

# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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### Fun in Shepherd Park *by Emily Leffler*

Many of us have mourned the loss of so many trees in our Shepherd Park over the last few years. Between Hurricane Ike and the Drought of 2011, the park certainly has changed. But there is a bright spot—one or two new clearings allowed for recent pick-up games of baseball and football among some of our neighborhood children. HISD did not start classes until January 8 this winter, and by Monday the 7th, the children (and parents) were getting more than a little bit restless (and the rainy weather in previous days had not helped.) So the games ensued and what a grand time everyone had. One tree stump was repeatedly called for pass interference, but the boys still managed to have a ball.



### 2013 SPP Dues & Deputy Constable Patrol Fundraising

*by Tom Dornak*

Letters were mailed on January 15 to residents who have not fulfilled their 2013 dues as well as to residents who have not fulfilled or only partially fulfilled the suggested \$200 donation to the Deputy Constable Patrol Program. The 2013 SPP Fundraising Program which kicked off last September is making great progress with approximately 50% of all residents participating so far. Some residents have made multiple donations in various amounts to the Deputy Constable Program until they fulfilled the suggested annual amount, so please consider this if you receive a letter indicating your status as partially fulfilled. The Civic Club would like everyone to participate. Of course any amount you are able to donate to the Deputy Constable Patrol is appreciated. Thanks to all who have already participated.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Constable Patrol Coordinator**

Karen Cruse

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**Historian** Carol Jean Hebert

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**Section 3 Rep.** Lynn Myers

**Section 4 Rep.** Renee Botti

**Garden Club Rep.** Evonne Alford

**Plaza Moms Co-Rep.**

Emily Eldridge, Shannon Zierau

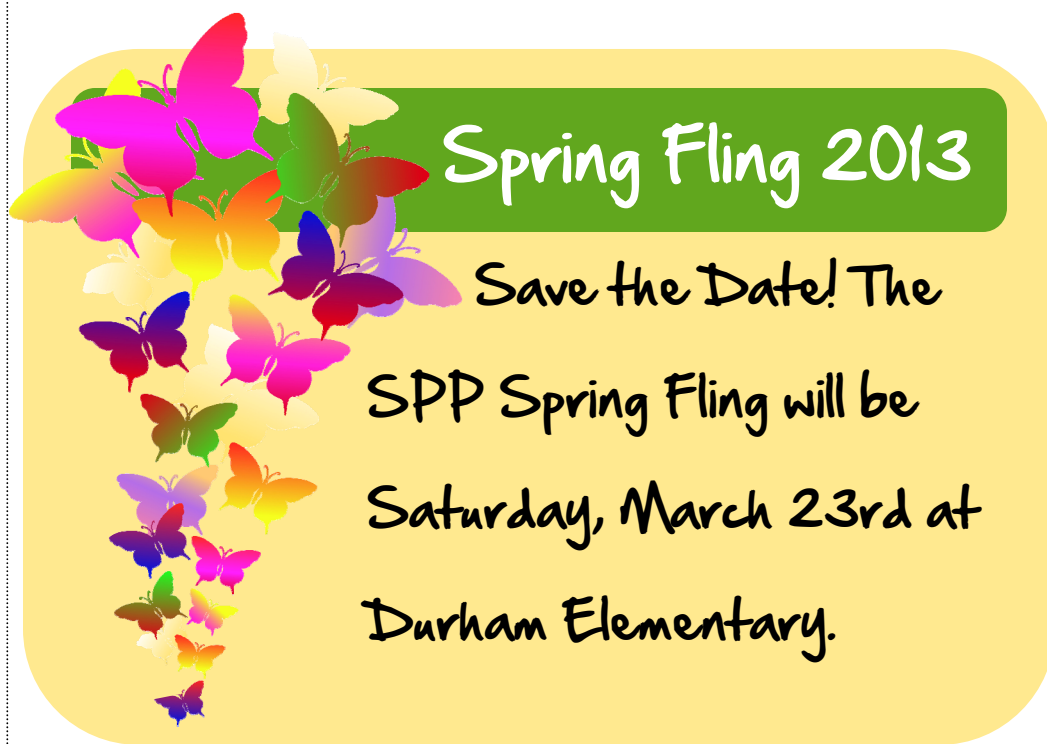
**Men's Group Rep.** Chuck Blesener

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

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

# around the neighborhood

The Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club Board is looking for volunteers to serve in its next term, which extends one year from April to March. Board members are sworn in at the Spring Fling. Please contact **Romi Sandel** at 713-316-9688 if you are interested in more information about volunteering for the Civic Club Board.



## Home Security Tips from the Citizen Patrollers

- Lit porch lights deter crime.
- Keep gates closed.
- Lock your doors.
- If you have an alarm, be sure to set it.
- A well-kept yard shows that people are home and that they are mindful of their homes.
- Park cars in garages or behind gates to deter theft from vehicles.
- If you do not have SPP stickers on your vehicles, please get them.

