

THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

{CONTENTS}

October 2012

[Departments]

- Citizens Patrol
- Deputy Constable Patrol
- SPP Clubs

Men's Group Plaza Moms Society Garden Club SPP Travelers

[Features]

- SPP Fall Fling Changes
 Encourage Neighborhood
 Collectiveness
- October 2 is National Night Out
- Get Ready, Get Set, Decorate!
- Support SPP Safety, Give to the Constable Patrol Program
- Gardening Tip of the Month
- Are You Getting Email Alerts?
- Crime Report
- Home Security Tips from the Citizen Patrollers
- In Memoriam

[Reviews]

- Yards of the Month
- What's Happening Around Houston
- Calendar

Important Dates
Numbers to Remember



SPP Fall Fling Changes Encourage Neighborhood Collectiveness

Romi Sandel, SPP Civic Club Board President

This year the Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club Board has decided to make a few changes to our fall fling. We feel it is important to continue to find new ways to foster the sense of community that makes our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live. The fall fling is a perfect opportunity.

Our hope is to plan an event that is attractive to everyone in the neighborhood in an effort to encourage more interaction among all of us. We want to see people who live on the West end of Richelieu mingling with those on the East end of Curtin. People who maintain our entrance flower beds to meet those who volunteer with Citizens on Patrol. Young ones who enjoy the park swings to interact with those who raised their kids in the neighborhood 40 years ago.

This year's fall fling will feel familiar in many ways, including the ever-popular desserts by the Garden Club and presentation by the Board, but we are also adding some new elements to the event, including a cake walk, Bingo, and crafts for the kids. To recognize these exciting changes and to incorporate all the events, we've also changed the name of the event to **Fall Festival**.

I personally look forward to meeting many of my neighbors that I have not yet been able to meet. I hope you will plan to join me on Saturday, October 13 at Durham Elementary.

Please take a look at the enclosed flyer for more details on the Fall Festival. And after the festival, the reverse side of the flyer can be used on Halloween for those of you wanting to let Trick-or-Treaters know that you plan to hand out candy or other treats.





October 2 is National Night Out

Tuesday, October 2, is National Night Out in Texas. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, so please plan to attend at one of the many locations designated in Shepherd Park Plaza.

A flyer about this year's event with a list of hosts and their addresses went out to all residents in late September.

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Get Ready, Get Set, Decorate!

Fall is in the air, and it's time to deck the yards for our great autumn holidays. SPPCC will reward the best yards with decoration awards in the following categories:

Autumn



Best Scarecrow(s)

Best Décor

Most Original

Halloween

- **Scariest Décor**
- **Most Original Design**
- **Best Overall**



This is a great time to tune up your decorating skills as Christmas is right around the corner!

Support SPP Safety **Give to the Constable Program**

The requested Constable Patrol contribution for the coming year is \$200 per household. With the recent increase in crime in our area, it's important that we deter potential criminals with the visibility and authority provided the Constable Program. We all benefit through a safer neighborhood, lower crime, and higher property values, and it's an investment worth making to keep SPP a wonderful and safe place to live!

What do you get for \$200? A full-time armed and uniformed deputy patrolling our neighborhood in a marked vehicle 40 hours per week. Officers from the Constable's patrol division make numerous sweeps of SPP when our deputy is not on duty. **Deputy James Moulden** is assigned to our neighborhood, and he is very dedicated and committed to keeping SPP safe. His work hours are set by the SPPCC board and are based on crime statistics for our neighborhood and the patrol hours of our Citizens Patrol. A great part of the time, our deputy is patrolling while we are fast asleep.

Can you contribute in installments? We realize that a lump sum payment may not be feasible for everyone, so you are welcome to contribute in installments. You may do so by mailing periodic payments or by making online payments as you are able. However, we are not able to send out reminders or more frequent bills, so you are asked to set up your own reminder system so that you can make your desired contributions in a timely manner. No donation is too small... even \$5 a month can make a difference!

Please send your contribution today! The sooner we receive your \$200 contribution, the better able we are to budget for the coming year. If you can't immediately afford the \$200, please send what you can—contributions in any amount are welcome. In fact, we are now able to accept recurring contributions through PayPal at www.shepherdparkplaza.com. Or you may mail your contribution to SPPCC Membership Director, 1135 Richelieu, Houston, 77018.



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.

AUGUST 2012

CITIZENS PATROL STATS

Patrol Hours Prepared by Charli Merchant

WEEK	WALK/BIKE PATROL	AUTO PATROL	TOTAL HOURS
1	23.5	23	46.5
2	24.25	20	44.25
3	22.5	16.5	39
4	22.75	32	54.75
TOTAL	93	91.5	184.5

Interested in patrolling? Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or <u>kjcfm4954@yahoo.com</u> 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.

