



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

DECEMBER 2016

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CHRISTMAS DECORATING AWARD JUDGING SET FOR DECEMBER 14TH AND 15TH



This year has flown by and now it's almost Christmas! So it's time to strike up a little friendly competition with your neighbors to win a coveted yard decorating award. Or better yet, JOIN with your neighbors to make your street or cul-de-sac truly shine! But you better hurry—the judges (aka Santa's elves) will have their tally sheets ready to go on the evenings of December 14th and 15th. Maybe your efforts will result in a 1st or 2nd prize in one of the following categories:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Best Overall | * Best Religious | * Most Original |
| * Best Traditional | * Best Novelty | * Best Lighting |
| * Best Door | * Best Window | * Best Street or Cul-de-sac |

After winners in the above categories are chosen, the following categories are judged by Section Representatives for each of the four sections. Homes that have already received an award are not eligible in these categories.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| * Section Favorites | * Children's Favorites |
|---------------------|------------------------|

Note: Judges have the discretion to recognize only one winner per category if participation within a category is limited. No home may receive more than one award. For more details on what is considered in each category, please go to www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com.

TIS THE SEASON

We are all looking forward to the upcoming holidays. Yards will be decorated and family and friends will be coming to visit. It is also the season for crooks. Be sure and mark your yard decorations in some way so you can identify them to law enforcement if they are stolen.

Speaking of the holidays and all those packages that get delivered on your front porch...have you considered having them delivered to your office? Or to a neighbor that's home during the day? Over the past several years, there's been a marked increase in packages being stolen from porches during the holiday season. Some of the thieves are so bold as to follow the UPS and FedEx trucks around!

Keep your doors, garage, gates, and automobiles locked at all times. Do not leave anything visible in your car. It may be inconvenient but it only takes a crook seconds to ruin your holiday.

DON'T LET THE GRINCH STEAL CHRISTMAS!



SAFETY TIPS

Tree Trimming and Driveway Repair Scams Ongoing in SPP

Another SPP resident has been the victim of the tree trimming scam. Someone comes to the door and says they are with a utility company and they need to get in your backyard to check on things or to trim your trees. While you are in the backyard, their accomplice enters your home and steals whatever they can.

First of all, most tree trimming is done by CenterPoint Energy and their employees or contractors will have an ID badge and **uniform. These other guys may claim to be contractors but they are not....they are thieves and scam artists. Always ask to see a company ID. Do not let them on your premises in any way and immediately call the Constable.**

Another scam is workers will come to your door and say they have just finished a job and have left over material and will repair your driveway real cheap. They will put a low grade material on your drive that will be gone after the next rain. Before you have work done of any kind, check references, check the internet, check with your neighbors. Get an ID, car description or license number if possible and again, call the Constable.

Big Favor To Ask

A lot of these scams are perpetrated on our neighbors who are senior citizens. We have written numerous articles in the *Pulse* about these scams. If you have a neighbor who is a senior citizen, do them a favor and talk to them about letting strangers into their home or even on their property. We want everyone to be safe.

If you are a victim of a crime, report it to the Constable. Even if you make a report to HPD, also report it to the Constable. Our deputies are very knowledgably about the area and have successfully recovered stolen property. If you only report your incident to HPD, it could take weeks before the report gets to the Constable's office. Call 713-755-7628.

CIGNA SUNDAY STREETS

by: Chuck Blesener

On Sunday, December 4th from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. West 43rd Street will be closed to vehicular traffic between Ella and Rosslyn. Only pedestrians and bicyclists will be allowed on the street. Ella, Rosslyn, and Oak Forest streets will remain open but the Oak Forest at 43rd intersection will be controlled by HPD officers. Kroger and the other businesses will remain open with limited access.

This is one of a series of monthly events in different areas of the city to promote healthy living, economic development, alternative transportation, and community engagement. There will be booths and tents from local neighborhoods, churches and groups, along the sidewalks and in the parking lots providing entertainment, health fairs, handouts, prizes, face painting, information, and food and drinks. Cigna is the sponsor and will have a stage with entertainment. 25,000 to 50,000 people are expected to attend.

