



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA COUNCIL

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February/March 2015

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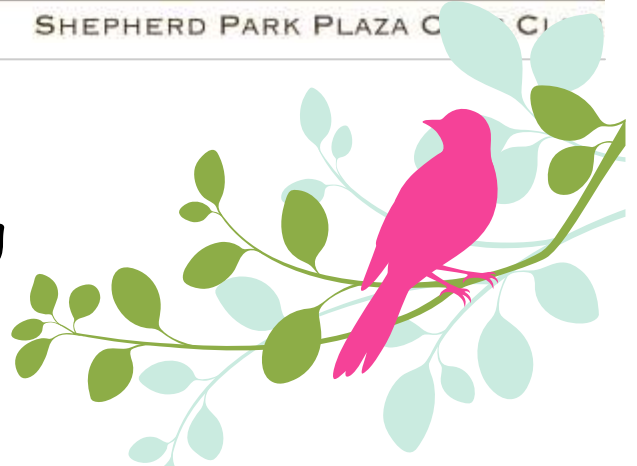
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## Spring Fling 2015



The semi-annual general meeting of Shepherd Park Plaza will be held on **Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm** at Durham Elementary.

Board elections are held at the spring event. The civic club board is always looking for new members to serve in various capacities. If you are interested in volunteering with the Civic Club in the coming year, please email Creston Inderrieden at [Creston@indyquest.net](mailto:Creston@indyquest.net).

The Spring Fling is also an opportunity to learn more about getting involved in the neighborhood through various organizations including Citizens on Patrol, Plaza Moms, Men's Group and Garden Club.

If you have ideas for discussion items at the meeting, please submit them via a web survey at:

[www.shepherdparkplaza.com/survey](http://www.shepherdparkplaza.com/survey)

### 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)

## Board of Directors

### [Officers]

President **Creston Inderrieden**

Vice President **Sarah Moseley**

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Section 3 Rep. **Lori Kubin**

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Garden Club Rep. **Carol Jean Hebert**

Plaza Moms Co-Rep.  
**Shannon Zierau, Megan Rasmussen**

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

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

[pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com)

### Curb Painting

The SPP Civic Club has recently contracted with a curb-painting company to handle the re-painting of curb numbers. The Civic Club board approved re-painting of all curbs in Section 1 for 2014. Section 2's numbers will be repainted in 2015 (beginning in April); Section 3's in 2016; and Section 4's in 2017. Then, in 2018, we begin again with Section 1.

Never fear, if you have had your curb number custom painted, the service we hire WILL NOT paint over your custom work. But on the other hand, if your numbers are starting to look a bit shabby, now you know the neighborhood schedule!

### Neighbor News

These neighbors on Richelieu have passed away in the last two months – Shirley Benefiel, George Vera, and John Giglio.

A former member of our SPP Men's Group, Alfred Kenjura, passed away on January 16. Alfred lived on Curtin and had been battling lung cancer for several years.

Bob Mullins on Richelieu and Linda Morgan on Chamboard are both recuperating from illness or surgery.

### Changes to Recycling



For several years now, SPP has enjoyed participating in the City of Houston's Single Stream Recycling Program. That service is now expanding to even more residents of our city, and with that growth, the city is making pickup schedule adjustments.

SPP is experiencing a service week change from "Tuesday A" to "Tuesday B." Our pickup will still be every other week, but we will have a little hiccup in our schedule as follows:

- ⇒ Our last week "A" pickup is **February 17**
- ⇒ Our first week "B" pickup is **March 10**

This means we will have three weeks between recycling pickup during the transition (instead of our usual two). Please see the Pulse calendar for details.

## Citizens Patrol Stats

### Patrol Hours *Prepared by Chuck Blesener*

WEEK	November	December
1	24	22.5
2	28.5	25
3	27.5	33.5
4	29.5	36.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109.5</b>	<b>117.5</b>

#### ***New Patrollers are Needed!!***

Contact **Chuck Blesener** at 713-683-9945 or [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) for information.

Training for Citizen Patrol certification is the second Tuesday of each month at 9455 West Montgomery at 7 pm. Anyone in the neighborhood is invited to join the COP group. More eyes on our neighborhood means more watching for suspicious activity.

The winner of the random \$10 bonus for November is **Don Phelps** and for December is **Katherine Peale**. Congratulations Don and Katherine! 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!



