



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

March 2017

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Pulse Editor: Rami Sandel
713-316-9688 or pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com
Pulse Co-Editor: Laurie Hardwick



JOIN YOUR SPP NEIGHBORS AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH
6:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

DURHAM ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA
4803 BRINKMAN STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77018

Please join us for a delicious pasta dinner and our annual business meeting. We will discuss current Civic Club activities and learn about ways to get involved. The Annual Board elections will also be held at this Meeting.

Dinner catered by Spaghetti Western:

\$10 Adults (13+), \$5 Children 6-12 years old, Free for 5 and under
Chicken Parmigiana with Fettuccine Alfredo, Penne with Meat Sauce, Meatballs and Sausage, Caesar Salad, and Bread served with Tea & Lemonade

The SPP Garden Club will also be selling scrumptious desserts!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: HOLLY INDERRIEDEN @ 832.477.7871

Cal I s handl ed by Deputy Constabl e

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



January 2017

Al arm...2	CONTRACT CHECKS...123	WARRANT/WRIT SERVICE...2
Traffic Citations...5	MILES PATROLLED...4,833	Disturbance-l oud Noise...3
Information Cal I s...1	CITIZEN CONTACTS...338	Medical Emergency...1
Suspicious Vehicl e...5	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...7	Traffic Stops...10
Vehicl e Stol en...1	Traffic Hazard...1	Park Checks...9
Traffic Initiative...4	Meet the Officer...3	Vacation Watch...73
Sol icitors...3	Wel fare Check...1	*****
*****	*****	*****

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 cl ick Newsl etter

TAKE SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE & PREVENT CRIME

We provided a substantial amount of information about our Constable Patrol Program in the February Pulse, so we hope you'll consider donating if you haven't already done so. It's easy to contribute online at <http://shepherdparkplaza.com/pay-constable-and-membership-dues/>. Either way, we want to pass along a few safety tips and some information:

- ◆ If you experience a crime, report it to both the Constable @713-755-7658 and HPD asap. Social media attention posts **don't get forwarded to the Constable or HPD. Reporting crimes provides statistics that drive manpower requirements and frequency of patrols**, so it impacts us all when crime is reported.
- ◆ **If you have a house alarm, use it all the time. If you use it occasionally, that "off" day might be the day the crooks hit your home.**
- ◆ If you see suspicious vehicles or suspicious actions of unknown parties, report it to the Constable.
- ◆ Park your vehicles in the driveway or garage and LOCK them.
- ◆ Close and lock your backyard gates.
- ◆ HPD North Division reports that crime is down for the third straight year and murders are down by 56%.

IRS TAX SCAMS JUST IN TIME FOR TAX SEASON!

It is tax time and tax scams will be on the rise. Residents need to be aware of scammers and tactics from individuals impersonating IRS employees. In recent years, thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to these types of scams. **Here's how it goes: Callers claim to be employees of the IRS. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers.** They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. **In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.**

Note that the IRS doesn't do the following:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

The IRS may use third-party debt collection agencies to collect debts. If you get a call from one of the third-party collection agencies, or from someone you think may be trying to pull a **fast one**, **here's what you should do:**

- Ask that the file be transferred back to the IRS and not be handled by the debt collection agency.
- Never give out your personal info on the phone.
- If you have suspicions about who is calling you, ask for their information and call the IRS directly if you feel the person calling you isn't legitimate.



CRAWFISH BOIL SET FOR APRIL 29th!

Grab your bibs, lawn chairs, bug spray, and gloves and make plans to attend the Annual SPP Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 29th starting around 5:00 p.m. at 1053 Candlelight. Advance tickets will be \$30 per person for adults and \$10 per child (5-12 years old). Tickets at the door will be \$35 for adults and \$15 for children (5-12 years old.) This price **includes mudbugs, beer and fixins'.** Details on location will be in the April Pulse and on the SPP website. Advance ticket purchases can be made beginning March 5th on our website or by dropping a check off at 1031 Candlelight (Ken Covington). If you have questions, you can call Tom Caver at 713-686-1917 or email the Pulse editor through our website.



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See the business card size ads throughout this publication? These businesses sponsor our Pulse, so the next time you have a need for one of their services, call them up and tell them you saw their ad!



March General Meeting

Topic: Durham Elementary School; Monday, March 6th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. @ 1008 Candlelight Ln
Find out more about Durham Elementary School (IB, Dual Language, PreK) and join us for the March General Meeting to hear from school representatives.

Donuts with Dad (March Play Date); Saturday, March 25th, 9:00 – 10 a.m. @ Shepherd Park

Plaza Moms will throw a Donuts with Dad party in the park. Bring the whole family! PMS will provide donuts, juice and water. Plus there will be some fun extra games for all to play.

