



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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November 2011

Neighborhood Night Out was held on October 4.
Thank you to everyone who came out and to our gracious hosts!

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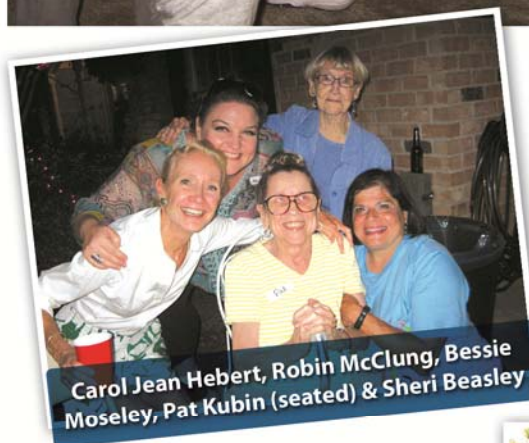
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Deputy Moulden greets Dean, son of Ahmed Rechal (left) at the SPP Night Out festivities in Section 2.



Carol Jean Hebert, Robin McClung, Bessie Moseley, Pat Kubin (seated) & Sheri Beasley



Sarah Moseley, Bob Warren & Michael Pate



Gary Moseley & Sheri Beasley



Evonne Alford,
Lawn Ornament Wrangler

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SPP Flag Ambassador Ready to Pass the Torch *by Tom Dornak*

For the past 3 years the SPP US flag flying duties were managed by **Jim Worthing** of Richelieu Lane. Jim has informed the SPP Civic Club that he is ready to retire from these duties in November after flying of flags for Veterans Day on November 11. Jim has done a remarkable job as SPP Flag Ambassador and has a genuine interest in making sure a responsible resident will step up to accept this service with pride. There are 126 flags that get placed on street light poles in our neighborhood four times a year in remembrance of Memorial Day, September 11th, and Veterans Day as well as celebrating Flag Day and Independence Day.

Anyone interested in stepping up to become our next Flag Ambassador please contact an SPP Civic Club member.

Duties of this service are as follows:

- Serve as lead role in performing flag hanging, retrieval, and storage. This includes recruiting assistants which hasn't been a problem so far.
- Preferably have a pickup truck as the current operation uses a pickup along with a rig for providing elevation to hang and retrieve flags. Rig for elevation will be donated by **Jim Worthing**. This method takes two hours for hanging of all flags. Alternatives to using this method is using step ladders, manually set up at each location, but would take longer.
- Hang and retrieve flags approx four times per year; (1.) Memorial Day through Flag Day, (2.) Independence Day, (3.) 9/11 Remembrance, and (4.) Veterans Day.
- Responsible for storing flags at SPP storage location or one's own residence if desired.
- Have a genuine interest in safety.

Perhaps a retired resident would love to serve in this capacity, though anyone with available time is needed. Our next Flag Ambassador will have the support of the Civic Club Board in providing assistance. So please consider today.

GET READY, GET SET, DECORATE!

Fall Decoration Judging will take place on Sunday, **November 13**. The categories are:

- Best Scarecrow(s) (1st and 2nd)
- Best Décor (1st and 2nd) and
- Most Original (1st and 2nd)

Those who are decorating with pumpkins and hay bales can contact **Chuck Blesener** at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945 to pick them up when they are finished with them. He will take the pumpkins to the food pantry and recycle the hay bales at his farm.



Patrol Hours <i>Prepared by Charli Merchant</i>	SECTIONS				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Auto Patrol Hours	15	13.5	14.5	15	56
Walk/Bike Patrol Hours	15.5	16	17.5	15.5	63.5
Base Station Hours	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL HOURS	30.5	29.5	32	30.5	119.5

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.

Johnnie Scardino is the winner of the \$20 gas bonus this month.

CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE

Miles Patrolled... 578



SEPTEMBER 2011

- Arrests..... 0
- Alarm Responses 0
- Citizen Contacts..... 43
- Disturbances 0
- Investigations 1
- Park Checks..... 15
- Vacation Watch 19
- Misc. Calls 8
- Dispatched Calls 6
- Total Calls 76

Traffic:
Verbal/Written Warnings... 4
Citations... 0

lookout, a little smarter and less involved. Guy #4 is the boss who puts it all together, usually around the corner or in the car, the get-away driver. You can have all four jobs in a single body if there is a single robber, or if there is more than four they are usually going to rob a store, bank, or drug house.

If you are a victim don't be a hero, do what is asked—except—do not get in the car with them if asked to do so—especially if you are a woman. Most crime is committed in the evening and early morning hours. Do not stop to get gas at night and try and do your shopping during the day. If you are being followed, don't drive home. Drive to a police or fire station or other well lit area with a lot of people around. Remember there is a storefront police station in the Ross shopping center on 43rd. Use your cell phone to call for help. Businessmen should use all available technologies in their stores, not carry a lot of cash, vary their banking routine, and not always use the commercial banking lane.

Recent changes in state laws have extended the Castle Doctrine to your car. You can now carry a gun in your vehicle even without a concealed handgun permit. A gun is an insurance policy that you hope to never use, but if you do, remember that the bullet has your name on it and you are responsible for it all the way to its final destination. If you are pulled over by a police officer, be sure to let him know that you have a weapon in the vehicle or in your purse, and be sure you do not take that weapon into prohibited places.

Get the Lowdown on Armed Robberies

By Chuck Blesener

Sgt. Defee with the HPD Robbery Division says that there is much misinformation in the news. Their 92 investigators try and solve the 1,600 robberies per month, but the good news is that number was 2,500 per month just ten years ago. The recent trend is that more robberies are taking place in the home, making them more personal and dangerous. Two thirds of all robberies are of individuals with the balance against businesses. The need for money to purchase illegal drugs fuels most robberies.

The typical robber is under 25, from the drug culture and a disadvantaged home, and proud of his body tattoos. A normal bandit team is four guys covered in tattoos, driving around in a car looking for victims from who they can easily steal money or property. They are divided into four jobs – guy #1 is the youngest and dumbest, the ground guy with a gun who robs you. Guy #2 is the back up and helps guy #1 if you resist or run. Guy #3 is the



Gardening Tip of the Month:

Fall is the traditional time we see beautiful mums in plantings and pots everywhere. These flowers, as well as carnations and petunias, prefer neutral soil. To raise potting soil alkalinity, apply a solution of 4 tablespoons baking soda to 1 quart of water, and use sparingly. By contrast, geraniums, begonias, hydrangeas, and other

flowers that prefer alkaline soil should be watered occasionally with a solution of 3 tablespoons baking soda to 1 quart of water. If you plan to grow winter tomatoes, sprinkle baking soda lightly around the tomato plant base. This will sweeten the tomatoes by lowering soil acidity.

Around the neighborhood

By Romi Sandel & Laurie Hardwick

► **On the Mend:** **Gene Beall** is walking and recovering from his back surgery. As is **Mel Lofton** who also had back surgery recently. **Alfred Kenjura** recently had his last radiation treatment for lung cancer.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to all.

► Condolences to **Warren & Pauline Hutchings** of Cheshire Lane on the loss of their daughter Margaret on September 30, 2011.

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.

Call Deputy Dispatch
713-755-7628

Fight Auto Theft with Awareness

By Chuck Blesener

HIDELOCKTAKE.com. Since the launch of the Hide Lock Take program in 2001, vehicle related crimes have slowly decreased. Being aware of your belongings and locking your car has kept criminals away. Help keep our neighborhood safe and remember these steps: HIDE your things, LOCK your car, TAKE your keys. When possible, AVOID LEAVING YOUR CAR PARKED ON THE STREET.

Did you know?

- It's illegal to leave your car running unattended.
- 80% of auto thefts occur when keys are left in the car.
- Criminals will sometimes watch a car for days before acting.
- Criminals look for shopping bags, electronics, and purses.
- Most cars can be opened in 3 minutes with a coat hanger.
- A thief can break a window and steal your valuables in less than 15 seconds.



