



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

May 2017

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

Just a sampling of the fun the little ones had at the Plaza Moms Easter egg hunt this year!



EASTER DECORATING AWARDS

Thanks to all the participants who decorated their lawns and front doors! As always, the neighborhood benefits from all the residents that enjoy a little competition with their neighbors! The winners of the Spring Decorating Awards are:

1st place Best Overall : 1103 Thornton, Mary & Frank Maxwell
 2nd place Best Overall: 1119 Candlelight, Carolyn & Daniel Barrett
 1st place Best Religious: 1162 Curtin, Aileen & Bill Hartman
 2nd place Best Religious: 1031 Martin, Beverly Montague
 Sec 1 Favorite: 1139 Chamboard, Kyle Heinrich
 Sec 2 Favorite: 4618 Chantilly Cir, Priscilla & Malcolm Phillips
 Sec 3 Favorite: 1101 Martin, Debbie & Ray Elliott
 Sec 4 Favorite: 1044 Candlelight, Norma Aguilar



Call is handled by Deputy Constable
*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza



March 2017

Alarm...6	CONTRACT CHECKS...194	Disturbance-OTHER...1
Traffic Citations...2	MILES PATROLLED...4211	Disturbance-Loud Noise...3
Information Calls...2	CITIZEN CONTACTS...158	Criminal Mischief...2
Suspicious Vehicle...2	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...7	Traffic Stops...3
Burglary of vehicle...1	Animal /Humane...1	Park Checks...11
Traffic Initiative...1	Open Door/Window...2	Vacation Watch...33
Follow-up...1	Welfare Check...1	Theft...1
Property Lost/Found...2	WRITS...3	*****

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 click Newsletter

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It's not just my business,
It's my neighborhood.

Where do you want to live?

School's Out for the Summer on May 25th

For the safety of kids in our area, please be extra vigilant as you drive around. Slow down, do a double-take, honk to give an alert, don't text while driving and watch for these kids who are excited to be out of school! Some may be learning to ride a bike or playing ball in their front yard or crossing the street to a friend's house. They may not be watching but YOU should watch for them. Stay alert!



Please Note: The May/June LNOs and Play Dates are a combo Family Fun Get Together. There will be no General Meeting, LNO, or Play Date in July due to the parade and summer vacations.

May General Meeting

Monday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. @ Jamie Bartula's House - 1232 Thornton (Oak Forest)
Topic: Adult Clothing & Accessories Swap

Save the date!!! June General Meeting on Tuesday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. Location: TBA

Volunteer Opportunity: We are still in need of 2 co-hosts to help with the June General Meeting please consider signing up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054badae2ba1f94-201617>

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



SPP MEN'S GROUP

Welcome to the Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group that was formed in 2001 by August Galiano and Chuck Blesener to give the men of the neighborhood a means to meet with neighbors for lunch and have conversations on topics of interest, including the neighborhood. The men meet at 11:30 on the second Thursday of most months in various local restaurants. While the group is open to all men of the neighborhood, the timing of their luncheons makes it most accessible for retired individuals. The group is very informal and has no rules, no dues, and no officers. They present their John Wayne award occasionally to some deserving resident who has shown a strong willingness to help make this a better community. Come join us for lunch and great conversation. Our current coordinator is Chuck Blesener and he can be reached at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.

The Men's Group will meet for lunch this month on Thursday, May 11th at 11:30 a.m. at Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead at Dacoma. August Galiano will provide a short video presentation on modern technology.



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

The Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers was originally an offshoot of the Men's Group but is now a separate group. They take bus trips every month or two on Harris County Precinct Four busses to venues both local and away. Since the County only allows those over the age of 50 to ride on their busses, this is the age limit for the group. All residents of SPP and their friends over 50 are invited to join us on a first come basis. The busses are free and the trip costs are very reasonable. Lunch is usually separate at a variety of restaurants near our destinations. We have visited museums, historical sites, nature centers, and been bird watching. We have seen plays and musicals as well as been blueberry picking. Our trip coordinators are Chuck and Jeanette Blesener and they can be reached at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.

Nice Weather – Here Come the Scammers

Nice days bring spring cleaning and other projects and the scammers are taking advantage of it. Their latest scam is to scope out homes having construction or other improvement projects done and show up posing as “inspectors” for the company that you had legitimately hired. Usually they will show up a day or two after your project is completed needing to “inspect” the work. Their whole purpose is to get you out of the house so they can occupy you outside while their cohorts burglarize your home. They are also posing as roof inspectors, cable company workers, and the old standby, tree trimmers.

