

THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

December 2017

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713-316-9688 or pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com



Free Christmas Hayrides

Friday, December 22nd, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: Kristi Kolmetz/ RE/MAX Metro & Jonathan Kolmetz – Oaks Wealth Management.

Pick up/Drop off: Morrissey House – 1002 Martin

A link to Sign Up Genius will be posted on the SPP website in December so you can reserve a time slot.

The ever popular hayrides are on again this year in Shepherd Park Plaza so that our residents can enjoy a fun evening with friends and neighbors as they enjoy the festive lights and decorations throughout our neighborhood. In addition to hayrides, there will be hot chocolate, coffee and snacks, along with Christmas movies shown on an outdoor screen. So put cool weather on your wish list to Santa, grab a coat and gloves and head over to where it all takes place near Shepherd Park. We wrote a letter to Santa asking him to drop by, but with his busy schedule who knows if Rudolph will stop in SPP that night. The rides are limited to the timeframe of 6-8 p.m., so show up early to reserve your spot in line or sign up online.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING AWARD JUDGING SET TO BEGIN DECEMBER 14TH

Every year, our residents, nearby neighbors and other Houstonians look forward to the yard decorations for the holidays in Shepherd Park Plaza. So put on your Santa hat, grab some tools and get decorating! But you better hurry—the judges (aka Santa's elves) will have their tally sheets ready to go on several evenings in mid-December. Take a look at the categories below to see if you can spruce it up a bit this year to win one of the following in 1st or 2nd place:

* Best Overall	* Best Religious	* Most Original
* Best Traditional	* Best Novelty	* Best Lighting
* Best Door	* Best Window	* Best Street or Cul-de-sac

After winners in the above categories are chosen, the following categories are judged by Section Representatives for each of the four sections. Homes that have already received an award are not eligible in these categories.

* Section Favorites	* Children's Favorites
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Note: Judges have the discretion to recognize only one winner per category if participation within a category is limited. No home may receive more than one award.

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Prevent Crime During the Holidays



It's a sad fact that when the holidays come around crime increases in the City of Houston. There are a variety of reasons but one of them is our own carelessness. So, don't let the Grinch steal your Christmas. Here are a few things you can do to protect your own property and add to the safety of SPP.

- ◇ If you are having a holiday party, please ask your guests to park on the same side of the street as your house. When cars are parked on both sides, it makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to get down the street. Remind your guests to lock their cars.
- ◇ Leave nothing in your car if you park in your driveway or on the street. Recently our night deputy looked into cars parked on the street and saw all kinds of valuables, i.e., computers, brief cases, sunglasses, etc. just sitting on the car seat. By leaving valuables in your vehicle, you make your automobile and our neighborhood easy targets for thieves.
- ◇ For goodness sake, lock your car if you park outside your garage! Lock the side door to your garage and if you have a breezeway gate lock it too.
- ◇ If you are putting out holiday decorations, put them as close to your house as possible. It is also a good idea to put your address on them. In the past, we have had some kids think it is a good idea to remove decorations and then stick them in another yard. If you have your address on the items they are more likely to be returned.
- ◇ Be aware of your surroundings when going shopping. Watch for people just "hanging around" outside a store or bank. Put your purchases in the trunk and do not leave them in plain sight in your car.
- ◇ Are your bushes and shrubs overgrown? Consider trimming them back because thieves love to hide in them. Light up your house; not with just holiday lights but by turning on your porch light or other exterior lighting. Consider putting your porch light on a timer and you won't have to think about turning it off and on.
- ◇ Due to construction, avoid the intersection of Alba and W. 43rd and remind visitors and guests to avoid it too.
- ◇ Are you a big online shopper for gifts? Thieves also notice packages dropped off at your door. Why not have those items delivered to your office or to a friend's house that is home during the day?

Wishing you and your family and wonderful and safe holiday season!

Happy Holidays!



FALL DECORATING AWARD WINNERS

Category	1st Place	2nd Place
Best Decoration	975 Curtin Sandy & Randy Klander	1147 Thornton Sarrah & Gary Moseley
Best Scarecrow	1019 Curtin Sandy & Mike Piwet	1051 Chamboard Katherine & Janel O'Rourke
Most Original	1105 Martin Raycene & Robert Hilsher	1162 Curtin Ailene & Bill Hartman

New Year's Eve Safety Tips

If you are planning to celebrate the arrival of 2018, please remember a few safety tips:

- ◇ If you drink, don't drive. When you head out for the evening, have the number of a taxi service or Uber in your cell phone.
- ◇ Have your cell phone fully charged before going out.
- ◇ Keep your money, phone and credit cards in a pocket or pouch under your shirt.
- ◇ Use marked sidewalks/crosswalks.
- ◇ Use the "buddy" system.



around the neighborhood



SPP has lost one of its true gems with the passing of Melba Bruce. Melba lived in Texas from 1949 until her passing and in SPP since the 1960's. She was an Executive Secretary with Exxon, retiring from that service after 30 years. She was a long time member of the First Methodist Church Adelphi Class. She was a founding member of the SPP Garden Club. She was active into her 90's, often joining the Travelers Group on day trips. Whenever you saw Melba, she had a smile on her face and a light, joyful nature.

