

THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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May 2016

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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 or by contacting your section rep (see names on p.2)

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY FOR THE CITIZENS PATROL GROUP!

Congratulations to the Citizens Patrol Group on 25 years of actively patrolling Shepherd Park Plaza. Just over 25 years ago, our neighborhood was experiencing nearly a break-in/burglary per DAY. That's a huge number of personal lives impacted by the theft of our residents' homes. It was this staggering statistic that led Don Blaise and others to coordinate efforts with Houston Police Department to form a neighborhood watch group for SPP. Many residents signed up, went to training and starting driving, walking or biking our streets trying to deter would-be criminals. In a very short time, the Patrol helped reduce the number of burglaries by nearly **70%**! Once again, our neighborhood became a safe, secure place to live. Some of these original Patrollers still patrol today! Then in 2000, the Constable Program was implemented; and the combination of these two groups has kept crime in SPP to a very low level.

Fast forward 25 years and imagine the need for this program to continue. But imagine also that it's suffering from a lack of new patrollers. Our neighborhood today is safer because of these patrollers and the Constable's presence here. If our patrol numbers continue to decline, it's possible that crime numbers will rise. Don't let that happen! Please get involved. Please volunteer. Please participate. Are you already out and about in our neighborhood and carry your cell phone with you? You're halfway there to becoming a Citizens Patrol member. Complete an application and go to a 1-hour training session and you're in! Please contact Rick Zebrak at 713-686-8873 for more information.



Crawfish Boil a Huge Success!

Thanks to some great planning, great cooking, great weather and great hosts, the Crawfish Boil was a tremendous success. The 100+ adults and 25+ kids joyed about four huge batches of crawfish, sausage, potatoes and corn. Beer and margaritas were on hand to cool things down. A special thanks to the Browns for hosting, and to the Dornaks, the Cavers, Bill French, Joel Sandel, Brian Cardner and Billy Hartman for all their planning and set-up efforts. Thanks to the Boatmans and the Evans for cooking up some spicy mudbugs!

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



TRASHY CONDITIONS NEAR ALBA AND CHAMBOARD

It has become a frequent eyesore near the corner of Alba and Chamboard where people are leaving their trash and tree trimmings. This is near one of our neighborhood entrances and near the lovely Community Garden that the Galianos and others work so hard to maintain. One of the challenges is that this site is the dividing line between Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza, and these two neighborhoods have different heavy trash days.

If you are leaving your trash here, please know that it's illegal to leave trash at this location, not to mention unsightly. Please also remind your yard maintenance crews and renovation crews not to use this location to leave tree trimmings, grass, wood, debris or other trash. The Civic Club has notified the deputies to be on the lookout for the guilty parties participating in this illegal dumping. It has also been reported to the City of Houston on several occasions.

When you see trash at this location, please call 3-1-1 and report it to the City of Houston for removal. Or you can visit the 3-1-1 website at http://www.houstontx.gov/311/garbage_etc.html



Let's continue to push for this location to remain free of debris!



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

The Travelers will leave from Shepherd Park on Wednesday, May 18th, and travel by bus to Brazoria to enjoy a 1 1/2 hour cruise down the San Bernard River on the Yellowstone Paddlewheeler. After the cruise they will enjoy lunch at Didos Seafood. The bus will leave at 8:15 a.m. and return to Shepherd Park about 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$27 per person plus your lunch. Bus trips are open to all SPP residents and their friends over the age of fifty. For more information about this and all future trips, contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.

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PROPERTIES

CITIZENS PATROL STATS

March 2016 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Rick Zebrak

WEEK	Driving	Walking/ Biking
1	15	5.5
2	15	1.5
3	15	1.5
4	30	6
TOTAL	75	14.5


The winner of the random \$10 bonus for March Katherine Peale. 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!

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CITIZENS PATROL WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS! YOU CAN SIGN UP TODAY


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 respected volunteer by signing up today!

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.

Contact Rick Zebrak at 713-686-8873 or rickzee@att.net for information. Training for Citizen Patrol certification is the second Tuesday of each month at 9455 West Montgomery at 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the neighborhood is invited to join the COP group. More eyes on our neighborhood means more awareness of suspicious activity. HPD Citizen Patrol Applications can be downloaded at http://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/vip_citzpatrol.htm. The applications must be sent in one week prior to the training.



BILLY HARTMAN
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CITY OF HOUSTON CONNECT

Have you ever wondered how to contact particular Departments at the City of Houston? This new section of the Pulse should give you some direction. Check back frequently, as new items may be added. The main number is 713-837-0311.

Website—www.houstontx.gov/

City Ordinances—www.houstontx.gov/codes/

Non-emergency concerns (street issues, traffic signal problems, fire hydrant issues).

<http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php> or Dial 3-1-1. There is also a mobile phone app for this.

Permit questions—www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/

Interactive map (to find information about your City Council district, police department, solid waste schedule)—<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public>

CenterPoint Energy has a new website to report street lights that are out at <http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/sloreporting/>

Rollout—check out the app for figuring out the COH trash pickup schedule.