Follow these simple rules:

- ◆ Never let anyone into your home or yard that you do not know.
- ◆ Never be lured out of your home.
- ◆ Keep your doors locked especially if you go outside.
- ◆ Legitimate employees of construction and utility companies will have an ID.
- ◆ If you are approached by anyone that seems suspicious, call the Constable immediately.



If you have an older neighbor, please alert them to these scammers. They often prey on our senior citizens. Have you paid your Constable Patrol dues? If not, why not? Send in your check or sign-up online today.

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713.906.4148 Cell
SPP Resident

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

Citizens Patrol Stats

March 2017 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Deborah DeBram & Katherine Peale

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	3	19
2	3	13
3	2	12
4	8	27
TOTAL	16	71

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 Deborah DeBram or Katherine Peale 713-812-7626 or algebrakp@aol.com 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.

We need volunteers. Training is just a few hours and you can be on your way to helping us protect the neighborhood.

Cheerfully Serving Shepherd Park Plaza

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Durham Elementary News

By Principal: Amy Poerschke

May 1st-5th - **is Teacher Appreciation Week. Let your child's teacher know how much you appreciate them!**

May 17th - Durham will host student-led conferences during school. Parents will be able to come and enjoy the openness of our beautiful campus as their child shares work samples from their portfolio.

May 18th - Durham students will participate in a school wide Kidz Science Safari STEAM hands-on assembly.

May 24th - End of year ceremonies for pre-k- 4th grade as follows:

Pre-kindergarten	8:30am-9:30am
Kindergarten	9:45am-10:45am
1 st grade	11:00am-12:00pm
2 nd grade	12:15pm-1:15pm
3 rd grade	1:30pm-2:30pm
4 th grade	2:45pm-3:15pm

May 25th at 8:30 a.m. we will have a special promotion and awards ceremony to send off our balanced 5th graders to middle school.

May 25th is the last day of school!

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Shepherd Park Plaza Backyard Garden Tour – A Botanical Treat!

After having to postpone the Shepherd Park Plaza Backyard Garden Tour due to threatening weather (that never happened), the Tour was held as advertised on its rain date, Sunday, April 9. Over 130 neighbors, friends, and families strolled among 4 lovely garden settings enjoying the yards, visiting with friends and neighbors, noting ideas for their own yards, and buying plants at the Garden Club Plant Sale.

For the wonderful neighbors who made this tour possible by showcasing their backyard gardens, a grateful thank you to:

- ◆ Bob and Cindy Wolfram – 4507 Apollo – Nature Lover's Delight
- ◆ Gary and Sarrah Moseley – 1147 Thornton – The Melting Pot for Entertaining
- ◆ David and Julie Hetrick – 1019 Chamboard – Backyard Paradise
- ◆ Durham Elementary School – 4803 Brinkman – Children's Outdoor Classroom and Garden

A special word of thanks to our sponsors RCW Nurseries, Inc., Plants For All Seasons, and Habitats. A shout-out to both the Yoburn family for use of their driveway for the plant sale and Daisy Troop 22282 for providing delicious lemonade and cookies to gardening enthusiasts. The SPP Garden Club will be donating net ticket proceeds to the neighborhood Constable Program and Durham Elementary PTA; those results will be reported in next month's Plaza Pulse.

Here are some photos from our first Backyard Garden Tour – top row left to right (Wolfram's yard, Moseley's yard, Hetrick's pool, Durham Elementary Garden....Bottom row left to right: Moseley's water urn, Durham's metal troughs, Hetrick's gazebo, Wolfram's Hydroponic Garden)



MORE TRASH FACTS

By: Chuck Blesener

The Neighborhood Recycling/Drop-Off Center at 9003 North Main, one block north of Crosstimbers, accepts all recyclables (including glass). The site offers dumpsters for heavy trash, tree waste, furniture and some building materials. A driver's license and utility bill (proving residency) is all that is necessary to use the facility up to four times each month on Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m. They do not accept garbage, dead animals, electronics, paint, hazardous liquids or toxic waste. At the same address is the City's Reuse Warehouse where you can donate surplus or reusable building materials, cabinets, paint, windows, doors and plumbing fixtures. Open Tuesday through Friday and the second and fourth Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30p.m., dropping materials here supports local non-profits and saves landfill space.