March/April Ladies Night Out; Thursday, April 6th, 8:00-10:00 p.m. @ Berryhill at 43rd

Take your own Spring Break with the ladies of Plaza Moms. We will be heading to Berryhill at 43rd and Ella for some margaritas and Mexican food. Look forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Easter Egg Hunt; Saturday, April 8th, 9:30-11.30 a.m. @ Shepherd Park (Rain date 4/15)

Join your fellow Plaza Moms for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. A light breakfast will be provided. More info coming soon! FREE for all member families. \$10 for non-member families. Volunteers are still needed for this event. Please consider signing up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054badae2ba1f94-201617>

****Please Note:** There is a combo Ladies Night Out for March/April due to Spring Break and there will be no April General Meeting due to the Easter Egg Hunt. **

BBQ, Boots & Bingo Couples Mixer

A huge thank you to the SPP Beer Club, host Kenny Eldridge, PMS officers and volunteers for pulling off a great couples mixer. **Everyone loved the Gatlin's BBQ and Flying Saucer Pies. And a few lucky bingo winners went home with prizes. We hope you all had a great time.**

Babysitter Resource

Just a reminder that if you are looking for a sitter, 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

around the neighborhood

Condolences to the family of James “Buddy” Cronin who passed away in February at the age of 85. He was a long time resident of SPP on Curtin Street and is survived by his wife and five children.



SPP MEN’S GROUP

The SPP Men's Group will hold their monthly luncheon at Live Oak Grill on Thursday, March 9th at 11:30 a.m. August Galiano will show a brief video presentation. The group is open to all men of the neighborhood. For more information contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

This merry band of seniors will take advantage of an early Spring to view the many beautiful flowers and plants to be seen on their guided tour of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas. This trip is on March 24th but the bus is already full. They are planning a trip to Galveston in April.

For more information on this trip or to be put on the email list for all future trips, contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com. All travelers on a County bus must be at least 50 years of age.

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TRASH FACTS

By: Chuck Blesener

Some reminders are in order about the COH Solid Waste Management Department rules for trash collection and recycling. Some of these are common sense, some are necessitated by automation, and some are City regulations that are required for the efficient collection of our wastes. All are written in City Ordinances or City Codes that are enforceable with fines for failure to comply.

Our garbage collection is weekly on Tuesdays in 96-gallon black containers. The carts should be placed at the curb between 6:00 p.m. the night before and 7:00 a.m. on collection day, and must be removed by 10:00 p.m. on collection day. The carts should always be placed at least three feet from your recycling container, and three feet or more from any cars, mailboxes, fire hydrants, poles, plants or other fixtures. The containers are not to be placed in the street. Our collection day will be Wednesday whenever Monday is a holiday. Damaged containers will be repaired or replaced by calling 311. Currently one cart per household is free and additional carts are available through the Add-A-Can Program. An online service request will get you the second cart with the fees placed on your monthly water bill. The Tags For Bags Program provides fee stickers for bags or boxes of occasional extra garbage. These should be placed next to your black container with the tags visible, and can be purchased at local grocery stores, by calling 311, or on an online form.

Our recycling collection is also on Tuesdays but only every other week and in 96-gallon green carts. Currently no glass or styrofoam is allowed but glass can be taken to our City depository on North Main. You can recycle newspaper, magazines, color ad inserts, office paper, mail, telephone books, tin, aluminum, empty aerosol cans, plastic bottles and jug (marked with a #1, #5 and #7 recycling symbol). No pieces should be larger than three feet by three feet. Cardboard boxes should be broken down and the cardboard placed in or under the carts and they cannot have grease or food stains. All containers should be rinsed and drained.

Citizens Patrol Stats

January 2017 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Rick Zebrak

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	3	10
2	4	13
3	7	20
4	12	15
TOTAL	26	58

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 January is Merle Majewski.




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

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

Tues: 11-3
Wed-Fri: 10-4
Sat: 10-3




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CURB PAINTING UPDATE

In early April a contractor hired by your Civic Club will be repainting the curb numbers in section four. The exact timing is dependent on weather conditions. This will complete one round of curb painting and next year we will start over by painting the numbers in section one again. We are doing basic numbers only, two per house, on each side of the driveway. On corner lots where the driveway is on the side street, the numbers will be in front of the home and near the corner. They will not do custom numbers nor paint over custom numbers. Try not to drive along the curb against the numbers, especially when the paint is fresh.



Durham Elementary News

By Principal: Amy Poerschke

Durham Students who are in grades K-5th will participate in Jump Rope for Heart on Friday, March 10, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This is an event where you can jump rope, learn about the heart and how to keep it healthy, and raise money for the American Heart Association. Sign up online and join Durham's team at www.heart.org/jump. For questions or information contact Mrs. Z at nzeringu@houstonisd.org or 713-613-2527.