Winner of the \$10 gas bonus from the random drawing is: Melba Bruce.

\$25 gas cards (for driving 10 hours either in one month or accumulated) will be given to: **Gus Opperman, August Galiano, Bill McReynolds, Chuck Blesener, Karen Cruse,** and **Charli Merchant**.

Please consider applying our SPP sticker to your vehicle. Perhaps the more our own cars and trucks are labeled; we can better identify vehicles that may be up to no good.

What's Happening Around Houston by Carol Jean Hebert

S-n-G Horseback Riding

You can once again horseback ride in Galveston thanks to the husband and wife team of Charles Stewart and Terri Glenn, owners of S-n-G Horseback Riding, located on Jamaica Beach.

Charles and Terri opened S-n-G a couple of years ago with a stable of five horses. They now own 19, including a variety ranging from quarter horses to thoroughbreds to Arabians. They specialize in offering beach and bay riding tours that allow groups of up to six to see the island from a more leisurely perspective.

The beach ride takes you along Jamaica Beach, while the bay side ride is done on secluded, private land and is more scenic and peaceful. This is the ride that holds the most appeal for the experienced rider.

The beach rides are \$45 per person, while the bay rides are \$30. S-n-G also offers moonlight rides priced at \$55. During the off season, you can enjoy a private ride for \$100 along the beach, or \$75 on the bay side.

S-n-G Horseback Riding

17300 West FM 3005, Galveston, Texas 77554

(409) 457-2159 | sngtrailriding@yahoo.com







CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE



Arrests	1
Alarm Responses	10
Citizen Contacts	189
Disturbances	2
Investigations	4

Park Checks	26
Vacation Watch	24
Misc. Calls	38
Dispatched Calls	29
Total Calls 3	305

Miles Patrolled 1618
Traffic:
Verbal/Written Warnings 4
Citations 1

CRIME REPORT By Chuck Blesener

HPD reports that many burglaries occur between 11 AM and 2 PM on weekdays when no one is at home. Make sure your alarm system is on every time you leave and keep your driveway gate closed. Criminals are always looking for easy targets where nobody is home.

Officer Tom Ferguson of the HPD Burglary and Theft Division, Precious Metals Unit, says that the theft of jewelry is now as profitable as dealing drugs, and is easier with less risk. The price of gold, silver, and platinum has increased sharply in the last ten years. The 352+ known gold buyers in the Houston area must be licensed by the state and the city. All gold buyers must report all purchases to HPD and hold them for 11 days.

Here are some things you can do to protect your belongings:

- Have your valuables appraised by accredited individuals and properly insured.
- Take photographs of such valuables for your records and consider etching or inscribing jewelry as an identifier.
- List jewelry and high dollar valuables at <u>www.leadsonlines.com</u>, a highly secure website monitored by police agencies.
- Timely report any thefts or losses. Once jewelry is taken apart and the metal melted down, it is impossible to identify.

Home Security Tips from the Citizen Patrollers

- If you have a driveway gate, remember to close it!
- Keep porch lights on at night.
- · Lock doors.
- Keep cars in garage or inside gate. Lock car doors.
- If you have a house alarm, USE IT!





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--Byron and Shirley T., Houston, TX

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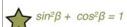


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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

POLICE/FIRE: 911

Plaza Moms

CITY HELPLINE: 311

Citizens Patrol Deed Restrictions
713-824-4799 713-305-5035

CP Vacation Watch Architectural Guid

Architectural Guidelines Plaza Pulse News 713-301-4054 713-628-4210

713-628-4210 713-681-1552Pulse Advertising Men's Group

713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600 713-683-9945

713-775-0307 or 832-477-7871 713-305-5036

Garden Club 713-344-7013 Traffic & Safety 713-824-4799



713-682-5959

713-683-6502

SPP Membership

SPP CALENDAR

City Liaison

713-683-9945

OCTOBER 2012



New Neighbor/Greeter

SPP Historian

= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		NATIONAL NIGHT OUT	SPPCC **********************************			
7	COLUMBUS DAY	9	10	shopping 11 on the plaza	12	3
	Garden Club MEETING			Men's Group MEETING		FALL FESTIVAL
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				SPP TRAVELERS		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Heavy trash JUNK waste only				
28	29	30	31			
			➤ HAIPPY HAILLOWEEN	A Note About Trash: You Friday before your heavy	u can legally put your heavy trash day.	trash out at 6pm the



Trick-or-Treat! October 31 will be here before we know it! Please post the "Welcome Trick-or-Treaters" flyer on your door and turn your porch lights on if you wish to receive children. Trick-or-treating occurs from 6 pm to 8 pm, so please be aware of this as you drive through the neighborhood. Trick-or-treaters are asked to stay on the sidewalks, but to improve the safety of pedestrians, consider parking your vehicles in the garage or in the driveway (off the street) when possible.