The City has two Environmental Service Centers where hazardous materials and electronics can be taken. The North unit at 5614 Neches is open on the second Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and accepts batteries, aerosols, antifreeze, pool chemicals, telephone equipment, TVs, tires, paint, motor oil, lawn equipment, microwaves, fluorescent bulbs, fertilizer, fuel, electronic scrap, cooking oil, small appliances, styrofoam blocks, printers, and solvents. Complete details can be found at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/esc.html>

Residential electronic devices should not be placed in your black or green rolling bins or in curbside heavy trash collection. They can be taken to a variety of drop-off locations. Complete details are available at http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/electronics_recycling.html

Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club

Yard of the Month – 1055 Martin – Shirley Correll

Shirley's yard is ready for the Easter holidays. She has pansies, yellow and red roses growing alongside Easter eggs and rabbits. The front yard also has a beautiful magnolia tree, crape myrtles and large loropetalum shrubs. On her front porch she has beautiful pots of succulents and cactus.



Creating Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers – Spectacular Container Gardens

Members had fun at our April meeting creating container gardens. They had a choice of potting a container of shade or sun loving plants or succulents. A few of the creative results are seen on the right.



Garden Club April Monthly Meeting – May 8, 2017

Our last meeting of the 2016-2017 Garden Club Year will be May 8th at Cindy Wolfram's home, 4507 Apollo at 7:00. The program will be the installation of new officers for the 2017-2018 year. If you have questions, please contact Vicki Brandt at 281-888-6306 or Debbie Elliott, Membership Chair at 713-686-7571.

STORM DRAIN AND REPAVING PROJECT

by: **Chuck Blesener**

(Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park (Central) Paving and Drainage Project - WBS No.: M-000285-0001-4)

Estimated cost is \$19,658,776.00 with an estimated construction timeline from October 10, 2016 - July 07, 2018. This project includes construction of storm drainage improvements, concrete paving, curbs, sidewalks, driveways and underground utilities to address and reduce the risk of structural flooding. Improvements include modification of street conveyance and sheet flow, and provide detention as needed for mitigation in the areas of Shepherd Forest, Garden Oaks, Shepherd Park Plaza, Candlelight Plaza, and the Pinemont and Oak Grove areas.

The construction route runs from Alba at Judiway north to Chamboard, then east to Brinkman, then north to Janisch at existing work on Pinemont project. Storm water on this project will travel south, but this project will tie into new storm drains on the new Pinemont project and serve as backup.

Construction on the project will affect storm sewers, waterlines, sanitary sewers, underground utilities, and paving along the route. Adjoining property owners will have issues with parking, driveway access, and garbage pickup. The contractor will be taking pictures and will attempt to restore most things to their original condition. Homeowners should take pictures of their working sprinkler systems, driveways, and landscaping. Some trees may have to be removed and others impacted by the construction. In most cases ditches will be removed and replaced with curb and gutters and sidewalks. Through a petition drive and negotiations with the City, the Garden Oaks neighborhood has some special arrangements for some areas of Alba through their neighborhood.

The contractor is JFT Construction and residents along the construction route will receive a door hanger with contact information on who to call for problems. They should keep this information until all construction is completed.

Additional contacts include:

- ◆ City of Houston - 311
- ◆ Public Works and Engineering - 832-395-2090 - pwecip.houstontx.gov
Project Manager - Dotun Ogundare - 832-395-2389
- ◆ JFT Construction - 281-250-7733 :: Contract Project Manager - Joseph Tahtouh - 281-250-7733
Superintendent - Ismael Hernandez - 832-274-1726::Foreman - Oscar Loaisiga - 281-235-5226

SPP ENTRANCE SIGNS

By: **Chuck Blesener**

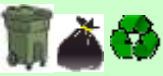




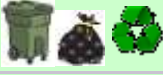




Six of the entrances to our neighborhood have two entrance signs each. Due to signs of wear the Civic Club Board has contracted with R&R Sign Company to repair and repaint these signs. They will be removing them two at a time and will be caulking, sanding, and repainting nine of them. The remaining three signs have some rotted wood and will be repaired or replaced as necessary. In order to keep the signs in good condition, we ask that you not attach anything to these signs by nail, staple or other means.

Important Numbers Police/Fire: 911 City Helpline: 311

Citizens Patrol 713-812-7626	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 713-851-3000	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 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 30	May 1	2 	3 	4	5	6
7	8 Garden Club Meeting 	9 	10	11 	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 	17	18 HEAVY Tree Waste	19	20
21	22	23 	24	25 	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day 	30 	31	June 1	2	3

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!)



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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April Yards of the Month

Section 1:

1003 Chamboard
Mary & George
Parnham

Section 3:

1002 Cheshire
Angie & Matt Hoover

Section 2:

1138 Thornton
Sheri Beasley

Section 4:

1021 Candlelight
Carol & George
Traylor

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.