



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

June 2017

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



PLAZA MOMS

4th of July Patriotic Parade and Celebration

Save the date for this annual event! It's a great opportunity to get out and socialize with the neighbors and celebrate our nation's independence!

When: Tuesday, July 4th, 8:30—10:30 a.m.

Where: Parade begins at the corner of Apollo and Bethlehem

Go grab your red, white & blue hats, flags, banners and join us! Follow the parade route with us along Alba to Candlelight to Dunsmere and all the way to Shepherd Park for a post-parade celebration. There will be a bicycle/wagon decorating contest this year and we will have prizes for the top five decorated bikes/wagons. Snacks and drinks will follow at the park.



Speaking of Things Going on in Our Neighborhood

Have you noticed the colorful pairs of chairs in many of your neighbors' front yards? They have a great message and hopefully more residents will jump on the bandwagon. The purpose of these chairs is to encourage people to sit in their front yards and meet their neighbors as they walk, bike or even drive by. So if you see these chairs with someone sitting in them, strike up a conversation about the upcoming Plaza Moms July 4th parade or how you enjoyed the crawfish boil or how successful your garage sale was or the latest, **greatest restaurant you visited. Maybe you'll find you have kids the same age** or that you attended the same college. Check out more on our Facebook page or the Plaza Moms page.

#plazachairs



Call is handled by Deputy Constable

*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza



April 2017

Alarm...2	CONTRACT CHECKS...108	Disturbance-OTHER...1
Traffic Citations...2	MILES PATROLLED...5069	Disturbance-Loud Noise...1
Discharge of Firearm...3 *	CITIZEN CONTACTS...222	Criminal Mischief...2
Suspicious Vehicle...8	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...3	Traffic Stops...2
Burglary of vehicle...3	Racing...1	Park Checks...20
Traffic Initiative...1	Open Door/Window...2	Vacation Watch...13
Arson/Fire...1	Medical Emergency...3	Theft...1
Vehicle Speeding...1	WRITS...1	Other (combination)...3

* THE "DISCHARGE OF FIREARM" REPORT IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THREE (3) reports were made on one (1) incident and that it was a discharge of fireworks rather than a firearm.

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



AMERICAN FLAGS DISPLAYED



Thanks again to Marc Myers for being the SPP Flag Ambassador. Marc and his team's efforts to display the American flag on flagpoles throughout our neighborhood are very much appreciated. The flags are displayed during various American holidays.



June General Meeting on Tuesday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. @ Lorayne Cole's home.

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

Family Fun Get Together

Saturday, June 3rd from 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. @ SlowPoke's (1203 W 34th)

Grab the whole family and join us for a Family Fun Get Together to kick off summer. The outside area has a great patio and yard for the kids to play. They serve wine, beer, coffee/tea, and plenty of food (paninis, flat breads, salads, and sweet treats). We hope to see you all there.

Annual 4th of July Parade

Tuesday, July 4th from 8:30—10:30 a.m. @ the corner of Apollo/Bethlehem.

Wear your Red, White and Blue and decorate your bikes and wagons to join Plaza Moms for the annual 4th of July Parade. See Page 1 of this issue for more details. Volunteer Opportunity: We are still in need of volunteers to help with the parade. 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

Long time SPP Resident Gertrude Stringer passed away recently. Her husband Paul passed a few months back.



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

The Shepherd Park Plaza Travelers had a great trip to Galveston in May for lunch and a harbor tour. They will be going back to Galveston in October for more exciting adventures. The trip coordinators are Chuck and Jeanette Blesener and they can be reached at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.



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 ☆ NEW PATRIOTIC DECORATING AWARD ☆
 ☆
 ☆ The Civic Club is proud to announce a new ☆
 ☆ Patriotic Award to be given to a home in SPP ☆
 ☆ that best reflects patriotism of our country ☆
 ☆ by the decoration of the exterior of their ☆
 ☆ home. It will be awarded on our around July ☆
 ☆ 1st. ☆
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



SPP MEN'S GROUP

Welcome to the Shepherd Park Plaza Men's Group. The men meet at 11:30 on the second Thursday of most months in various local restaurants. The group is open to all men of the neighborhood, is very informal and has no rules, no dues, and no officers. Come join us for lunch and great conversation. The Men's Group will meet for lunch this month on Thursday, June 8th at 11:30 a.m. at Tia Maria's, 4618 Dacoma. Our current coordinator is Chuck Blesener and he can be reached at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.

