



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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## 2013 Fundraising Campaign for Dues & Constable Kick Off in September *By Tom Dornak*

Letters will be mailed in mid-September kicking off the 2013 fundraising for both Civic Club Membership Dues and Constable Patrol Program. This is the second year for combining the fundraising campaign for these 2 programs. Membership dues will remain at \$25 per year and the Constable Patrol Program will remain to be \$200 per year. Both the membership to the Civic Club as well as the Constable Patrol Program is voluntary, though we urge your continuous support to maintain the successful operations. Your prompt reply is also needed as our 2013 contract with Harris County for our Contract Deputy Patroller must be signed and executed in December.

Be on the lookout for this mailing which will occur by September 15. Be certain to check the form you get in the mail for your 2013 payment status. With some confusion in raising funds for the various programs, some residents may have already submitted their 2013 Dues and/or Deputy Constable Program donation. A payment status will be listed on the form you receive in September. You can also request status from our Membership Chairman by emailing **Tom Dornak** at [membership@shepherdparkplaza.com](mailto:membership@shepherdparkplaza.com).

## So How Strong is Our Membership?

The Civic Club Board is pleased to publish our strong membership statistics. Frankly, our participation by our residents is unparalleled by our neighboring subdivisions with voluntary membership programs. I suspect our voluntary participation rates are the highest percentage throughout Houston. Participation is high in both Membership and Constable Patrol Program. Below are the membership statistics for paid membership dues and participation in the constable patrol program for the last 4 years.

	SPP Civic Club Members	PERCENT	Constable Patrol Participation	PERCENT
* 2012	548	75.20%	457	62.70%
2011	544	74.61%	490	67.20%
2010	552	75.70%	440	60.40%
2009	540	74.10%	445	61.00%

\* Dues and Constable donations for 2012 still coming in. Total SPP Residents: 729

Remember, these programs are voluntary to residents. It is clear that year after year the vast majority of our residents have interest in renewing their SPP membership which provides funding to maintain landscaping, publish a monthly newsletter, monitor and report violations to city ordinances and deed restrictions and support improvement projects. All these things directly reflect the healthy increase of property values in SPP. The participation in the Constable program has steadily increased over the past few years. Residents are genuinely interested in donating to this program to help reduce crime and increase safety associated with the constable presence in our neighborhood.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Karen Cruse

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**Membership** Tom Dornak

**Parks/DRT/PIP Liaison** Chuck Blesener

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**Section 3 Rep.** Lynn Myers

**Section 4 Rep.** Renee Botti

**Garden Club Rep.** Evonne Alford

**Plaza Moms Co-Rep.**  
Holly Inderrieden, Shannon Zierau

**Men's Group Rep.** Chuck Blesener

**Pulse Editor:** Emily Leffler  
713-628-4210

**Pulse Design:** Paula Collins  
713-594-5295  
[pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com](mailto:pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com)



# SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA

## E-Mail Alert!

[WWW.SHEPHERDPARKPLAZA.COM](http://WWW.SHEPHERDPARKPLAZA.COM)

The Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club wants to make sure that it has the correct email addresses of all residents interested in receiving email alerts. The master list that is maintained by the Civic Club has numerous invalid emails—too many to track in fact.

So on September 5 and September 15, a test email will be sent out to all Shepherd Park Plaza residents who are signed up for email alerts. If you do not receive a test email alert on these dates please go to the Shepherd Park Plaza website and enter your current email information so that future emails will be properly distributed.

### Around Houston *by Carol Jean Hebert*

#### Stark Museum of Art

The Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas, began as a vision of H.J. Lutchter Stark. As early as 1927 H.J. Lutchter Stark had discussed with associates his hope of someday opening a museum. His interest in the arts followed that of his mother, Miriam Lutchter Stark, an enthusiastic collector of art, furniture, and decorative items from around the world. Lutchter Stark developed a similar passion for collecting, with a particular interest in nature and art depicting the American West.

Lutchter Stark began building his collection as an undergraduate at the University of Texas, when he started purchasing works from Texas artists. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, he began collecting American Indian objects from New Mexico.

He married Nelda Childers in 1943, and together they continued to build the collection. From 1944 to 1962 they traveled annually to their ranch in Colorado, stopping along the way in Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, to meet with artists. From these visits they built a collection that strongly represents the Taos Society of Artists, a colony of artists drawn to the area for its scenery and culture.