### **Durham Elementary, an IB World School—Reading Mentors for Durham**

Consider becoming a reading mentor at our neighborhood Durham Elementary. Teachers have identified children in the second and third grades who could benefit from one-on-one coaching and mentoring. The needs vary – from fluency, comprehension, and phonics to sounding out words, and handwriting practice. You choose how you would like to help; then be paired with a student. You will meet with the teacher who will share with you what type of help the student needs and provide the needed materials. Each session would be approximately 30 - 45 minutes. It would be great if you could commit to weekly schedule, but it is not a requirement. If you are interested in helping and delighting a Durham Dalmatian become a better reader, please contact Ms. Amelia Roman, Durham coordinator at 713-613-2527 or [aromanan@houstonisd.org](mailto:aromanan@houstonisd.org).

As a reminder, you will need to register with HISD and agree to a background check before volunteering; this needs to be done every year. [www.houstonisd.org/vipslogin](http://www.houstonisd.org/vipslogin)



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## Cal I s handl ed by Deputy Constabl e

\*Figures are for entire contract incl uding SPP and Candl el ight Pl aza



### November 2014

Arrests.....0	Vacation Watch..... 16	Meet the Citizen.....245
Alarm Responses..... 4	Vehicle—Speeding..... 0	Welfare Check..... 1
Disturbances..... 2	Burglary of Motor Vehicle.. 1	Criminal Mischief..... 0
Information Calls ..... 2	Traffic Hazard..... 1	Home Invasion..... 1
School Check..... 0	Vehicle Stolen..... 0	Suspicious Persons.....7
Park Checks..... 38	Miles Patrolled..... 3,148	Suspicious Vehicle..... 5
Traffic Stop..... 8		Animal (Humane) ..... 0

## Cal I s handl ed by Deputy Constabl e

\*Figures are for entire contract incl uding SPP and Candl el ight Pl aza



### December 2014

Arrests.....0	Vacation Watch.....1 38	Meet the Citizen.....259
Alarm Responses..... 4	Vehicle—Speeding..... 1	Solicitors..... 3
Disturbances..... 4	Burglary of Motor Vehicle.. 1	Criminal Mischief..... 2
Information Calls..... 1	Burglary of Habitation..... 1	Open Door ..... 1
School Check..... 0	Theft—Other..... 1	Suspicious Persons..... 6
Park Checks..... 25	Miles Patrolled..... 2,265	Suspicious Vehicle..... 5
Traffic Stop..... 11		<b>Traffic Initiative ..... 3</b>

## TRAFFIC INITIATIVES

We regularly receive complaints about speeders on many of our streets. Our deputies do patrol all of our streets and do give tickets when warranted. Many residents have received warning tickets but will receive a real ticket if guilty of repeated violations. Both deputies have radar in their vehicles and will park at perceived trouble spots occasionally to catch violators.

**If your street experiences a high volume of speeders, please report this and have it investigated.**

**The established procedure is called a Traffic Initiative and it begins with you calling the Constable Dispatch number (713-755-7628) and requesting one.**

When there are no posted speed limits, as in our neighborhood, then by city ordinance the speed limit is 30 MPH. That is actually too fast for many of our streets and road conditions. Someone doing 30 will often be perceived as speeding when they are not. Rarely does the radar show anyone driving over 30 MPH in our neighborhood. The two Justice of the Peace Courts, that hear contested speeding cases from our deputies, will not even accept tickets unless they exceed 5 MPH over the speed limit. Please be more considerate of your neighbors and drive a little more carefully and a little slower on our streets.

**Another serious traffic problem we face is the number of residents who fail to stop at stop signs.** On a recent morning our deputy gave six warning tickets on a single street. All of the drivers were older residents of our neighborhood, or adjoining neighborhoods. They each had excuses and reasons for their behavior but failed to understand that traffic laws apply to each and every one of us. Just because we have our own officers and we contribute to help pay for them to be here, does not give any of us the right to pick and choose which traffic laws we obey. The five seconds we might save by speeding through a stop sign might be all the time it takes to kill or injure a neighbor or a child.

**Please take care while driving (always, but especially) through our neighborhood!**



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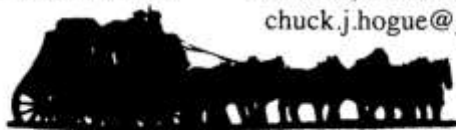
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## Hayride Patrons Enjoyed the Ride

The SPP Hayride on Dec 20-21 was enjoyed by 232 patrons, half of them children. Residents inside and a few neighbors outside SPP jumped on board for a 30 minute ride through SPP enjoying the neighborhood decorations. Santa & Mrs. Claus were in attendance and was a big hit for all. Some families showed up in groups of 8, 10 & 12 members, as it was indeed an activity to enjoy as families gathered for Christmas. Two trailers were loaded with approximately 25 riders and made 4 to 5 trips each night. A special thanks to the Bleseners, Richelieu Ln and Inderriedens, Candlelight Ln for each providing trailers, vehicle, and hay and performing the driving for this event.