CRAWFISH BOIL UPDATE

The annual SPP Crawfish Boil was a great success again this year. Many residents enjoyed several spicy batches of these seasonable mudbugs. Thanks to the hosts Jennifer & Brandon Brown and to the many volunteers who helped set up the tables and tents, and provided drinks and snacks. The volunteers included (but definitely not limited to): Brandon Brown, Bill French, Joel Sandel, Aurelien Bouchet, Ken Covington, Libby Covington, Tom Caver, Courtney Selinidis—**hope we didn't forget anybody!** Thanks also to Billy Hartman and Tom Dornak for the use of the tents. And none of it would have happened without our cooks—Mike Evans and Amy & Shawn Boatman.

BASKETBALL GOALS

By: Chuck Blesener

We have recently seen a proliferation of basketball goals on the streets in our neighborhood, especially on some of our cul-de-sacs. It is always illegal to have a basketball goal in the street and often unsafe for children to be playing in the street. Some of our cul-de-sacs are extremely quiet with little traffic but parents should still supervise children playing in the street. Depending on the time of day and number of players, noise could be an issue, and everyone should be considerate of their neighbors' rights.



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 713.822.4951 Cell



Citizens Patrol Stats

April 2017 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Deborah DeBram & Katherine Peale

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	8	16
2	3	18
3	3	18
4	5	28
TOTAL	16	80

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 at 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.

The winner of the \$10 random drawing is Rick Zebrak. Patrolers who turn in at least 4 driving hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for this drawing.

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



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PIP REPORT

by: **Chuck Blesener**

At a recent Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meeting we were introduced to Captain Dan Harris, the new Commander of the HPD North Division. He started his career as a patrol officer 23 years ago at the old North Shepherd Substation. He said that Houston had more police officers on the street when he started than they do now. That does not bode well for the city considering the increase in population, cars, and territory in that time period. Because of the financial situation in the city he will have to prioritize manpower and overtime in his budget. More to follow in next month's Pulse.

ILLEGAL SIGNS

by: **Chuck Blesener**

CODE OF ORDINANCES Chapter 28, Article 1, Section 28-39

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or cause to be placed, whether by posting, nailing, pasting, gluing or the use of any cohesive substance or in any manner whatever, any advertising sign, informational sign, poster, political advertisement, gummed label, bumper sticker, or any other advertising matter whatever on any utility pole, *tree*, fence, fire hydrant, street light standard, traffic light standard, stop sign or other traffic directional sign standard, or on any other structure of any kind whatsoever located in the public streets, sidewalks, alleyways, easements, public property, or any other public place in this city.

This ordinance applies to all illegally placed signs including garage sale signs, lost dog signs, realtor open house signs, property for rent or lease signs, and any business signs. The only legal signs in our neighborhood are one sign on your property advertising your home for sale.



The Purple Cat
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
Resale & Consignment



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RECOVERING STOLEN ITEMS

Many homeowners experience the theft of personal and household items and the shock of this invasion often leaves the person feeling vulnerable. It's the steps taken before this happens, however, that might help to recover some of your stolen items. Since many stolen items end up in local pawn shops or on Craigslist, the identification of your items might make all the difference. In short, IDENTIFY valuable items perhaps using one of the methods below:

- ◆ Keep an inventory list of valuable items including serial numbers for equipment, electronics, etc.
- ◆ Etch your name and address on items.
- ◆ Use identifying marks with special markers on items.
- ◆ Take and print pictures and keep them in a fireproof/waterproof location.
- ◆ Get appraisals on valuable jewelry to assist in identifying precious gemstones.

Check Craigslist or a few local pawnshops. If you find your item, notify the Constable or HPD – do not try to retrieve the items yourself.

Check out this blog from safewise...<http://www.safewise.com/blog/how-to-find-your-stolen-items/>

And if you find yourself dealing with a theft of your property, **START** by filing a report to the Constable **AND** HPD. Also go to <https://reportit.leadsonline.com/> to open a free, password protected account on REPORTIT, the Citizens Property Inventory System. It is a safe, secure, and free online database provided by LEADSONLINE. LEADSONLINE is the nation's largest online investigation system for law enforcement, providing rapid electronic access to transactions from thousands of reporting businesses including scrap metal processors, second-hand stores, internet drop-off stores, and pawn shops across the country, as well as information from eBAY listings for criminal investigations. This is the system our deputies and the police use to find and retrieve your stolen property.

FRAUD ALERTS!