FALL DECORATING AWARD WINNERS

CATEGORY	1st Place	2nd Place
Best Decoration	1147 Thornton Rd Gary and Sarrah Moseley	4727 Brian Haven Dr Margaret Mock
Most Original	1024 Richelieu Ln Chuck and Jeanette Blesener	4603 Chantilly Circle Kurt and Kimberly Roe
Best Scarecrow	975 Curtin St Randolph & Sandra Klander	1126 Chamboard Johnny Tipton

One item from a veteran was submitted after the November print deadline that otherwise would have been included in the Veterans' Day article, but a special thanks goes out to Roland Potts for his service in the Navy from 1952—1956, including service on Midway Island.

Editor's correction: In the Halloween decorating awards the Best Overall winners (1st Place) were listed incorrectly. The winners were Greg & Nikki Walls at 1028 Candlelight Lane.



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Breakfast with Santa—Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Durham Elementary

Please join us for the Annual Plaza Moms' Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast will be provided by Indyquest Properties, and Bouchet Images - Wedding and Family Photographer will be there to capture pictures with Santa (personal cameras welcome). A new addition this year will be a hot chocolate bar. There will also be craft stations. Members: FREE; Non-members: \$10 (cash or check at the door).

December General Meeting—Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. at 1053 Martin

The December General Meeting brings back an old favorite - White Elephant Gift Exchange. Drinks and lite bites will be provided as well.

*Price limit \$10 for White Elephant gift.

Babysitter Resource

Just a reminder that if you are looking for a sitter over the holidays, PMS has a Babysitter Resource on Facebook under Files (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms/files/>). Some of the listed sitters even provide other services like pet sitting, lifeguarding, or decorative cookies for parties. If you know a sitter/nanny that would like to be added to our list please email us.

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 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

SPP Backyard Garden Tour

The SPP Garden Club proudly announces that it will host SPP's first Backyard Garden Tour on April 2, 2017! We can easily see each other's front yards, but what about those hidden gems behind our homes. We plan to showcase 4 or 5 of SPP's finest backyards, offer an afternoon of neighborly fun, and raise money for neighborhood projects.

We Garden Club members are busy planning the event, but we know it will take a village - our own SPP village - to coordinate this new experience. Our first step is to identify backyard gardens for the tour. We are accepting nominations for sites that wish to be considered; the backyard can be your own or a neighbor's. **Once the list is compiled, our selection committee will contact the nominees to confirm they are interested, and then make the determination of what yards to be included on this inaugural tour.** So SPP neighbors, what backyards would you like to see considered for this event?

Please send your nominations to Genevieve Erdbruegger at genevieve.turco@gmail.com by December 21, 2016.

We hope you share our excitement in this neighborhood event and look forward to hearing from you.

Citizens Patrol Stats

October 2016 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Rick Zebrak

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	5	15
2	10	12
3	11	14
4	14	22
TOTAL	40	63

We need volunteers. Training is just a few hours and you can be on your way to helping us protect the neighborhood.

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 Rick Zebrak at 713-686-8873 or rickzee@att.net 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 nationwide.

Patrollers who turn in at least 4 hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for a random drawing for a \$10 gift card. The winner of the drawing for October is Rick Zebrak.



Benefits local animal rescue. Donations accepted! New and used items.

2128 W 34th
(Next door to Doyle's)

**Tues & Wed: 10-2
Thursdays: 10-4
Fridays: 10-3
Saturdays: 9-2**



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Mike Clark, Broker Assoc.
mike@clarkkotzurteam.com
713.906.4148 Cell
SPP Resident

Debbie Kotzur, REALTOR®
debbie@debbiekotzur.com
713.822.4951 Cell

RE/MAX
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HPD AUTO FACTS

Selling a vehicle on public property such as a road is called curb stoning and is illegal in the city of Houston. Do not place your car on the street with a for sale sign. Put it in your driveway, run an ad, or find some other way to sell it.

After an accident, or when your vehicle is disabled, call a reputable towing service and have it towed to the shop of your choice or a City-approved storage or impound lot. The approved charge is \$20 per day. HPD advises that you do not sign any paperwork presented by the tow truck driver or the storage lot unless you've read it carefully and/or called your insurance company for advice. Disreputable operators will often insert in the fine print a power-of-attorney or an authorization for repair that can cost thousands of dollars. Get a receipt and copies of the paperwork from the tow truck driver and storage lot.