**CORRECTION!** Please excuse the following error in the Christmas Decorations Awards from the January issue of the Plaza Pulse. The "Mom's Favorite" Award went to 4615 Dunsmere, **Karen Cruse and Charli Merchant**, for their "K-9 Christmas" display.

**Patrol Hours** *Prepared by Charli Merchant*

WEEK	HOURS PATROLLED
1	33.25
2	28.5
3	29
4	30.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</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.

Winner of the random drawing for the \$10 gas bonus this month is **Joe Carranza**. To be eligible, auto patrollers must turn in at least 4 hours by the 5th of the month. Winners of the \$25 gas bonuses will be announced at the next COP meeting, and gift cards will be distributed.

**February—My, What Great Composting Weather We're Having!** *by Emily Leffler*

I was so pleased to read SPP Resident **Dennis Woodward's** recent article in *the Leader* about composting! Here here, Dennis. Thank you for writing so well about the benefits of composting. I agree whole-heartedly! I also wanted to offer another perspective on composting. It's good for lazy people like me. Why spend all that time and effort sweeping up all those leaves and pine needles and then bagging them up? All you have to do is rake them from the sidewalk or curbside into the nearby grass and then mow over them. In fact, the more spread out your leaves are, the easier it is on your mower. Once mowed, if your clippings have not already been mulched and re-distributed by your mower (the ultimate solution!) you can just take the clippings bag off the mower and distribute the mulch in low-lying areas of your yard or spread over spots where grass is lacking. Be careful not to suffocate your grass—those blades need sunshine, too.

And bless my kitchen waste compost pile! Between it and our glorious 96-gallon recycle bin, my family of four only produces one to two bags of actual trash each week. I spread fruit and vegetable peels, rinds, stems, etc all through my flower beds to enrich the soil. In the summer, the squirrels love scavenging the pile for strawberry hulls. I kid you not, they actually leave the strawberry leaves (picked clean) in little rows on the stones bordering my beds. And here are some before and after shots of my autumn gourds and jack-o-lanterns, just to show how fast composting occurs.



**Taken November 1. I had re-distributed all the Halloween decorations to the pile.**



**Taken January 14. Clearly the cut pumpkins went faster than the uncut gourds. I think I'll take a hoe to the pile this weekend to move things along.**

I'm sure there are lots of other quick things I could do to improve my own composting efforts—like introducing worms to my pile—but for now, I'm happy with my simple efforts. Consider starting your own composting and talk to your neighbors about it. You might be surprised how many are already doing it!



## CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE



### DECEMBER 2012

Arrests..... 2  
Alarm Responses ..... 11  
Citizen Contacts ..... 92  
Disturbances ..... 0  
Investigations ..... 9

Park Checks..... 22  
Vacation Watch ..... 5  
Misc. Calls ..... 24  
Dispatched Calls ..... 38  
Total Calls ..... 196

Miles Patrolled... 1117

Traffic:

Verbal/Written Warnings... 5  
Citations... 1



### **Support SPP Safety Give to the Constable Program**

The requested Constable Patrol contribution for the coming year is \$200 per household. With the recent increase in crime in our area, it's important that we deter potential criminals with the visibility and authority provided the Constable Program. We all benefit through a safer neighborhood, lower crime, and higher property values, and it's an investment worth making to keep SPP a wonderful and safe place to live!

**What do you get for \$200?** A full-time armed and uniformed deputy patrolling our neighborhood in a marked vehicle 40 hours per week. Officers from the Constable's patrol division make numerous sweeps of SPP when our deputy is not on duty. **Deputy James Moulden** is assigned to our neighborhood, and he is very dedicated and committed to keeping SPP safe. His work hours are set by the SPPCC board and are based on crime statistics for our neighborhood and the patrol hours of our Citizens Patrol. A great part of the time, our deputy is patrolling while we are fast asleep.

**Can you contribute in installments?** We realize that a lump sum payment may not be feasible for everyone, so you are welcome to contribute in installments. You may do so by mailing periodic payments or by making online payments as you are able. However, we are not able to send out reminders or more frequent bills, so you are asked to set up your own reminder system so that you can make your desired contributions in a timely manner. No donation is too small...even \$5 a month can make a difference!

**Please send your contribution today!** The sooner we receive your \$200 contribution, the better able we are to budget for the coming year. If you can't immediately afford the \$200, please send what you can—contributions in any amount are welcome. In fact, we are now able to accept recurring contributions through PayPal at [www.shepherdparkplaza.com](http://www.shepherdparkplaza.com). Or you may mail your contribution to SPPCC Membership Director, 1135 Richelieu, Houston, 77018.



### **GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH**

February brings Valentine's Day flowers! To dry these flowers for a permanent keepsake, place the cut flowers in a vase with the following mixture; 1 tablespoon sugar, 2 drops Clorox in 1 cup of water. Double the mixture as needed to make sure all stems are in mixture. Let the liquid completely evaporate, and the shape and color of your flowers will be preserved.



