



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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July 2012

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SPP's Citizen Patrol Summer Recruiting

Get on board with the SPP Citizen Patrol during July and August and enjoy a \$25 gas card for every 10 hours of patrolling you report!

We are looking for more neighbors to participate in our highly successful patrol. Our summer promotion is the hook, but we hope you will stick around for the long run!

How do I join?

1. Complete an application for certification (details below)
2. Attend a training (usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month)
3. Report for duty!

What is involved in patrolling?

Patrollers can drive, bike or walk their patrols. Patrol times are up to each resident—no schedules. The unpredictability of our patrols is good for lowering the crime rate!

Patrollers should always carry a well-charged cell phone with relevant emergency numbers readily available. SPP's Citizen Patrol can provide marked shirts and reflective vests if desired. All driving patrollers are provided magnetic signs for their vehicle and should use them when patrolling but not take them outside the neighborhood.

Our patrol coordinator is **Karen Cruse** and she can be reached at 713-824-4799.

How to Complete the HPD Certification Process

All individuals and groups with ties to the police must complete an HPD certification training and submit to a background check. The two hour training is simple and patrollers must be recertified every two years.

To become certified, a resident must obtain an application from **Karen Cruse, Chuck Blesener**, or on our website at <http://shepherdparkplaza.com/citizens-patrol/>.

The application must be completed, signed, and submitted to Sgt. Frank Escobedo, North Division Community Services, 9455 West Montgomery, 281-405-5341 at least one week before the certification class.

Certification classes are usually offered the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at 9455 West Montgomery.

SPP's Citizen Patrol History *By Chuck Blesener*

The SPP Citizen Patrol group is an all-volunteer organization started twenty years ago under the guidance of the Houston Police Department, VIP Volunteers Initiative Program - Community Services Unit. Back in 1991, SPP experienced a high crime rate (nearly one incident per day), some high profile crimes, and on top of that, a shortage of police

Spring Fling Followup

101 SPP Neighbors came out for this year's Spring Fling and the event raised \$1,013!

(Continued on page 2)

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pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com

personnel. In the first years of the program our crime rate was reduced by more than 80% due to the visibility of patrollers on our streets.

The Citizen Patrol patrollers serve as the eyes and ears of the police and report anything suspicious to a base station, HPD, or the Constable. They never attempt to handle any situation themselves or get out of their vehicle. The personal safety of the patroller is of utmost importance and common sense is to be used always. Patrollers are never to be armed or intoxicated, patrol with minors or large animals in their vehicle, give orders to or threaten any pedestrians or motorists, represent themselves as police officers, drive without identifying signs, pick up children or passengers, chase speeders or exceed 15 MPH while patrolling, or patrol in a vehicle without being trained by HPD.

Our Patrol has evolved over time. Originally all patrollers had CB radios and communicated with base stations. With few bases left, most patrollers communicate directly with the police by cell phones now. All patrollers were formerly on a schedule with set times to patrol or base but currently go out any time they choose without regard to how many may be out at any given time. Patrollers are asked to patrol a minimum of four hours each month. Patrollers are assigned a patrol number but no longer use the code lists required by the public nature of CB radios. Due to many of our original patrollers' moving or passing away, our numbers have been declining. Ours has consistently been one of the largest and most active patrols in North Division, which has always had the largest number of patrollers in the city.

Fun Fact: 9 miles = the measurement of travelling down every street in SPP.

Around the neighborhood

By Romi Sandel

High School. Congratulations to Zach and his brother **Christian** on their participation on the Pin Oak Baseball Team and winning district. And speaking of Christian, a rising 7th grader at Pin Oak, who recently traveled to Vienna, Austria to participate in the World Youth American Football Association World Championship. He was able to stay with a host family and learn about another culture. Congratulations to him and his team, the Spring Branch Patriots, for bringing home the World Trophy! Way to go!

► **Megan Rogers**, daughter of **Steve & Pam Rogers**, recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Second Baptist School. She will attend The University of Texas in Austin in the Fall.



Congratulations to St. Rose, St. Thomas alumni **Matthew Luna** who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering. He will start the next chapter of his life as a Reservoir Engineer with a major international oil and gas company in Austin. Proud parents **Mike & Mary** and sister **Megan**.

► **Kristi and Jonathan Kolmetz** of 1038 Cheshire welcomed **Benjamin Wesley Kolmetz** on Sunday, May 20. He made his grand debut, after a precipitous birth at 5:13am shortly after mom and dad's arrival to the hospital. He weighed 8lbs and was 20 inches in length. Jonathan, Kristi and Big Brother Jackson (15 months) are all doing well.