## Join Your Neighbors in SPP's Citizens on Patrol!

*By Chuck Blesener*

SPP has maintained an active COP program since we started it in 1991. At that time we were having almost a burglary a day in the neighborhood. In the first years of the program we reduced crime in SPP by over seventy percent and it has remained relatively low ever since. At one point we had over 100 patrollers and base stations but currently have about 25 and only 16 that are actively patrolling in some manner. It has become increasingly difficult to get people to be trained and certified, and to volunteer the time necessary to make it work. A few dedicated residents remain with the program and keep it going, some since the very beginning.

It is very hard to get residents involved unless there is a serious crime problem to get people's attention. With the existing Contract Deputy program, especially now that we have two, people think there is no need for patrollers. But even with our expanded constable patrol, we do not have 24/7 coverage. More citizen patrollers means more visibility, a stronger deterrent, and more eyes and ears watching for criminals.

**Interested patrollers need to complete an application and attend a training session.** Application forms are available at [houstonpolicedepartment.org](http://houstonpolicedepartment.org) or by contacting Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945. Applications must be completed at least one week before the training session. Certification cards are now good for two years and can be renewed by mail by signing two simple forms. Training sessions last about an hour and are held on the second Tuesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. at the North Command Station, 9455 West Montgomery. While you will receive a training manual and can begin patrolling immediately, it may take many months to receive your certification card. All patrollers must keep a log of their patrol times and hours and submit it to the coordinator by the fifth of each month. There is a black file box on the front porch at 1024 Richelieu where patrollers turn in their monthly logs and pick up blank forms.

We have initiated some perks to help our process along. Every patroller who drives four or more hours each month (per log sheet received) is placed in a drawing for \$10. We also give out \$25 gas cards several times a year for each sixteen hours of cumulative driving time to reimburse people for their gas expense. Residents who don't or can't patrol, contribute to our patrol fund each year to support this. These funds also help pay for insurance and magnetic signs for vehicles.

**Please join us and help continue to make our neighborhood a great place to live!**



**MR. STARR TUTORS MATH**

**SPP Resident**

**Howard Starr**

Retired Engineer &  
Certified Math Teacher

Who's Who Among America's Teachers

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H 713-957-8922  
C 713-907-3689  
[howardstarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:howardstarr@sbcglobal.net)

TAKS-SAT Algebra-PreCalculus

## Winter Harvest!

Beth Galiano  
with a gorgeous cabbage -  
part of the harvest from the  
community garden!



## Neighborhood Construction Updates



### Centerpoint Work on Dunsmere at Thornton

This recent work by Centerpoint Energy was to install 1200 feet of new two inch steel gas feeder pipe that serves the southeastern part of our neighborhood, and to abandon 200 feet of existing gas feeder line running down Brinkman. This work was in anticipation of the coming City projects to install new storm drains and repaving along Pinemont, Brinkman, Chamboard, and Alba. Centerpoint used a boring machine to install the pipe on Dunsmere and Thornton from Chamboard to one half block past Chantilly. Any outages were corrected as they occurred. Very few homes had the gas lines to the house disturbed but every home affected was notified of any disruption. There were some normal construction delays and driving hazards but most of the work affected the southern four blocks of Dunsmere, the eastern two blocks of Chamboard, Curtin, Thornton, Chantilly, and Cheshire. The number for Centerpoint Customer Service and emergencies is 713-659-2111.

### AT&T Surveys

There is also a crew in the neighborhood from an engineering firm hired by AT&T. The crew is traveling in a white van and are using surveying equipment to measure the distance between all of the utility poles. AT&T will soon be installing new aerial fiber optic cable on those poles to provide improved high speed U-VERSE service to the area.

### Pinemont Drainage Improvement and Repaving

This project is set to install new storm sewers as well as widen and repave Pinemont from Ella to North Shepherd. The project's start was delayed temporarily due to some additional work needed to incorporate the proposed change of drainage designs from an on-site detention pond to increasing the in-line detention storage in storm sewers along Pinemont. City Council has actually approved this additional allocation of funding, so we know the project is moving forward.