Fall Vendor Night Thursday, October 11 6 pm to 9 pm

Join us for a fun night of shopping at Durham Elementary. Work on your

holiday shopping list, or buy goodies for yourself. It's a great event and is the biggest fundraiser for Plaza Moms. See the Pulse Insert for more details—see you there!

November Meeting: November 11 at 7 pm at the home of **Emily Eldridge** 1003 Cheshire. This meeting will be a pot-luck. Bring a dish of your favorite quick dinner to share and share the recipe.

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Men's Club

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group met for lunch on the September 13 and had discussions on

neighborhood events, hearing aids, and the Texas Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program. The group will meet again on Thursday, October 11, at 11:30 am at Don Jose Mexican Restaurant, 5305 Antoine at Pinemont. With no officers, no dues, and no commitments, you too can join the conversation over a leisurely lunch with friends and neighbors. For more information contact **Chuck Blesener** at ccbles77@gmail.com or 713-683-9945.

Emergency—911
Constable Dispatch—713-755-7628
HPD—713-884-3131
Clip & Save

Garden Club

The first meeting of the fall season for Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club was held Monday night, Sept. 10, in the home of **Carol Jean Hebert**. A total of 28 members and guests attended the organizational meeting. An exceptional dinner was prepared and served by hostess **Carol Jean** and cohostesses, **Linda Morgan**, **Cindi Phelps**, and **Debbie Elliott**.

Membership dues of \$20 were solicited from members, and corrected information requested for the upcoming directory, which is published by November meeting. A number of business items were discussed, including participation in the Shopping on the Plaza and Fall Fling with the annual pre-sale of poinsettias to be delivered the first week of December.

The October meeting will be on October 8 at the home of **Sarrah Moseley**, 1147 Thornton, at 7 pm. The program for the evening will be on the growth, maintenance, and enjoyment of orchids. All SPP residents are welcome, both men and women.

Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers Our merry band of travelers are set to board the Harris

County Precinct Four bus at Shepherd Park on the morning of October 18 for a trip to Texas City where they will enjoy a guided tour and seafood lunch. Reservations have been made for buses in January and April with trips being planned. We also have a bus for a special trip on Sunday, March 3, to see the matinee performance of the TUTS production "Man Of La Mancha." Trips are open to SPP residents and their friends over the age of 50 on a first come basis. Contact **Chuck Blesener** at ccbles77@qmail.com or 713-683-9945 for more information.

In Memoriam

All cultures and religions share the commonality of remembering those individuals who have passed on into the next life, and as All Saints/All Souls day approaches, we are reminded of several of our SPP neighbors who have passed on over the past few months. Please send additional remembrances to pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com for our November issue.

- Adella Miksch—our dear friend and neighbor passed away on June 5 at the age of 95. She lived in her home at 1143 Chamboard for 40 years. Della always remembered birthdays of her neighbors, and if you were lucky, you would receive one of her wonderful angel food cakes.
- Florence Kenjura—SPP Resident for 47 yrs, Florence passed away peacefully on August 31. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Alfred Kenjura, Sr. Florence's neighbors say she never met a stranger, and that always approached life with love.
- Nell Kerr—Nell passed away September 13, surrounded by her loving family. Her neighbors in the Thornton/Clift Haven/Chantilly corner will miss her smiling face, her sweet nature, and the seasonally dressed goose outside her kitchen window (which the children on the block adore). Nell is survived by her husband of 58 years, Richard.





SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB P. O. Box 10453 HOUSTON, TX 77206 WWW.SHEPHERDPARKPLAZA.COM

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August Yards of the Month

Section 1:

ROBERT & DAWNELL MORRIS | HAL MCNABB & BRUCE HILL **1071** Cur tin

Section 3:

1107 Martin

Section 2:

MALCOM PHILLIPS 4618 CHANTILLY CIRCLE

Section 4:

Greg & Nicki Walls 1028 CANDLELIGHT

EILEEN HARTMAN OWNER/REALTOR CELL: 713.305.5036 Help me help **Durham Library!** For each transaction closed in Shepherd Park Plaza, I will make a donation to the library at our neighborhood school.

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-sonew, 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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