(Continued on page 3)

Patrol Hours *Prepared by Charli Merchant*

| WEEK | WALK/BIKE PATROL | AUTO PATROL | TOTAL HOURS |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 35.66 | 15 | 50.66 |
| 2 | 24.5 | 15 | 39.5 |
| 3 | 29.5 | 16 | 45.25 |
| 4 | 37.25 | 32 | 69.25 |
| TOTAL | 126.66 | 78 | 204.66 |

Interested in patrolling? Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or 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.

At the June Board Meeting, it was decided that any patroller who logs 10 hours will receive a \$25 gas bonus. This can be 10 hours in one month to qualify immediately, or it can be cumulative. Hours will be kept by month, and when you reach 10 hours, you will get a \$25 gas bonus. Bonus hours start over after each bonus is paid.

This bonus begins with the May reports. In May, **Ernie Gessner** drove 10 hours, and **August Galiano** drove 11 hours, so they receive the \$25 gas bonus.

Winner of the random drawing, for patrollers who turn in hours by the 5th of the month, and who log at least 5 hours for the month, is **Melba Bruce**. Please be sure to turn in hours by the 5th of the month, each month.

► **Mia Renee** was born to **Holly and Creston Inderrieden** of 1008 Candlelight on May 29th at 12:43 pm. Mia weighed in at 8 lb. 11 oz. and 19 1/2 in. long. She is so precious and siblings Joshua and Reese are over the moon in love with her.

► **Jessica and Bill Lucas** of 1147 Chamboard had a big surprise when their twins arrived several weeks early on May 30th. **Grace Kathryn** was 3 lbs 7 oz and **Noah** was 4 lbs 3 oz – both were 17 inches long. These twins are strong babies, and though they are still in the NICU, they are doing very well. They will soon be reunited with mom, dad and big brother William (age 3), hopefully by the time the July Pulse arrives in their home.

► **Brian and Kathy Eagleton** of 1126 Richelieu welcomed a baby girl, **Michaelah Jane**, on June 7th at 12:15 pm. Brother **Conor** helped welcome his new sister home!



William (Bill) Marshall passed away on April 13, 2012. He was a long time resident of Shepherd Park Plaza and a member of the Citizens Patrol. Left to cherish his memory are his twin daughters Ladelle and Janelle, their families and his many friends and neighbors.

► Condolences go out to the family of **Vernon P. O'Rourke**. Vernon passed away May 20th after a short battle with cancer. This was Vernon's second bout with cancer, and he had been in remission for five years until being diagnosed again earlier this year. Vernon and his sisters, **Janel and Katherine O'Rourke**, grew up in Shepherd Park Plaza. Vernon moved to Austin at 18 years old. His sisters remained in Houston and now live in the same home in SPP in which they all grew up.

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 or contacting **Romi Sandel** at 713-962-4171.

CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE

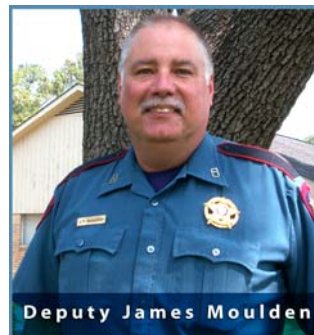
Miles Patrolled... 1012



Arrests 0
 Alarm Responses..... 4
 Citizen Contacts 102
 Disturbances..... 0
 Investigations..... 1
 Park Checks 19
 Vacation Watch..... 36
 Misc. Calls..... 19
 Dispatched Calls..... 11
 Total Calls..... 172

Traffic:
 Verbal/Written Warnings... 1
 Citations... 1

MAY 2012



Our constable, Deputy James Moulden, celebrated his one-year anniversary serving the SPP community as our constable on June 6.

Thank you, James, for your hard work!