A similar project on Alba that will extend down the eastern end of Chamboard and Brinkman was delayed due to changes requested by the Garden Oaks neighborhood. This work should begin sometime this year. It might be necessary for some of us to adjust our driving patterns when all of this construction is happening.

## Holiday Decoration Awards

Best Overall: 1st place: 943 Chamboard / 2nd place: 1111 Cheshire

Best Religious: 1st place: 4702 Brian Haven / 2nd Place: 1147 Chantilly

Most Original : 1st place: 1043 Martin / 2nd place: 939 Chantilly

Best Traditional: 1st place: 1102 Martin / 2nd place: 1044 Candlelight

Best Novelty: 1st place: 1002 Cheshire Lane / 2nd place: 1135 Richelieu

Best Lighting: 1st place: 4725 Apollo / 2nd place: 4603 Chantilly Circle (cute all dog display!)

Best Door 1st place : 1104 Cheshire / 2nd place: 1067 Thornton

Best Window: 1st place: 1063 Thornton / 2nd place: 1079 Thornton

Best Street/Cul de Sac: 1st place: Candlelight cul de Sac / 2nd place: Chantilly/Thornton/Apollo Arches

Section 1: Favorite: 1006 Chamboard / Children's Favorite: 983 Chamboard

Section 2: Favorite: 1131 Thornton/ Children's Favorite: 1051 Curtin

Section 3: Favorite: 1105 Martin / Children's Favorite: 1022 Martin

Section 4: Favorite: 1024 Richelieu/ Children's Favorite: 1020 Richelieu

Presidents Award: 1071 Thornton

Plaza Moms Award: 1012 Richelieu



## 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  
713-688-5016

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

Feb/Mar 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.

**Recycling Change:** Our recycling schedule has been adjusted due to program expansion. We are now on Tuesday "B" week pickup. This change will take place in March with our last "A" week pickup on February 17 and our first "B" week pickup on March 10.

Feb 1	2	3 	4 SPPCC Board Meeting	5	6	7
8	9 Garden Club MEETING	10 	11	12 Men's Group MEETING	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19 Heavy trash JUNK waste	20	21 Plaza Moms Valentine's Mixer
22	23	24 	25	26 SPP TRAVELERS	27	28
Mar 1	2	3 	4 SPPCC Board Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 Men's Group MEETING	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19 Heavy trash TREE waste	20	21

Last week of "Tuesday A"  
Recycle Pickup Schedule

New Recycle Schedule  
"Tuesday B" Pickup





## Couples Valentine's Mixer February 21

This time the guys are welcome! It's going to be a fun evening of desserts, heavy apps and drinks. We'll start at 8 to give you time for dinner out if you wish, and feel free to drop in later in the evening.

As with last year, there will be no fee to attend this year, so we welcome food contributions. Check in to Big Tent or Facebook for sign-ups.

There will be some drinks on hand, but please feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share, or beer if you'd like. If you come with a six pack to swap, be sure to take some home with you!

Please RSVP by 2/19 via Big Tent or  
[plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com](mailto:plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com)

When: Sat Feb 21, 2015, 8-11 pm CST  
Where: Kenny Eldridge's Home, 1003 Cheshire



## Men's Group

The SPP Men's Group will meet for their regular monthly luncheon and discussions on Thursday, February 12th, at 11:30 A.M. They will eat at Hibachi Grill, 5601 W. 34th St. in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

The group is open to all men of the neighborhood with no officers, no dues, and no rules. Just come when you can and enjoy good food, good conversation, and great neighbors. For more information on the group, contact Chuck Blesener at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945.



## Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

The vessel is full for the SPP Travelers' trip on February 26, but in case you missed the boat, contact Chuck Blesener directly to get on his email list for information on future travels.

For more information about the SPP Travelers, contact Chuck Blesener at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945. Chuck sends periodic emails to the Travelers group—send him an email if you'd like to be included in future messages.



## March Meeting Focus on School Choices

Are you waiting impatiently for your HISD lottery results? Is school still a few years away but you're starting to stress out already? You may be curious about what's going on at Durham Elementary School.

What in the world does "IB World School" mean? Did you know they're starting an official, optional Spanish Dual Language program next fall in pre-k and Kinder (in addition to the regular Mandarin instruction that all students currently receive)? Did you know that there's a pre-k-3 program in the works? Are you aware that the percentage of neighborhood kids in attendance is higher than it has been in years?