The Lion King

Students at Durham have been hard at work for several weeks practicing their Lion King Performance. Come out and support the students of Durham Elementary, Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. This is a show the whole family can enjoy!

Spring Break

Students will be on Spring Break March 13th-17th. Please watch out for kids playing in the neighborhood.

Upcoming Events

March 1st - Coffee with the Principal * * * * March 4th - Campus Beautification Day

Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club

Yard of the Month – 1147 Thornton, Sarrah Moseley

Sarrah's manicured yard is a gardener's delight. Beautifully landscaped with pink and red geraniums, cheery yellow, blue and purple pansies and an amazing large pedestal container garden overflowing with trailing purple petunias. Top it off with Valentine decorations, and she has a 'sweetheart' of a yard.

If you are impressed with her front yard, you will be amazed at her gorgeous backyard! You will have an opportunity to appreciate it and learn about the plants she has chosen at the Garden Club's Inaugural Backyard Tour! Be sure to mark the date – Sunday, April 2.



Garden Club March Monthly Meeting – March 13, 2017

You get a bouquet of flowers for yourself, from an admirer or friend, you scrounge around for a vase, plopping the flowers in it, and to your dismay, the result is sorta....blah. If your 'creation' is less than dazzling, then the March Garden Club meeting is for you! We have a real treat in store as Lauren Garza, founder of Flora & Fauna, will demonstrate the gorgeous art of flower arranging.

Lauren's company is a boutique floral design studio homegrown in Houston, Texas. Her talented florists combine traditional design principals with non-traditional floral concepts. She says 'Whether you're looking for simple arrangements or full floral design and direction, Flora & Fauna is your partner in whatever suits your fancy' - www.floraandfaunatx.com. Come join us and be inspired! We will meet on Monday, March 13, 2017 at Linda Morgan's home, 1151 Chamboard at 7:00. If you have questions, please contact Vicki Brandt at 281-888-6306 or Debbie Elliott, Membership Chair at 713-686-7571. Just a reminder....to become a member, dues are only \$12.50 through May!

Inaugural Backyard Garden Tour

The SPP Garden Club is so excited to be sponsoring its first backyard garden tour on Sunday, April 2. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 the day of the tour. Consider ALL that your ticket to this event offers:

- View three beautiful neighborhood backyards!
- Receive handouts about each yard's vegetation!
- Buy plants for your own garden!
- Marvel at the Durham Elementary Children's Garden!
- Support young lemonade entrepreneurs at specified locations!
- Enjoy an afternoon in our lovely neighborhood knowing you are supporting both the Constable Program and Durham Elementary PTA.

Be sure to read the enclosed flyer for more details!

STREET LIGHTS

By: Chuck Blesener

As you may have noticed, CenterPoint Energy replaced all the street lights in our neighborhood about a year ago with the new LED lights that have a whiter light, are more energy efficient, and last longer. While they are brighter and give off considerably more light, they do not do much good where tree limbs have grown around them. We have contacted the City about 21 locations where we feel the tree limbs needed to be trimmed. The City Forester agreed to trim some of them but not all because of budget constraints on their department. For the safety and security of our neighborhood, we encourage homeowners to keep their tree limbs trimmed around street lights and traffic signs. We will continue reporting those we feel should be trimmed.



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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

March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 26	27	28	1	2	3	4 Durham ES Beautification Day
5	6 PLAZA MOMS General Meeting	7 	8 SPPCC Board Mtg	9 Men's Group	10 JUMP ROPE FOR HEARTS	11
12	13 Garden Club Meeting	14 	15	16 HEAVY Tree Waste	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18
19	20	21 	22	23	24 SPP Travelers Trip	25 Plaza Moms Donuts with Dad Annual Business Meeting
26	27	28 	29	30	31	Apr 1 

AL212

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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February Yards of the Month

Section 1:

1014 Curtin
Lai Muncy

Section 3:

1104 Cheshire
Janice & Adolph
Benys

Section 2:

1070 Chantilly
Blake Beyer

Section 4:

1025 Candlelight
Leah & Carlo Salvato

The January Section III Yard of the Month's address was incorrect.
The Nolan's address is 1040 Martin.

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.



Shepherd Park Plaza Backyard Garden Tour

brought to you by:

*Shepherd Park Plaza
Garden Club*

Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Rain date: Sunday, April 9th, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Featuring:

a certified wildlife habitat, a waterscape, and a backyard respite

plus the new Durham Elementary Garden!

Complemented by:

SPP Garden Club Plant Sale
(Freebies for children while
supplies last!) and Lemonade
Stands



Benefitting:

Durham Elementary PTA and
Candlelight Plaza and SPP's
shared Constable Program

Sponsored by:



Tickets:

\$10 in advance (purchase from any Garden Club member or call 254-366-9804)

\$15 day of event (ticket sales at 1147 Thornton and Durham Elementary)

Free for children under 10 — all sales final