In the 1950s, they expanded the collection with the rare five-volume set of John James Audubon's Birds of America as well as letters and first edition copies of publications by Audubon and John Woodhouse Audubon. In that same decade, they collected porcelain birds and flowers by Dorothy Doughty and Edward M. Boehm as well as a series of Steuben Glass pieces, including the complete set of The United States in Crystal. In the late 1950s, the Starks added 230 works by Paul Kane, which was their last major purchase for the collection.

Inspired by their shared passion, Nelda and Lutchter Stark founded the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation in 1961 to enrich the quality of life in Southeast Texas through education and the arts. Although Lutchter Stark had envisioned a museum in his hometown of Orange, Texas, he did not live to see it accomplished. Upon his death in 1965, the majority of the art collection in Lutchter Stark's Estate passed to the Foundation. Under Nelda C. Stark's direction, the Foundation built the Stark Museum of Art, which opened on November 29, 1978. The Foundation continues today to acquire additional works of art for the collections.

The Stark Museum of Art houses one of the finest collections of 19th and 20th century Western American art and artifacts in the country. The collection focuses on the stunning land, dramatic people, and diverse wildlife of the American West. The Museum also holds a significant collection of American Indian art as well as collections of glass and porcelain, and rare books and manuscripts.

**Admissions is Free**

712 Green Ave.  
Orange TX 77630  
409.886.2787

[info@starkmuseum.org](mailto:info@starkmuseum.org)

**Patrol Hours** *Prepared by Charli Merchant*

WEEK	WALK/BIKE PATROL	AUTO PATROL	TOTAL HOURS
1	14.5	10.5	25
2	19.5	15.5	35
3	24	15	39
4	29.5	33	62.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>161.5</b>

**Interested in patrolling?** Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or [kjcfm4954@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

Winner of the \$10 gas bonus from the random drawing is: **Bill McReynolds**.

Patrollers who have logged 10 hours (either in July alone, or cumulatively), and who will receive a \$25 gas reimbursement award are: **Ernie Gessner, Bruno Majewski, Jose Carranza, August Galiano, Bob Wottrich, Melba Bruce and Chuck Blesener**.

REMINDERS: Watch out for neighbors' houses. Keep gates closed. Lock doors. Use your alarm systems. Maintain your lawn. Don't let your house look abandoned, as this invites intruders.



### SPP Fall Garage Sale Scheduled for Saturday, September 29!

By Patricia Dornak

Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club is coordinating a neighborhood garage sale for Saturday, September 29. Last year's neighborhood garage sale was a success with approximately 15 households participating. The Civic Club will take steps to advertize in various publications as well as place signs at SPP neighborhood entrances. Start time will be at advertized from 8am—1pm, though be prepared as some customers like to come early.

#### Here are a few tips for a successful garage sale:

- Be visible from the street. Put a sign or balloon in your yard if you're holding your sale at the back of your driveway or in your garage.
- Make items visible. Consider moving some items to your driveway, toward the front of your house.
- Hang clothes. Don't leave them in cardboard boxes.
- Price some items. It's not necessary to price every single item, but give shoppers an idea of what prices you expect so they aren't scared to ask.
- Save your used grocery sacks to bag up items shopper buy.
- Have plenty of change and small denomination bills ready.

For residents wanting to donate unsold items, a nonprofit organization providing assistance to the needy in our part of Houston, MANNA (Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance), located on 43rd at Rosslyn Rd will pick up your unwanted items beginning at 1pm.

A handout flyer with all the addresses participating in this garage sale will be generated and distributed to residents hosting a garage sale to help shoppers make their way through the

neighborhood to find other garage sales. Please contact me at [Pdornak@gmail.com](mailto:Pdornak@gmail.com) if you plan to host a garage sale and want a free pickup of unsold items for donation.

## October "Save the Dates"

Shepherd Park Plaza will have two big events in October and we hope you'll save the dates for both.

### National Night Out, October 2

While the National event is held each year in August, the State of Texas shifts our date to October to try to reduce exposure to the oppressive heat and humidity we know so well (not to mention the mosquitoes). National Night Out is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors especially those on your street.