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mike@clarkkotzurteam.com
713.906.4148 Cell
SPP Resident

Debbie Kotzur, REALTOR®
debbie@debbiekotzur.com
713.822.4951 Cell

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around the neighborhood



SPP MEN'S GROUP

The SPP Men's Group will meet for their regular monthly luncheon on Thursday, May 12th at 11:30 a.m. at Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead Hwy at Dacoma. August Galiano will show a short video presentation on the early days of television in Houston.

The SPP Men's Group got underway back in February 2001 when August Galiano and Chuck Blesener were discussing the fact that women in the neighborhood were organized and the men weren't. There were the Plaza Moms and the Garden Club - both organizations having mostly female members. The two men decided to send out letters to several men they knew with invitations to join "The Men's Group", a bunch of men who would meet the second Thursday in each month. Meeting for lunch at various local restaurants, they would talk about neighborhood events, ways to improve the neighborhood, and various topics of interest. They initially wound up with 16 members. They occasionally have a video presentation, guest speakers, and annually give some deserving resident their John Wayne Award for outstanding service to the SPP neighborhood.

The group has no official rules, no officers, no dues, no by-laws and no committees. Members are welcome to bring guests and all retired men of the neighborhood are welcome to join. If you want more information or would like to join the group, please call Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or email ccbles77@gmail.com, or just show up at their next luncheon.

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PROPERTIES



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Durham Elementary invites all friends and neighbors of Durham to join us for "Make Durham Bright: Community Paint Day" on Saturday, May 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. WE NEED YOUR HELP to bring LIGHT to Durham! We will be decking the hallways with lots of white paint to brighten our outdoor spaces. Won't you please join in the fun? If so, please contact Ms. Planck at nplanck@houstonisd.org or sign-up today at <http://vols.pt/ZTdyKQ> and come make Durham Bright!

Are you gathering Box Tops from food packaging at your house and don't know where to donate them? Just simply drop them off in the Durham main office. Our last collection for this school year is May 13th and we appreciate your support!

School Events

On Monday, May 16th fifth grade students will showcase their Exhibition Projects at 5:30 p.m. Exhibition is the final piece of a student's Primary Years Programme (PYP). It is a research project, based on students' interests driving them to action. A showcase of projects by Durham's G/T students will also be on display that night. Come out and see what global learning looks like! Wednesday, May 25th at 9:00 a.m. we will have a special promotion and awards ceremony to send off our awesome 5th graders to Middle School.

Eat, Play and Raise money for our local school too? That's awesome. The following are Durham Nights at local establishments – just mention "Durham" and a portion of your purchases go back to the school:

- ⇒ Wednesday, May 11th from 3:30-9:00 p.m. Chuck E. Cheese's at Northline (Crosstimbers/I-45)
- ⇒ Tuesday, May 24th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Chick-Fil-A on 610 feeder by Home Depot

Last Day of School: Wednesday, May 25th!



CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE

*FIGURES ARE FOR ENTIRE CONTRACT INCLUDING SPP AND CANDLELIGHT PLAZA



MARCH 2016

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE... 1	MILES PATROLLED...2500	TRAFFIC STOP ... 14
TRAFFIC HAZARD...2	DISTURBANCE... 1	TRAFFIC INITIATIVE... 10
INFORMATION CALL... 1	CITIZEN CONTACTS...415	VACATION WATCH...55
THEFT RESIDENCE...2	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF... 1	DRUG OD/POSSESSION... 1
VEHICLE STOLEN...2	THEFTS...2	PARK CHECK... 14
VEHICLE ACCIDENT... 1	SUSPICIOUS PERSON... 10	SOLICITORS...2

EFFECTIVE MARCH 26TH, WE HAVE A NEW NIGHT DEPUTY. PLEASE WELCOME DEPUTY AMARO GARZA JR.

VACATION WATCH REGISTRY (1 WEEK IN ADVANCE)...[HTTP://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP/VACATION-WATCH/](http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/)

Because of changes in how patrolling is being done, our Citizen's Patrol Group no longer has a help line or the capability to handle house watches or vacation watches. This function is better done by our Constable's Deputies. To have your home placed on a watch list you can go online to <http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/> and enter the information. You can also use this site to sign up for email alerts from the Constable's office. If you do not have a computer or online capability, there are a few paper copies of the required form in the Citizen's Patrol box on the porch at 1010 Richelieu. The paper copy must be faxed or mailed at least one week before the requested watch date. Stay tuned for updates to our website for links to the vacation watch set-up.

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

BY: CHUCK BLESENER

We recently had a rash of night-time thefts from porches and yards in our neighborhood. Deputy James Moulden was able to get a copy of a video from a neighbor that showed the thief and his vehicle. In showing it to others, one of the Garden Oaks deputies recognized the individual resulting in his arrest and the arrest of two more thieves. Our deputies work hard to not only try and prevent crime but also solve it when it happens.

