to see you at any or all of these events. Durham loves our support from our neighbors!

I hope to see you at any or all of these events. Durham loves our support from our neighbors!

Please also mark your calendars for our upcoming events that will effect traffic and parking around our campus.

**Thursday, August 18 – Ice Cream Social** – Parents will have a chance to meet their teacher, collect information for the upcoming school year, and much more. Be prepared to see extra cars in our neighborhood from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

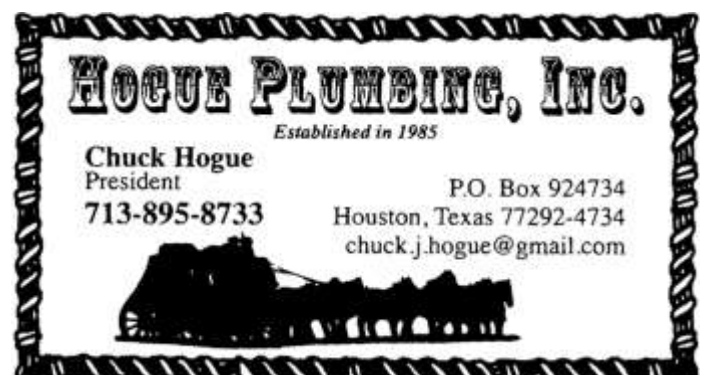
**Monday, August 22 – First day of school!** Please keep an eye out for our students and the speed limits as we return to school. Our new school hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. from Monday through Friday. We no longer have early dismissal every Wednesday.



### SPP MEN'S GROUP

The SPP Men's Group will meet for their next monthly luncheon and discussions on Thursday, August 11th, at 11:30 a.m., at Kojak's Café on 18th Street.

The group is open to all men of the neighborhood and meets at 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. For more information contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or [cebles77@gmail.com](mailto:cebles77@gmail.com).



## Harris County Precinct Constable Patrol

Thanks again to Deputies James Moulden and Amaro Garza, Jr. for their dedication to the safety of our residents and their homes and property. Your vigilance, time, loyalty, bravery are all much appreciated! We support you!



James Moulden



Amaro Garza, Jr.

To all residents—If you want to show your support for these Deputies and help protect the neighborhood, please consider contributing to the Constable Patrol Program for \$200 per YEAR!

### CRIME STATISTICS

By: **Chuck Blesener**

While you may perceive crime to be high if you are a victim, Captain Bainbridge of the HPD North Division says that crime in our area is down 10% over last year, and down 25% over two years ago. It is actually lower in our neighborhood thanks to our two deputies and the dedicated volunteers in our Citizens Patrol group. There is an uptick in auto thefts in the Garden Oaks and Oak Forest area which means 'our area'. The current vehicles of choice are Jeeps and Dodge Ram pickups. HPD's best advice - park your locked vehicle in your garage. The most committed crime and yet the easiest to prevent - auto burglary. Never leave anything of value in plain sight, not a purse, not a cell phone, not a laptop, not anything. The HPD guarantee - leave your car looking like the day you brought it home from the dealership and it will never be broken into. Studies show that writing traffic tickets causes compliance with traffic laws for only about two weeks and then we return to our old ways.

### SOLICITORS AT YOUR DOOR

We continue to see a high number of solicitors going door to door in our neighborhood. We have gotten many complaints that they are rude, intrusive, seeking money fraudulently, and showing up late into the evening. While our Deputies and HPD officers can't run them off, they can check them out and discourage them. HPD and the Constable recommend you always respond to someone at your door so they won't try and break into your home with you there. You do not have to open the door to anyone you don't recognize. Just tell them you are not interested in whatever they are selling and to go away or you will call the police. If they say they are from a utility or company to do work in your home or yard, verify their identification, verify they are in a marked company vehicle, and call the company to verify they are supposed to be there. In any case, if they appear suspicious or refuse to leave, call Constable Dispatch at 713-755-7628 or HPD at 911.



**Russell (Rusty) Farmer**  
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Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club  
P. O. Box 10453  
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[www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com](http://www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com)

PRSR STD  
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DMR, 77041

## JULY Yards of the Month

### Section 1:

4503 Apollo  
Arlene & Benjamin  
Moye

### Section 3:

1018 Cheshire  
Vicki & Tony  
Cangelosi

### Section 2:

4511 Apollo  
Lindsey & Will  
Atkinson

### Section 4:

1007 Richelieu  
Mary & Evan Burris

**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.