We are looking for Block Sponsors to host the outdoor event in their driveway, and would like to have every block represented. If you would like to host, please contact Romi Sandel at [romi.sandel@yahoo.com](mailto:romi.sandel@yahoo.com).

### Neighborhood Fall Fling, October 13

The neighborhood is getting geared up to have its annual Fall Fling with a new twist. We're expanding the event to encourage more family participation, a little competition and some great food (including Garden Club desserts). The date is set for Saturday, October 13, at Durham Elementary and it will include more outdoor activities and be held earlier in the day. The civic club's Hospitality Group and the Plaza Moms Club will send out more details in September.

## CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE



JULY 2012

Arrests..... 2  
Alarm Responses ..... 7  
Citizen Contacts..... 170  
Disturbances ..... 3  
Investigations ..... 1

Park Checks..... 16  
Vacation Watch ..... 11  
Misc. Calls ..... 26  
Dispatched Calls ..... 15  
Total Calls ..... 261

Miles Patrolled... 1792

Traffic:

Verbal/Written Warnings... 0  
Citations... 0

## CRIME REPORT *By Chuck Blesener*

HPD Police Chief Charles McClelland Jr. says that crime in Houston is down 11% from last year despite the public's perception that it is higher. HPD is also changing the colors of their police cars from blue and white to black and white. It will cost \$60,000 in drug forfeiture money to paint the first 100 cars. It may take two years to change out the whole fleet of 1600 cars. Since Ford no longer makes the Crown Victoria, all new police cars will be either Ford Police Interceptors, Dodge Chargers, Chevy Caprices, or Chevy Tahoes. Officers uniforms may also change to black or dark blue to enable them to wear their bullet-proof vests on the outside. For the next two years you may see a variety of police vehicles and uniforms on the streets. You must stop for an officer but if in doubt as to whether they are really a police officer, drive to a fire station, police station, or a well lit occupied business.

North Division Captain Tom Runyan tells about two recent crimes that both happened at 10:30 in the morning. In one a customer withdrew a large sum of money at a Wells Fargo bank on the North Frwy and discovered he was being followed home. He drove at high speed and through red lights to evade the criminals but was robbed at gunpoint when he arrived at his apartment. The maintenance man was able to scare off the criminals. In the other a customer was approached by a panhandler while filling up with gas on Mangum. When a request for money was denied he then asked for a ride and pulled a gun when that too was refused. He then demanded the keys and the vehicle. The point here is to be aware of your surroundings and not become a victim. Crime does happen in the morning in broad daylight. If you are being followed do not drive home. Go to the nearest police station, fire station, or a business with a lot of people around. Whether putting gas in your car or shopping, go to stores with other people around or where there is an attendant. Leave immediately if you feel uncomfortable or see suspicious persons.

## HOUSTON TRANSTAR *By Chuck Blesener*

Created in 1996, the Houston Transtar consortium is a partnership between the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO, and TxDOT for providing Transportation Management and Emergency Management services to the Southeast Texas Region. Covering 13,000 square miles and 6 million people in Harris and 12 surrounding counties, they were the first, and now are one of only five such agencies in America. In 2011 they were responsible for handling 103,542 freeway traffic incidents, 1100 buses dispatched in peak hours, and 7.5 miles of light rail with 45,000 passengers.

They are currently expanding their Emergency Operations Center at 6922 Katy Road where 400-500 responders from 125 agencies work 24/7 to coordinate responses to natural and man-made disasters. Their services include the Traffic Operations Branch which directs the design and installation of new traffic signals with more than 2000 signals tied into a single management software program, the Motorist Assistance Program (M.A.P.) helps with minor vehicle problems within the unincorporated areas of Harris County and on the freeways, the SAFEClear traffic incident management program to clear stalled vehicles from highways within Houston, METRO Service Options for rail and bus service in Harris County, 190 large regional signs along freeways and HOV lanes to give you travel times, road delays, emergency evacuations, and amber alerts. They have installed over 900 closed circuit TV cameras along roadways in Houston and on highways as far away as Dallas, Luling, Brenham, and Giddings. Speed sensors have been embedded in the roadways on evacuation routes, including new award winning Blue Tooth sensors on I45 all the way to Dallas.

The website [www.houstontranstar.org](http://www.houstontranstar.org) provides traffic updates and emergency news. The Virtual Earth Map allows you to zoom in to view detailed information about state traffic in specific regions. For personalized emails or mobil messages and maps with travel times and traffic information, set up your free alerts at [mobile.houstontranstar.org](http://mobile.houstontranstar.org).