Principal Angela Sugarek, will be there to answer all of your questions and share the great things going on at our neighborhood school. She'll also be bringing a few teachers and staff members along.

### Event Details

What: March Meeting  
Who: Plaza Moms  
When: Mon Mar 9, 2015, 7-9 pm  
Where: Heidi Taylor's Home, 1003 Martin

Join Plaza Moms in the new year! It's only \$35 and gets you subscribed to our Facebook page as well as Big Tent. Contact us at [plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com](mailto:plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com).

### *A helpful anecdote about Metro Rail:*

I have been going to the Medical Center by train lately and avoiding the hassle of driving and the high cost of parking. You catch the train on Fulton behind Northline Mall and it will let you off at the station in front of Hermann Hospital. There is limited available free parking in the HCC lot where you catch the train. The train costs \$1.25 each way unless you are over 65 and then it is half price with an issued seniors card. If you are over 70 you can get a card that allows you to ride the train or any bus for free. I stopped on the way yesterday at the station in front of METRO Headquarters, 1900 Main, and got my over 70 seniors card with picture ID. It takes about 15 minutes to do this in the Ride Store on the first floor and you only have to provide your drivers license to prove your age. This is a great alternative for those who do not like driving and parking in the Medical Center, or downtown, or anywhere else Metro goes.

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713-683-9945

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Plaza Moms  
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Architectural Guidelines  
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Men's Group  
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HPD  
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Mar/April 2015



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= Curbside Recycling

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22	23	24 	25	26	27	28 
29	30	31 	April 1 SPPCC Board Meeting 	2	3	4
5 	6	7 	8	9 Men's Group MEETING 	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16 Heavy trash JUNK waste	17	18



## Garden Club

The Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club met on Monday, January 12, 2015 at the home of Anne Marie McReynolds, 1044 Martin. Beth Galiano presented an informative program on tomatoes. At the conclusion, she gave each attendee a "baby" tomato plant, which she had grown from seed.

Anne Marie had prepared a big pot of chili, which she served with all the "fixings". Anne Marie's co hostesses Linda Altimore, Shirley Correll, Barbara De Prado and Lou Rice provided other delicious items.

During the business meeting, all thanked Debbie Elliott and Lori Kubin for their efforts in making the Christmas Party at Spaghetti Western on T. C. Jester such an enjoyable evening.

The Yard of the Month for January was given to Cindy Phelps, 1162 Chamboard. Get Well Wishes will be sent to Linda Morgan who has recently had knee surgery.

Door Prizes were won by: Linda Altimore, Vicki Brandt, Shirley Correll, Debbie Elliott, Susan Fitzpatrick, Beth Galiano, Carolyn Long, Lou Rice, Colleen Roberts and Ruth Rock

The SPPGC's own Beth Galiano will speak on Roses at next month's meeting which will be held on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Spaghetti Western on TC Jester.



*Anyone interested in the Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club is most welcome and encouraged to attend any meeting. Please contact **Carol Jean Hebert** at (713) 681-1552 or [CarolJeanHebert@yahoo.com](mailto:CarolJeanHebert@yahoo.com) for further details.*

*Garden Club meetings are held on the Second Monday of the month, September through May at 7:00 p.m.*

The Garden Club's  
**December**  
Yard of the Month Award  
goes to:

Dot Shepherd  
1056 Martin



The Garden Club's  
**January**  
Yard of the Month Award  
goes to:

Cindy Phelps  
1162 Chamboard



Save  
the  
Date



Saturday, April 25

SPP Neighborhood  
Garage Sale



Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club  
P. O. Box 10453  
Houston, TX 77206  
[www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com](http://www.ShepherdParkPlaza.com)

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DMR, 77041

## Previous Yards of the Month

### Section 1:

Dec: 1187 Chamboard  
Josa & Martha Quinilla  
Jan: 949 Chamboard  
Wallace & Evelyn Kleb

### Section 3:

Dec: 1018 Martin  
Alice Teter  
Jan: 1046 Cheshire  
Jack & Karen Key

### Section 2:

Jan: 4707 Apollo  
Chris & Kim Schulte

### Section 4:

Interested in being a  
Section Rep? Contact  
Creston Inderrieden at  
[Creston@indyquest.net](mailto:Creston@indyquest.net)

**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 **Sheri Beasley**  
at 713-688-5016  
or [MammaMia\\_54@yahoo.com](mailto:MammaMia_54@yahoo.com)  
so we can welcome you officially.