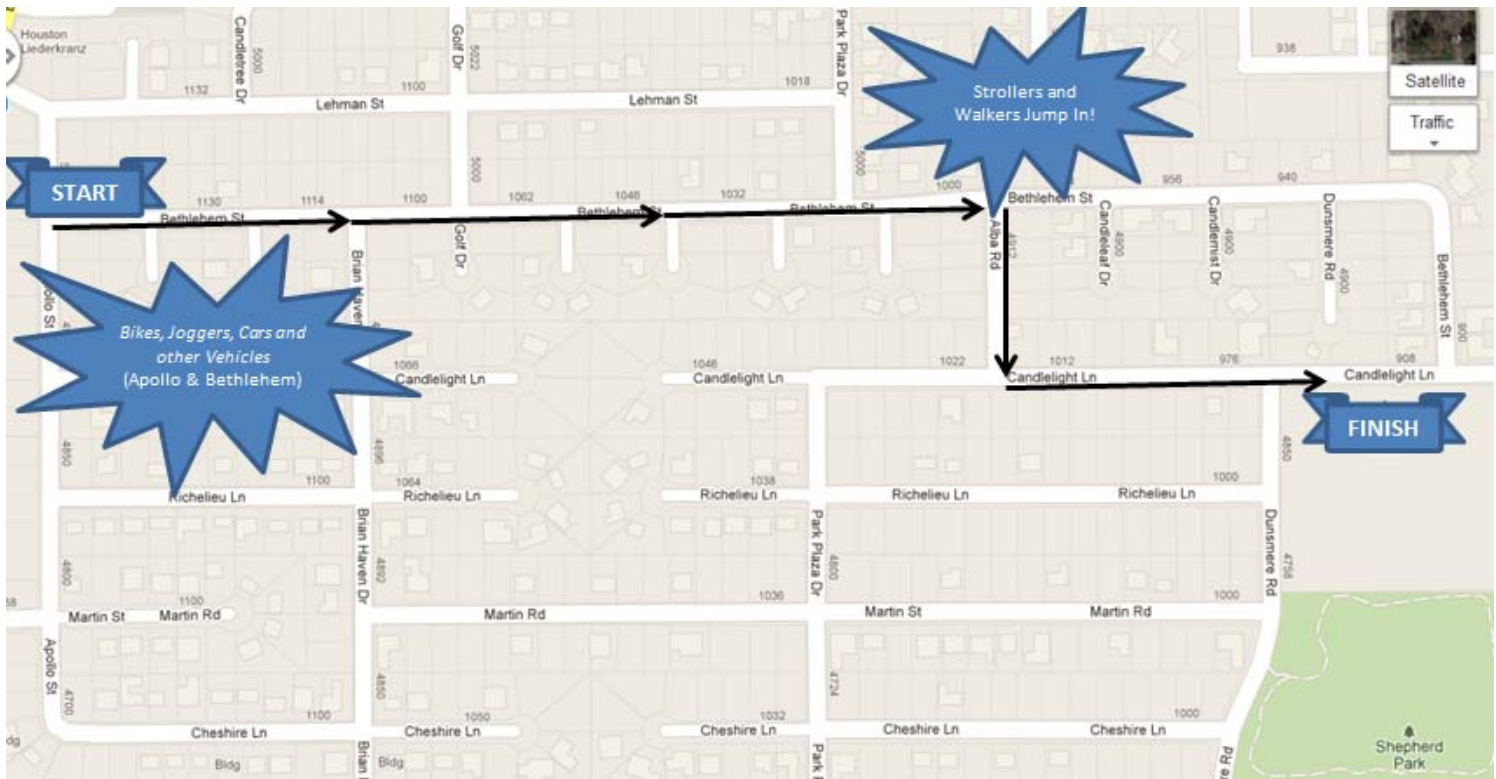


Plaza Moms Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade and Celebration

When: Wednesday, July 4th at 9:00 am

Where: Parade begins at the corner of Bethlehem and Apollo. Cool-off celebration at Durham Elementary following the parade.

Calling all Shepherd Park and Candlelight Plaza neighbors! Pull out your stars, flags and red, white and blue! Decorate your bikes, trikes, wagons and strollers in preparation for our annual **Patriotic Parade and Celebration** on Wednesday, July 4th. Led by a fire truck and escorted by our neighborhood constable, the parade starts at 9 am at the corner of Bethlehem and Apollo.



How can I participate?

- We encourage our bikers and faster vehicle participants to arrive at Bethlehem and Apollo a bit before 9 am to wait for the fire truck. Be ready to pedal, because no matter how slow we tell the fire chief to drive, he's just not used to parade pace!
- For those not riding in the parade, please cheer the parade along Bethlehem and Candeleigh! See the included map for choosing your favorite spot.
- For those walkers, joggers, stroller pushers, wagon pullers and otherwise short-legged peddlers and scooters (aka slower than a fire truck), we recommend jumping in at Bethlehem and Alba or Alba and Candeleigh.

Join us post-parade for a Cool Off Celebration at Durham Elementary featuring shaved ice, a bounce house, games and relays, and even an opportunity to get wet. Prizes will abound for participants!