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& ASSOCIATES

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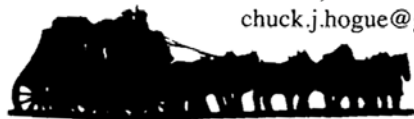
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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**POLICE/FIRE: 911**

**CITY HELPLINE: 311**

Citizens Patrol  
713-824-4799

Deed Restrictions  
713-305-5035

Plaza Moms  
713-775-0307 or 832-477-7871

New Neighbor/Greeter  
713-305-5036

Garden Club  
713-344-7013

CP Vacation Watch  
713-682-5959

Architectural Guidelines  
713-301-4054

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 SEPTEMBER 2012



= Trash and Yard Waste

= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**Call Deputy Dispatch • 713-755-7628**

A Note About Trash: You can legally put your heavy trash out at 6pm the Friday before your heavy trash day.

						1
2	3 <b>Happy Labor Day</b>	4	5 	6	7	8
9	10 	11 	12 	13	14	15
16	17	18 	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28	29 
30						



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

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## Plaza Moms Start Off the New Year with a Splash!

Congratulations to our new Plaza Moms officers for 2012-13:

- Co-chairs: **Shannon Zierau & Emily Eldridge**
- Treasurer: **Jessica Lucas**
- Hospitality: **Courtney Edmiston, Angie Gunden & Heather Thiel**
- Communications: **Megan Rasmussen**

The next Plaza Moms meeting will be September 18 at 7 pm at the home of **Lorraine Cole**, 5019 Alba. Lorraine is a teacher at Durham Elementary and has invited the new principal (Ms. Onica Mayers) to introduce herself and talk about her plans for the school.

Save the dates! September 12 is Ladies' Night Out at Plonk! October 11 at 6 pm is our Annual Shopping on the Plaza at Durham Elementary.

And just a reminder that even though our group is called "Plaza Moms" we are not limited to those with children, so if you would like to get involved and meet more women in the neighborhood, please come to one of our upcoming events!



## Garden Club

The Fall organization meeting will be held September 10 at 7 pm at 1103 Cheshire. New and old, men and women, all are welcome to attend



## Men's Club

The Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group will meet for lunch and discussions on Thursday, September 13, at 11:30 am, at Whitney Oaks Hall, 816 East Whitney Dr. All men of the neighborhood are invited to join us for good food and conversation. For more information contact **Chuck Blesener** at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945.



## Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers

Our trip to Old Town Spring was canceled due to insufficient numbers of persons able to go at this time. We will reschedule this trip at a later date. We still have a trip planned for Thursday, October 18 to Texas City where we will have a step-on guide and visit the newly renovated Texas City Museum and other interesting sites. Lunch will be seafood at the Reef Restaurant.

In September we will be reserving buses for trips in November through April. Contact **Chuck Blesener** at [ccbles77@gmail.com](mailto:ccbles77@gmail.com) or 713-683-9945 for more information.

### Are You Getting Email Alerts?

SPPCC sends out periodic email alerts to residents who have provided us with email addresses. These alerts provide rapid, up-to-date information and are a great way to get the word out about important news quickly.

Email alerts are used to communicate:

- ♦ Crime in our area
- ♦ Lost and found pets
- ♦ Issues/meetings of interest to our neighborhood
- ♦ SPPCC events and activities

If you are not receiving these alerts and would like to be added to the distribution, email [billy@hartmanassociates.com](mailto:billy@hartmanassociates.com) and ask to be added.

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Find us on  
**Facebook**

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

## July YARDS OF THE MONTH

### Section 1:

JOHN & ALISA TACKETT  
1110 CHAMBOARD

### Section 3:

CHRISTINE & KENNETH  
MICHELS  
1102 MARTIN

### Section 2:

SHERRY SCARDINO  
1123 THORNTON

### Section 4:

STEVE LODEN &  
LARRY LOVINS  
1139 CANDLELIGHT

**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-so-new, but haven't gotten around to introducing yourself yet, contact **Eileen Hartman** at 713-305-5036 or [Eileen@hartmanassociates.com](mailto:Eileen@hartmanassociates.com) so we can welcome you officially.



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