The City handles all parking issues and the booting or towing of vehicles on the street. Be extremely careful about where you park and who you give money to when parking in private lots or garages. Make sure the person collecting money has identification or a T shirt or vest indicating they belong there. When parking in these lots or garages, the parking vouchers/tickets are non-transferrable. If you park illegally, you run the risk of having your vehicle booted, and it will cost you \$125 to get it removed.

Fun & Games!

Need a couple of new and fun Christmas gathering or party ideas? How about the saran wrap game, Elf on the Shelf, jib jab video, ugly sweater contest, portable north pole message or a cookie exchange. Or how about asking your guests to bring a non-perishable item to donate to a food bank?



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Call is handled by Deputy Constable

*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza



October 2016

Alarm...2	CONTRACT CHECKS...233	Warrant/Writ Service...2
Thefts...3	MILES PATROLLED...5346	Disturbance/other...1
Information Calls...2	CITIZEN CONTACTS...337	Medical Emergency...2
Suspicious Vehicle...8	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...12	Traffic stops...15
Disturbance Other...1	Follow-Up...1	Park Checks...22
Traffic Hazard...2	Property Lost/found...1	Vacation Watch...60
Traffic Citations...9	Speeding vehicle report...3	Burglary of Habitat...1
Traffic Initiative...9	Burglary of vehicle...1	Various/other...6

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



Durham Elementary News

By Principal: Amy Poerschke

Book Fair

Thank you to our Durham PTA, parents, and all volunteers for helping us host the book fair that will allow us to stock our library shelves!

Community

Saturday, December 3rd is Durham's Beautification Day. Please join us as we work to keep Durham Beautiful and Bright.

Winter Program

Tuesday, December 13th is our annual holiday program. This year it will be held at Frank Black Middle School at 6:00p.m. This event is filled with performances from all grade-levels and holiday fun. Don't miss this event!

5th Grade Exhibition

Please join us Thursday, December 15th at 5:30 p.m. in the Durham cafeteria to celebrate the transition of learners from the Primary Years Programme to the Middle Years Programme. Our 5th grade students will demonstrate skills they have learned as an IB PYP learner.

Happy Holidays! December 19th -30th. School will resume January 4, 2017. Happy New Year!

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Give Once. Impact All Year Long.

Thank you for your efforts to make Durham great!

Questions? Please contact Heidi Skiff at 281.253.7899

FIND US ONLINE @ www.durhampta.org

There are numerous sponsorships levels from Community Partner to Superstar! Watch for more information on our fundraiser in the Spring of 2017!



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PROPERTIES

TIME CHANGE AND SAFETY TIPS!

With the recent return to standard time, it gets darker earlier than the previous several months. Combine that with holiday shopping frenzies and a little too much alcohol on occasion, and walkers and joggers and bikers can be at a higher risk. Please wear reflective clothing or blinking lights and stick to the sidewalks.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS



November Yard of the Month

Addie Smith 1150 Chantilly

With leaves falling and temperatures dropping, Addie's yard is ready for family and friends. This inviting yard has three large pines that are surrounded with ferns, bulbs, annuals, lily of the Nile and pansies. A large rose garden is off to one side filled with spreading roses. The yard has 2 types of azaleas and a large gardenia bush to enhance her spring arrivals. Pumpkins spread throughout the yard welcome the fall and any guests that come calling.



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. It will be held on Monday, December 12th at Union Kitchen located on Ella Blvd. For more details, please contact Carolyn Long at 713-485-0717.

Membership: Debbie Elliott at 713-686-7571 or dellott9@hotmail.com ** President: Vicki Brandt at 281-888-6306 or brandts2@yahoo.com

University of St. Thomas Students Work in SPP Community Garden

Saturday, November 12, 2016 was a very special day at the Community Vegetable Garden in northwest Houston on Alba Street between Sue Barnett and Chamboard. That was the day Analisa Habet, Julia Ratliff and Megan McKee arrived for their "Day in the Garden."

Miss McKee had called Beth Galiano, Master Gardener, to arrange a "Service Project" for which the young women would receive credit in their "Science of the Human Environment Class" at the University of St. Thomas.

Their project included watering and weeding and preparing some of the older beds for planting.