You can help them help us by doing a few important things. Many homes now have cameras for security reasons. When a crime is committed near your home and your camera has captured video of the criminal, please make a copy of that video available to our deputies in their investigation. Make it as difficult as possible for a thief to steal your property. All outdoor items should be marked with your name and/or your address to make it hard to sell, and easier for you to later identify your property. Make every attempt to lock down your property with chains, cables, locks, and/or bolts. Yes this should not be necessary but it is. Take pictures of your property and record serial numbers and any other identifying information.

RECYCLING CHANGES

BY: CHUCK BLESENER

Houston City Council authorized a contract with Waste Management to ensure that **the single-stream recycling program will continue in Houston**. The new agreement saves the City \$2 million over the two-year period from the previously proposed contract and allows the flexibility of renegotiation on a shorter timeframe. As a compromise, over the next two years, glass will not be accepted at curbside in the green recycle containers. In the meantime, the City of Houston will continue to collect glass from **neighborhood recycling centers**, including the one at 9003 North Main Street, just north of Crosstimbers. ***Do not put glass in your green recycling bin.***

The COH GREEN recycling bins are to be used for paper, cardboard, clean aluminum and tin cans, and plastics #1-6. They are not to be used for garbage, yard trimmings, leaves, electronics, glass, styrofoam, motor oil, or contaminated food containers. No pizza boxes! Boxes, plastic bottles, and cans that have food residue on them and are not clean, have to be sorted out and are thrown in the landfill anyway. Rinse them out or throw them in the garbage container. Do not place recyclables in plastic bags. It slows down the automated process and will just kick them out and put them in the trash. Our taxes are kept lower by allowing the COH Solid Waste Department to sell recyclable materials. The buyers will refuse an entire load when a few contaminated or unusable items are in the mix. Do recycle but be a good neighbor and do it properly.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS



SPP Garden Club Meeting

At the **April** meeting, members played in the dirt – literally. Each created his/her own container garden with soil, plants, and guidance provided by Kim Ellis of HABITATs. All went home with very artistic plantings – some of which are seen below.



The **May** meeting will be held Monday, May 9th, at Ruth Rock's home, 1143 Chamboard at 6:45 p.m. This meeting will be the club's annual banquet and Installation of Officers for the 2016-2017 year. Dinner will be catered by Spaghetti Western at a cost of \$15.00. For more information contact Carolyn Long, 832-840-9452.

April Yard of the Month

Addie loves her garden – and it shows! She says she finds the best meditation is to till the soil and nurture her gorgeous roses and flower beds. Good advice for all.



Condolences to Garden Club Member Susan Fitzpatrick on the passing of her husband, Harvey Fitzpatrick.



Plaza
Moms

Plaza Moms Group

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th @ 7:00 p.m.

1039 Richelieu Ln

Join your fellow Plaza Moms to toast the end of a successful school year. The May General Meeting will serve as a mix and mingle with fellow moms. Come have some wine and lite bites.

Host: Niki Fowler Co-Hosts: Susan Gonzales-Harryman, Courtney Zavala

Play Date (Weekend, All Ages)

Saturday, May 21st @ 10:00 a.m.

Shepherd Park

The monthly play date on weekends will be held the third Saturday of every month. This play date is open to all ages.

Ladies Night Out

There will be no May LNO due to the hectic schedules at the end of the school year.

Save the Date!

July 4th Parade & Celebration

Monday, July 4th (The time will be announced closer to the event date as it is based on the availability of the firetruck to lead the parade.)

If you would like to get more involved with Plaza Moms think about becoming an officer next season. We are in search of a new Treasurer, Ladies Night Out Coordinator, Sponsorship Officer, and a new role of Play Date Coordinator. If you would like more information on any of these roles email plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com. An added perk is your dues for the season will be waived. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms

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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

MAY 2016



= 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.					APRIL 29	30
MAY 1	2	3 	4 <div>SPPCC Board Mtg</div>	5	6	7 Durham
8 Mother's Day	9 Garden Club Meeting	10 Plaza Moms Meeting 	11	12 <div>Men's Group</div>	13	14
15	16	17 	18 SPP Travelers Trip	19 HEAVY TREE Waste	20	21 PLAZA MOMS PLAY DATE
22	23	24 	25 Durham ES Last Day of School	26	27	28
29 	30	31 	JUNE 1	2	3	4

RECYCLING UPDATE

Effective immediately, glass containers can no longer be collected from the GREEN RECYCLE BIN that you place at your home's curbside. The neighborhood depository and recycling centers are located at:

North 9003 N Main 77022 || Northwest 14400 Sommermeyer 77041
 Northeast 5565 Kirkpatrick 77028 || Southeast 2240 Central St 77017
 South 5100 Sunbeam 77033 || Southwest 10785 SW Freeway 77074





THE PLAZA PULSE

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April YARDS OF THE MONTH

Section 1:

946 CHAMBOARD
MEGAN & JUDD RYAN

Section 3:

1115 MARTIN
TERRI & EUGENE TOY

Section 2:

934 CHANTILLY
CHRISTY & JAY MCKINZIE

Section 4:

1135 CANDELIGHT
FINA & RAYNALDO
GONZALEZ

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.