Every day, thousands of people are victims of identity theft. The scams can range from telephone solicitations, to stolen mail, to promises of a cash windfall. A couple of tips to safeguard your personal information:

- ⇒ **Don't provide social security numbers or account numbers to someone initiating a call TO you.**
- ⇒ Shred all credit card solicitations received in the mail before discarding.
- ⇒ **Don't respond to emails promising a cash back reward, or a cash refund reward in return for sending them a check first for a "processing" fee.**
- ⇒ **Don't respond to phone calls saying a loved one needs immediate cash while they're traveling or because they are in jail without some sort of verification of their identify. Consider establishing a family "identity" question that you can ask to confirm it's actually your loved one.**
- ⇒ Protect your mail. Consider getting a mail slot in your front door instead of a mailbox that has no lock. (Check USPS for size specifications). **If you don't have a mail slot, be sure to ask a neighbor to collect your mail while you're away.**
- ⇒ Meet your elderly neighbors and let them know they are often targets and give them some tips to prevent being scammed.

FATHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 18th

Have you thought about sports tickets, a fishing excursion, a skydiving adventure, movie tickets or a couple of golf lessons for the hard-to-buy-for Dad in your life?



Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club



Yard of the Month – 1151 Chamboard – Linda Morgan

With summer around the corner, Lily of the Nile are showing off their beautiful blue blooms across the front of Linda's home. Ferns and a large sago palm finish off the rest of the landscaping in the front. The majestic sculptured oak is surrounded by green ground cover. A yard not to miss for easy care through the summer.

Officer Installation of 2017-2018 Officers

The May meeting was held Monday, May 8, at Cindy Wolfram's home. It was the club's annual banquet and Installation of Officers for the 2017-2018 year. Although the club does not meet during the summer months, its officers and board will be busy planning programs and events for the new term which starts in September. If you have questions, please contact Colette Robichau at 713-201-3322 or Lou Rice, Membership Chair at 713-686-8681.




New officers for 2017-2018:
(l – r) Susan Fitzpatrick, 2nd VP; Colette Robichau, President; Colleen Roberts Treasurer; Maren Coligan, Secretary; Genevieve Erdbruegger, 1st VP



SPP BACKYARD GARDEN TOUR RESULTS

The SPP Garden Club is pleased to announce that due its very successful Backyard Garden Tour this past April, \$1,000 will be donated to the neighborhood Constable Program and \$1,000 to the Durham Elementary School PTA. Again, thanks to all the wonderful neighbors and friends who made this inaugural event possible.



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HOUSE ADDRESS NUMBERS

By: Chuck Blesener

In preparing the maps for our curb number painter, we noticed that there are a number of homes in our neighborhood that have no address number visible from the street. Your curb numbers are helpful to emergency vehicles unless parked vehicles block them from being read or they have become unreadable over time. By city ordinance and US Postal regulations, every home must have an address number posted. The Post Office is not required to deliver mail to any home without a number. The following organizations maintain emergency management data and require address numbers be posted and visible - US Postal Service, City of Houston (fire, police, ambulance), CenterPoint, GHC 911, Houston Emergency Center, HCAD, Harris County Tax Office, Code Enforcement, HCPID. If your home is lacking a visible house number, please add these to ensure that you can continue to receive all necessary services.

LAWN SERVICES

By: Chuck Blesener

When the city began the current waste collection practices, they called in 1500 lawn service companies and explained the rules to them. If a lawn service charges for their services they are supposed to haul off the sacks of yard waste and not leave them at the curb for the city to collect. They were also informed that they were never to blow grass clippings or leaves into a storm drain which is an offense punishable by steep fines. These leaves also clog storm drains and can contribute to flooding in heavy rain.






You are responsible for the actions of anyone you hire on your property, including your lawn service. Talk to them and explain that you expect them to obey all laws and city ordinances.

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 713-201-3322
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

June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 28	29 	30	31 	June 1	2	3
4	5	6 	7	8  	9	10
11	12	13  	14	15 HEAVY Junk Waste	16	17
18 	19	20 	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30	July 1

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!)

MORE TRASH FACTS

Chuck Blesener

COH Solid Waste Management does offer elderly and physically challenged customers who qualify, special collection assistance at no additional cost to them. You must submit a service request by calling 311, complete a Citizens With Disabilities Application For Services form, and send that in with a physicians certification. Allow 7 - 10 days for approval.

The City also provides dead animal collection. For small animals at the curb or in the street, call 311. The service is free and available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Large animals can be picked up for a fee by calling 311. For dead animals on a freeway or feeder road call TXDOT at 800-558-9368 or go to www.txdot.gov.



Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club
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May Yards of the Month

Section 1:

990 Chamboard
Karen & Rusty
Klasen

Section 3:

1105 Martin
Raycene & Bill
Hilsher

Section 2:

1147 Thornton
Sarrah & Gary
Mosley

Section 4:

1018 Candlelight
Courtney & Orlando
Romero

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.