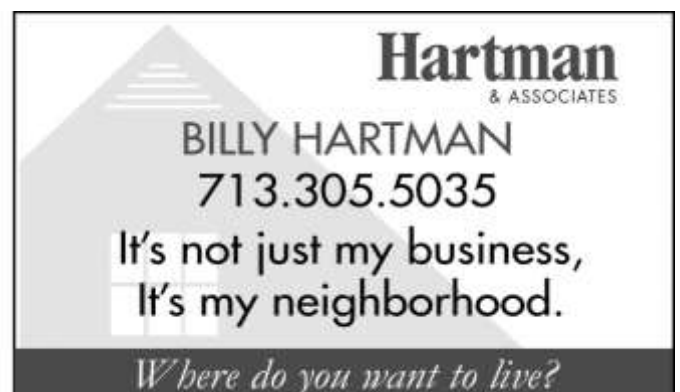
The Community Garden is operated by Mrs. Galiano and is a joint project of Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza and was started by former Garden Oaks resident Jan Koenig. The garden has, for more than 20 years, supplied fresh vegetables to needy families, free of charge, through local food pantries. Ed de Alba (Garden Oaks), and Beth Galiano (Shepherd Park Plaza) donate operating expenses for the garden.



Students (L to R): Julia Ratliff, Megan McKee, Analisa Habet

SAFETY FIRST ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!

If you're planning to enjoy New Year's Eve with a little champagne, please put your safety first by having a designated driver or the phone number of a taxi service or Uber pre-programmed in your cell phone. It's much cheaper to pay for a ride than pay for a DWI.













Important Numbers Police/Fire: 911 City Helpline: 311

Citizens Patrol 713-686-8873	Deed Restrictions 713-316-5255	Plaza Moms 281-216-3452	New Neighbor/Greeter 713-775-0307	Garden Club 281-888-6306
Architectural Guidelines 713-316-5255	Plaza Pulse News 713-316-9688	SPP Historian 281-382-0493	Traffic & Safety 713-681-7479	Constable Dispatch 713-755-7628
SPP Membership 832-576-1353	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

DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	Nov 30	Dec 1	2	3  Breakfast with Santa
4	5	6  General Meeting 	7  Board Mtg	8	9	10
11	12 Garden Club Christmas Party	13 	14 Christmas Yard Decorating Judging	15 HEAVY JUNK Waste	16	17
18	19 HISD Holiday Break starts	20 	21	22	23	24 Happy Hanukkah 
25 	26	27 	28	29	30	31 

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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November Yards of the Month

Section 1:

1162 Curtin
Aileen & Bill
Hartman

Section 3:

1105 Martin
Robert & Raycene
Hilsher

Section 2:

938 Chantilly
Christine & Clayton
Powell

Section 4:

1008 Candlelight
Holly & Creston
Inderrieden

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
so we can welcome you officially.



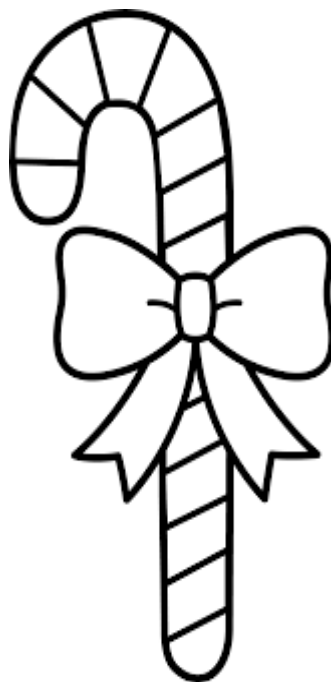
25 Days of Christmas



Here's 25 ideas to make your Holiday Season sizzle!

If there's anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact us!

- 1- Drink hot chocolate
- 2- Build a gingerbread house
- 3- Go ice skating
- 4- Bake and decorate cookies
- 5- Watch a Christmas movie
- 6- Go caroling
- 7- Write a letter to Santa
- 8- Do a random act of kindness
- 9- Read a Christmas story
- 10- Decorate the Christmas tree
- 11- Wrap presents
- 12- Snuggle on the couch
- 13- Attend the Nutcracker Ballet



- 14- Take a drive in SPP to see the Christmas lights!
- 15- Make and listen to a Christmas playlist
- 16- Make a Christmas craft
- 17- Buy PJ's to open on Christmas Eve
- 18- Leave cookies for Santa
- 19- Thank your local Fire Department
- 20- Make peppermint bark
- 21- Drink eggnog
- 22- Kiss the ones you love under the mistletoe
- 23- Wear an ugly Christmas sweater
- 24- Donate a toy or serve a meal to those in need
- 25- Elf on the Shelf