Mosquito Madness

We have been blessed with many days of lovely afternoon showers, and the gorgeous green lawns around the neighborhood reflect that! However, with frequent rains come opportunities for standing water, which in turn increases the mosquito population.

Please help us control the neighborhood pest population by clearing standing water from around your home, whether in decorative elements like fountains or birdbaths, or summer essentials like baby pools and water tables. Even the smallest child's toy bucket can collect enough water to breed mosquitoes (or are my children the only ones who leave their toys outside?).

As in the past, SPP has contracted with a company to spray the neighborhood weekly for mosquitoes throughout the summer months.

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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

JULY 2012



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Heavy trash TREE waste only | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | <p>Call Deputy Dispatch • 713-755-7628</p> <p>A Note About Trash: You can legally put your heavy trash out at 6pm the Friday before your heavy trash day.</p> | | | | | |



Mon - Fri: 7 AM - 6 PM
Sat: 7:30 - 11:30 AM

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Free Document Shredding for Individual Houston Residents


To improve services, safety and the quality of life for all Houstonians, the City of Houston, in partnership with Data Shredding Services of Texas, Inc., will offer free document shredding services to individual Houston residents once a month at different locations throughout the city. The Houston Police Department (HPD) will be on hand to provide residents with information on identity theft prevention. Data Shredding Services of Texas will provide shredding equipment to safely and ethically destroy sensitive documents.

WHEN & WHERE:

Saturday, July 28, 2012
9 am - 1 pm
HPD Eastside Station
7525 Sherman | Houston 77012

Saturday, August 11, 2012
9 am - 1 pm
HPD Clear Lake Station
2855 Bay Area Boulevard | Houston 77058

For more information contact Cecilia Ortiz in the Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office at cecilia.ortiz@houston.tx.gov or call (832) 393-0955. To learn more about the Department of Neighborhoods, visit www.houston.tx.gov/neighborhoods. To learn more about HPD visit www.houstonpolice.org.



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—Matt and Anna R., Houston, TX

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Distracted Driving By Chuck Blesener

Everyone gets alarmed if 90 people are killed in a plane crash, but did you know 32,000 individuals die as the result of automobile accidents each year?

Distracted Driving is anything that takes our attention off the road. Lynda Walker with the Texas Department of Public Safety says this is the new emphasis for driving safety. While most of the attention lately has been on texting and talking on cell phones, the most common distractions (ranked in order of frequency – highest to lowest) are:

- adjusting the radio or sound system
- eating or drinking
- shaving or applying make-up
- using a cell phone or texting

(The *Pulse* editor is curious where "dealing with toddlers" falls in the list as she often has to stop her vehicle at least twice before even leaving the neighborhood.)

It takes all of our skills to drive safely and competently—visual, physical, and cognitive skills. Think about the loved ones who you care about (even if they are screaming in the backseat), and those who care about you, when you get behind the wheel. Keep your eyes on the road and your attention to your driving in order to return home safely every time.

(editorial comments and general silliness provided by Emily Leffler, and my apologies to Chuck.)



Men's Group

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group will meet for their monthly luncheon and discussion on Thursday, July 12th, at 11:30 am, at Hickory Hollow Restaurant, 101 Heights Blvd. All men of the neighborhood are invited.

The Group's next bus trip is on Sunday, July 29th to the Festival Institute in Round Top to see a Central Texas Czech Heritage musical production with dinner following in Warrenton. Bus trips are being planned for August 17th and October 18th. Contact **Chuck Blesener** at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com for more information.



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Summer Safety Tips from the Citizen Patrollers

Summer is here, and school is out, so traffic increases. Time away from home also increases. We need to be mindful of our neighbors' homes, watching out for each other.

- If you see a couple of newspapers in a neighbor's yard, put them on the porch.
- If a garbage or recycle can is out too long, check on the neighbor, or move the can away from the street.
- Remember to keep security gates closed when you are gone.
- Lights on at night are a great deterrent to criminals. Use your porch lights.
- Collect your delivered packages, or arrange for a neighbor to look for deliveries if you are gone.
- A well-maintained yard tells passers by that the house is occupied and folks are home. If you will be gone for an extended period, it is wise to arrange for yard care.

May YARDS OF THE MONTH

Section 1:

GARY & DEBORAH CARAWAY
1053 CHAMBOARD

Section 3:

GREG & JENNIFER FIGUEROA
1120 CHESHIRE

Section 2:

ANTHONY & GINA WINKLER
1119 THORNTON

Section 4:

JENNIFER & BRANDON BROWN
1053 CANDLELIGHT

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 so we can welcome you officially.

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