



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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June 2013

Our Labyrinth Gets a Facelift, thanks to an Eagle

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Our beautiful meditation labyrinth received some TLC this past month, thanks to neighbor Andreas Zierau! Andreas (pictured on the bottom left holding the shovel), planned and executed the project in the process of achieving Eagle Scout.



Congratulations Class of 2013!

If you or someone you
know celebrated a
graduation this spring,
let us know at
pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com



Andreas hopes that
all residents of SPP
and Shepherd Park
visitors alike will
continue to enjoy
the labyrinth.

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Pulse Editor: Emily Leffler
713-628-4210

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Around the Neighborhood



Neighborhood Directory Coming Soon!

One of the biggest indicators of how attractive our neighborhood is can be seen in how quickly homes sell, bringing new families into our neighborhood on a monthly basis! Our latest directory doesn't include many new families, so the Civic

Club Board is working to assemble a new one. You'll see more information in your mailbox, on our website or in the next Pulse issue. The benefits of this directory are numerous, including being able to call a neighbor when you need a favor, want to offer assistance or calling a neighbor on another street to inquire about who did their landscaping. We hope you'll take a few minutes to complete this information when it's distributed.

Oh, the mail must go through...

Many of you have noticed that we have lost our sweet mail carrier, **Gwen**, since she moved back home to be closer to family. After a series of cordial fill-in carriers, we have our permanent replacement! Welcome to **Enrique** who has joined our neighborhood family.



Enrique is pleased to be carrying our letters and packages and has been glad to meet so many friendly residents of SPP. Thank you for welcoming him to our neighborhood!

► **In memoriam...** Three long-time neighbors passed away recently, and will be missed.

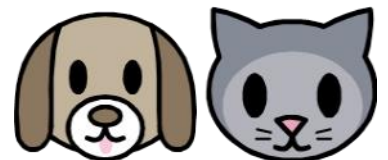
April 28—**Jane Scott**, SPP resident on Chamboard

April 30—**Al Vera**, SPP resident on Candlelight. Al's wife, Susan, survives him as does his brother, George Vera, and sister Gloria Vera, residents on Richelieu.

May 20—**Dallas Parry**, SPP resident on Curtin

Pet Ownership

So many families in Shepherd Park Plaza include their pets when describing their family. Pet ownership comes with a great deal of responsibility and not just supplying them with food and water! Keeping animals on a leash, keeping them contained in your yard and/or home, picking up their waste and controlling a dog's barking are just a few. The city of Houston requires dogs to be on a leash when in public, and it also has a noise ordinance that includes controlling their barking.



Patrol Hours *Prepared by Charli Merchant*

WEEK	HOURS PATROLLED
1	27.50
2	30.50
3	22.75
4	52.50
TOTAL	133.25

Interested in patrolling? Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or kicfm4954@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.

The winner of the random \$10 gas bonus this month is **Johnnie Scardino**—congratulations, Johnnie! Patrollers who turn in at least 4 hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for a random drawing for a \$10 gas card. Gift cards for accumulated driving hours will be distributed at the monthly meeting.

HPD may no longer recognize walking and biking as bona fide citizen patrol methods, but don't let that stop you! SPP neighbors patrol by car, bike and foot to help make our neighborhood a safer place to live. We are the eyes and ears for the police who can't be everywhere at all times. **We are obviously doing something right.** While many neighborhoods around us experience an increase in crime, our neighborhood is relatively quiet. Our COP program and our Deputy Constable are making a difference.

In addition, each resident can take responsibility for their safety and the safety of their home and family. Every month, COP posts tips for keeping safe. Here is a collective list of reminders that has recently been posted by various Citizen Patrol groups in the area. Keep it up SPP!

Safety tips: Each month COP shares tips on keeping your family and property safe. These tips are shared from experienced law enforcement officers, and this month, from gathered information shared from other Civic Clubs and HOA's in the area. Each one has basis in reason and fact.

1. Be sure your home looks occupied. This includes lighting, closed curtains at night, well kept lawn and landscaping, with sprinklers and fountains on timers. Shrubs should be trimmed to bottom of window ledges so that no one can hide behind them to facilitate a break-in.
2. If you leave home for an extended time, utilize the vacation watch service with COP and the Constable Patrol Officer.
3. Put dead bolt locks on your doors and reinforce door jambs.
4. Lock your windows.
5. Improve visibility of your home. Exterior lights with motion detectors are good to illuminate access points and anywhere one could hide.
6. Good fences make good sense. Put smooth side to the outside to eliminate a ladder to climb in.
7. Close and lock all gates. Again, use exterior lighting at access points.
8. Know your neighbors, how to contact them, and if you are going to be gone, let them know who has access and authorization to be at your home. Share keys with trusted neighbors. Give your alarm company the name of a trusted neighbor who can access your home if you are not available.
9. Stop mail and newspapers if you are gone, or have a neighbor pick up your mail/papers. Ask neighbors to watch for packages too.
10. If you are going to be gone, ask a neighbor to park a car in your driveway.
11. Get a monitored alarm system and use it. Also make sure your alarm permit is up to date.
12. Be alert about your surroundings. Notice people and vehicles. Look for patterns.
13. If something seems weird or someone makes you uncomfortable, call constable dispatch. No call is too small, and they are trained to handle varying circumstances appropriately. Let them make the judgment call.
14. Park vehicles in your garage or driveway and lock the doors. Do not leave any valuables within sight.

Some other reminders of commonly reported incidents:

Patio furniture taken from porches—if you put it on your porch, be aware it may not last there.

Door-to-door solicitors—as a general policy, it is a good idea to avoid these, primarily because it is difficult to verify credibility. There is too much opportunity to take advantage. Be aware of phone solicitations as well.