What's Happening Around Houston

by Carol Jean Hebert

Wabash Antiques & Feed Store: A little bit of country in the heart of the city.

Wabash Antiques and Feed Store (or Washington Avenue Bric-a-brac, Antiques, Sundries, and Hardware, as it was known in its early days) is a Houston institution. For over a hundred years, Wabash has been helping this city grow, supplying feed, seed, and farming supplies to early settlers and today's backyard gardeners alike. While Houston has grown and changed around them, they have kept the traditions which Wabash has stood for since the beginning while giving them a modern twist. You can see this spirit of updated tradition in their selection of organic solutions, their rustic imported antiques, and their knowledgeable, friendly staff.

While it's true they are a feed store, they are much more than that. They are a hardware store, a pet shop, an organic herb garden and an antique market. They are the only place in Houston where you can find holistic pet treatments, vegetable and native plants, natural pet foods, bird feeders, fertilizer, an enormous selection of farm poultry and cold beer under one barn roof. They are a rustic paradise, right in the heart of Houston. They are a piece of the past which you can visit in the present. They are a little bit of the country in the heart of the city. Wabash is waiting for your visit.



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713-824-4799

Deed Restrictions
713-305-5035

Traffic & Safety
713-824-4799

New Neighbor/Greeter
713-305-5036

Garden Club
713-344-7013

CP Vacation Watch
713-682-5959

Architectural Guidelines
713-956-1167

Plaza Pulse News
713-503-2552

SPP Historian
713-683-9945

Plaza Moms
281-888-4533

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 NOVEMBER 2011

= Trash and Yard Waste
 = Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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



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

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Plaza Moms Hosts New Principals

The next Plaza Moms meeting is on Monday, November 14, at 7pm at the

home of **Lynn Myers** 1035 Cheshire. We will be focusing on education with visits from the new principals of Durham Elementary and Frank Black Middle School and we are hosting a children's book drive to promote literacy.

Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday, December 3 at Durham Elementary.

For information on these or any other Plaza Moms events or membership please contact **Ann Brock**, annbrock1979@yahoo.com, or **Shannon Zierau**, szierau@yahoo.com



Men's Group Gathers for Luncheon

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group will meet for their monthly luncheon on Thursday, November 10, at 11:30 am at Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead Rd. at Dacoma.

The group is open to all men of the neighborhood and has no formal rules, officers, or dues. Just drop in and join the conversation while having lunch at some great local restaurants. The group has a bus trip planned for Sunday, February 5 to the Hobby Center to see the musical production of *Bring It On*. For more information contact **Chuck Blesener** at cbbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.



Garden Club Celebrates the Seasons

The fall season is in full bloom with Shepherd Park Garden Club. October was a very active month with the kick-off of the annual Poinsettia fundraiser at the Shopping on the Plaza event and the civic club Fall Fling. Poinsettias are available for order using the form provided in this issue until November 12, or by calling **Alice Bongers** at 713-681-6044. Delivery of the beautiful live plants will be the week of December 1.

"Another Place in Time" garden center was the venue for the October 10 meeting of the Garden Club, and owner Mike Lowery presented a very informative program on drought tolerant plants for our area. Members enjoyed milling through the gardens and shopping the beautifully decorated gift shop.

The next meeting will be held on November 14 at 7 p.m. in the home of **Barbara Raines**, 1191 Chamboard. An entertaining and unique program on garden art will be presented by Evan Hopkins of Wabash Antiques and Feed. Expect to see more fun items in the flower beds in Shepherd Park Plaza soon!

October yard of the month, presented by **Robin McClung**, was given to **Evonne Alford** at 1127 Thornton for the creative fall theme and unusual plant combinations.



Welcome to the Neighborhood!

SECTION 3 Jose & Rene Castro
1117 Cheshire



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Shepherd Park Plaza group
on Facebook. Share your
thoughts or pictures and join
in on discussions.

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/>.

If you have moved into the neighborhood recently and have not yet been greeted by the SPP Civic Club, please contact **Eileen Hartman** at 713-305-5036 or eileen@hartmanassociates.com.

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