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--Ryan and Natalie B., Houston, TX

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1223 Antoine Drive  
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[lsalmons@marthaturner.com](mailto:lsalmons@marthaturner.com)

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Certified Marketing Specialist

Lifelong Shepherd Park Plaza Resident

*Martha Turner*

PROPERTIES

## HOGUE PLUMBING, INC.

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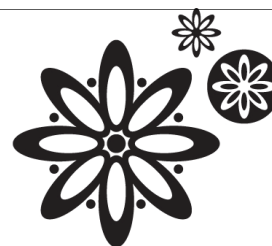
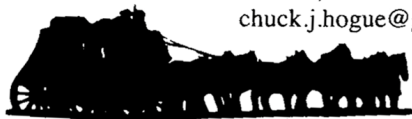
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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

## 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

FEBRUARY 2013



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

A Note About Trash: You can legally put your heavy trash out at 6pm the Friday before your heavy trash day. **Note that our heavy trash has been moved to the 3rd Thursday of each month** ([http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/2012\\_heavytrashroute.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/2012_heavytrashroute.html)).



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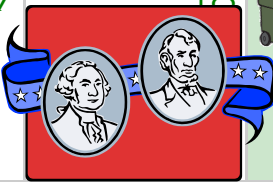
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Plaza Moms  
VALENTINE'S  
MIXER

17

18



19

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Plaza Moms  
NIGHT OUT

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Heavy trash  
JUNK waste only

24

25



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Emergency—911

Constable Dispatch—713-755-7628

HPD—713-884-3131

Clip & Save

**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.



There is no February meeting, but come out and join us for two social events!

Feb 16 —Plaza Moms' Annual Valentine's Mixer, "Hot Latin Nights" at Fox Hollow Houston. Zierau Fine Foods will cater, and later, there will be free Samba lessons! Call the sitter now and make arrangements for you and your valentine to be there. RSVP to **Shannon Zierau** [szierau@yahoo.com](mailto:szierau@yahoo.com) or text 713-775-0307.

Feb 21 —Moms' Night Out; 8pm at Shepherd Park Draft House



### Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

The group has a trip to Hobby Center planned for Sunday, March 3, to see the musical production of *Man Of La Mancha* followed by dinner at the Rainbow Lodge. They also have a trip planned for Thursday, April 18, to see the Painted Churches of Central Texas. All trips are on County Precinct Four buses and open to all residents 50 years of age and older. Contact **Chuck Blesener** at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945 for more information.



### Men's Club

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group will meet for their monthly luncheon on Thursday, February 14th, at Live Oak Grill, Hempstead @ Dacoma. For more information contact **Chuck Blesener** at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945.



### Garden Club

January 2013 is off to a great start with the SPP Garden Club with plans for the spring season and events. The Monday evening, Jan. 14 meeting was held in the home of **Alice Bongers**. Co-hostesses for the meeting and meal were **Lou Rice**, **Annie Marie McReynolds**, **Barbara DePrato**, and **Mildred Mohel**. Menu items were prepared from recipes gathered in Holland during a recent trip, and greatly savored by members and guests.

The program for the meeting was presented by Noreen Tolman on the art, design, and maintenance of "water gardening". Noreen has been professionally involved in water gardening for most of her career in landscape design, and teaches classes for the do-it-yourselfers. Several plants were displayed, as well as liner materials.

Yard-of-the-month for January was presented to **Carol Jean Hebert**, 1103 Cheshire.

The Beautification Committee, under the leadership of **Sarrah Moseley**, will continue to research and prepare an assessment of the gardening, flower bed, and maintenance needs of Shepherd Park Plaza. A plan of action moving forward will be planned and voted on by the membership based on this assessment and coordination with the Civic Club board.

February will be our "hearts and flower" meeting in the home of **Evonne Alford Sturm**. Program will be presented on raised bed gardening and plants by Dianne Norman.

The *Plaza Pulse* is looking for a new Design Editor to take over the *Pulse* layout & print coordination. If you've got the skills and you're looking for a fun way to get involved and volunteer in SPP, please contact either **Paula Collins** 713.594.5295 or **Emily Leffler** 713-628-4210 for details.





# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB  
P. O. Box 10453  
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[WWW.SHEPHERDPARKPLAZA.COM](http://WWW.SHEPHERDPARKPLAZA.COM)

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## December YARDS OF THE MONTH

### Section 1:

JON & KAYLEN YOUNG  
1047 CURTIN

### Section 3:

MICHAEL & VOLOYCE DORN  
1016 CHESHIRE LN

### Section 2:

TONY & DIANE ZUCCARINI  
1079 THORNTON

### Section 4:

MICHAEL & RACHELLE  
VENTO  
1007 RICHELIEU LN.

## 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.

**EILEEN HARTMAN**

OWNER/REALTOR

CELL: 713.305.5036

**Hartman**  
& ASSOCIATES

**Help me help  
Durham Library!**

*For each transaction closed in Shepherd Park Plaza, I will make a donation to the library at our neighborhood school.*