There have been reports of neighbors being followed after shopping, or after making a withdrawal from their bank or ATM machine. The thieves have broken into the vehicle at the person's next stop, and in some cases, have followed the neighbor home and approached them in their driveway. Please be aware of your surroundings and pay attention. Our neighborhood has so many twists and turns, it is unlikely the same car will follow you all the way home!

If you believe you are being followed, drive to a police station, fire station, or any well lit business with people around.

CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE



APRIL 2013

Arrests..... 1
 Alarm Responses..... 1
 Citizen Contacts..... 15
 Disturbances..... 1
 Investigations..... 0
 Park Checks..... 22

Vacation Watch..... 53
 Burglary of Habitation..... 1
 Burglary of Motor Vehicle.. 0
 Family Disturbance..... 0
 Accident Reports..... 0
 Miles Patrolled..... 2,647

Traffic:

Verbal/Written Warnings.. 0
 Citations..... 3
 Suspicious Persons..... 7
 Medical Emergencies..... 1

Plaza Moms' Annual Patriotic Parade and Celebration!

When: Thursday, July 4, 2013, 9:00 am

Where: Parade begins at the corner of Bethlehem and Apollo.

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 slowly 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 Candlelight! 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 Candlelight.





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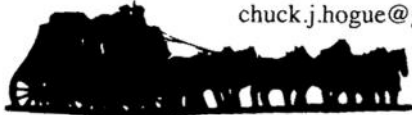
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

POLICE/FIRE: 911

CITY HELPLINE: 311

Citizens Patrol
713-824-4799

Deed Restrictions
713-681-3600

Plaza Moms
281-779-5623 or 713-775-0307

New Neighbor/Greeter
281-344-7013

Garden Club
713-344-7013

CP Vacation Watch
713-682-5959

Architectural Guidelines
713-681-3600

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

JUNE 2013



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>Heavy Trash is the 3rd Thursday of each month with Tree Waste in the odd months, and Junk Waste in the even months.</p>							1
2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9	10		11	12	13	14	15
	Garden Club MEETING			Men's Group			
16	17		18	19	20	21	22
				Heavy trash JUNK waste			
23	24		25	26	27	28	29
	LADIES' NIGHT OUT						
30	JULY 1		2	3	4	5	6
				Plaza Moms Annual Patriotic Parade and Celebration			



Plaza Moms are looking forward to summer! Here are some of our upcoming events, so mark your calendars.

We've also begun a Plaza Moms Facebook page to supplement Big Tent, so look us up and join in the network!

June 24—8pm, Ladies Night Out, Cottonwood

July 4—Annual Patriotic Parade and Celebration!

July 15—8pm, Ladies Night Out, Corkscrew



Men's Club

The Men's Group will meet for their regular monthly luncheon on **Thursday, June 13th at 11:30 am at Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead at Dacoma. August Galiano** will provide a short video presentation. All men in the neighborhood are welcome for lunch, great conversation, and a little story telling. This is a great neighborhood with a wide variety of people of many interests and talents. Come join us and meet some of them.

For more information contact Chuck Blesener at
ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945



Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

The Travelers will enjoy a pleasant air conditioned trip on **Tuesday, July 9th** to tour the Houston Emergency Center (HEC) and the Transtar Traffic Control Center.

The group is also planning an **October 17** guided tour of the South Texas Project Nuclear Generating Station. More details to come.

For more information contact Chuck Blesener at
ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.

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Garden Club

Monday, May 12 the Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club ended its regular meeting calendar with an installation dinner held at Frida's on Ella Blvd for the incoming officers, club members, and guests. The summer will be spent planning programs, organizing committees, and preparing the new board for leadership as the Sept. meeting opens the new 2013-2014 season. Watering and maintenance work in the Thornton St. flower beds, the Joann Payne Memorial flower bed, the Shepherd Park beds and the community vegetable garden will continue during the summer months.

A clever, colorful and laughable installation was prepared by outgoing 1st Vice President **Linda Morgan** and 2nd Vice President **Corinne Opperman** following a "Bee" theme.



New officers bringing their leadership and skills to the Garden Club will be (from right to left) **Carol Jean Hebert** as President, the "Queen Bee"; **Cindy Wolfram** as 1st Vice-President, the "Worker Bee"; **Lori Kubin** as 2nd Vice-President, the "Social Bee"; **Sarrah Moseley** as Secretary, "Bee Keeper"; and **Colette Robichau** as Treasurer, the "Soldier Bee at the Honeycomb" (not pictured).

Outgoing officers of the club were presented with small yard ornaments following the "Bee" theme as well. Outgoing President Evonne Alford-Sturm was presented a garden flower pot, Linda Morgan, Corinne Opperman, Sheri Beasley, and Cindi Phelps chose garden ornaments of their choice. Sarrah Moseley received special recognition with a flower arrangement for her leadership as chair of the Beautification Committee. Remaining outgoing committee chairs were also gifted. They include Robin McClung, Lou Rice, Carol Jean Hebert, Alice Bongers, Barbara Raines, Lori Kubin, Debbie Elliott, and Romi Sandel.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing both old and new members and guests faces in the fall.



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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MAY YARDS OF THE MONTH

Section 1:

946 CHAMBOARD
JUDD & MEGAN F. RYAN

Section 3:

1108 MARTIN
LOU RICE & MIKE
BRATCHER

Section 2:

951 THORNTON
TODD & LINDA PETERSON

Section 4:

TO BE LISTED
IN NEXT MONTH'S PULSE

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

Evonne Alford Sturm at 281-344-7013

or EvonneAlford@comcast.net
so we can welcome you officially.