Condolences to Shirley Correll and Jim Krouse's family on Jim's passing in November. Jim was often seen meeting and greeting neighbors with his infectious, inquisitive nature. Kids on Martin Street all knew Mr. Jim.



VETERANS DAY HONOREES



In last month's issue of the Pulse, one of our neighbors who served in the military was left off of the list of honorees. Thanks to Roland Potts who served in the Navy in the Korean Conflict from 1952-1956.

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELS TO SEE TURTLES AND PLANES

NOAA Sea Turtle Lab

On Thursday, October 26th, a group of Shepherd Park Plaza residents and their friends visited the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and Sea Turtle Lab. They experienced an amazing look at some of the world's most fascinating creatures....including *the almost extinct Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle*.

There are 7 species of sea turtles that have been around since the time of the dinosaurs. The smallest is the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (weighs between 80-100 lbs) and the largest is the leatherback (which can weigh over 2,000 pounds... *the size of a small car!*)

Lone Star Flight Museum

Part Two of our trip, , was a visit to the Lone Star Flight Museum, now located at Ellington Airport, a public and military use airport. It is owned by the City of Houston and located southeast of downtown Houston.

The museum features a private collection of historic aircraft. It was opened in 1985 ...and by 1990, its collection had grown enough so that the owner decided to open the museum to the public. The Lone Star Flight Museum, a non-profit organization, is funded entirely through private donations.

The day-long trip was conducted by former neighbors Chuck and Jeanette Blesener.



November YARDS OF THE MONTH

Section 1:

1019 CURTIN
LINDA & MIKE PIWETZ

Section 3:

1005 CHESHIRE
STEPHANIE & JUSTIN PRIBBLE

Section 2:

1135 THORNTON
MARC FLORES

Section 4:

1056 CANDLELIGHT
PAMELA & KENNETH
BARRETT



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Debbie Kotzur, REALTOR®
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713.822.4951 Cell

CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE

*FIGURES ARE FOR ENTIRE CONTRACT INCLUDING SPP AND CANDLELIGHT PLAZA



OCTOBER 2017

BURGLARY-MOTOR VEHICLE...2	CONTRACT CHECKS...302	WARRANT SERVICE...2
TRAFFIC CITATIONS...4	MILES PATROLLED...4008	INFORMATION CALL...2
TRAFFIC INITIATIVE...3	MEET THE CITIZEN...327	WELFARE CHECKS...4
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE...27	SUSPICIOUS PERSON...8	TRAFFIC STOPS...17
ALARM...4	ANIMAL/HUMANE...2	PARK CHECKS...9
TRAFFIC HAZARD...3	SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT...14	STRANDED MOTOR VEHICLE...2
VACATION WATCH...25	WRIT...6	OTHER ...14

VACATION WATCH REGISTRY (1 WEEK IN ADVANCE)...[HTTP://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP/VACATION-WATCH/](http://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP/VACATION-WATCH/)

SIGN UP FOR THE CONSTABLE OFFICE'S NEWSLETTER...[HTTP://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP](http://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP) THEN CLICK NEWSLETTER

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Christmas Movie Suggestions

- ♦ It's a Wonderful Life
- ♦ The Polar Express
- ♦ White Christmas
- ♦ The Grinch Who Stole Christmas
- ♦ Elf
- ♦ A Charlie Brown Christmas
- ♦ Home Alone
- ♦ Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
- ♦ A Christmas Story
- ♦ Miracle on 34th Street
- ♦ Scrooged
- ♦ Christmas in Connecticut
- ♦ Christmas Vacation
- ♦ Love Actually
- ♦ The Santa Claus
- ♦ Die Hard

TIME CHANGE AND SAFETY TIPS!

With the recent return to standard time, it gets darker earlier than the previous months. Combine that with holiday shopping frenzies and a little too much alcohol on occasion, and walkers and joggers and bikers can be at a higher risk. Please wear reflective clothing or blinking lights and stick to the sidewalks.



Durham Elementary News

December bring lots of fun activities at Durham Elementary to keep our students engaged in learning until the Winter Holidays. Students will have an opportunity to be caring as they shop for family and friends at Spotty Mart, our annual on-campus holiday store, during the week of December 11th. If you have the time to help with the shopping, setup or wrapping of gifts, please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/vVShPnj>. See the office staff to complete your background check if you will be volunteering on campus.

Additionally, the children will be demonstrating their ability to overcome stage fright and be risk takers as they take the big stage at Black Middle School for the Winter Program. They will be performing multicultural songs, dances, and readings that celebrate this special time of the year. The community is welcome to come enjoy the show on December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Looking for holiday gifts? Check out the last minute deals on the PTA website from our Gala! There are insulated RTIC cups, Rockets tickets, adult social events, jewelry, and so much more. All proceeds will directly benefit the students of your local elementary school. Shop at www.DurhamPTA.org/shop. A few of our teachers have *live* Donor's Choose projects. Please consider giving to one or all of these worthy projects. Our teachers and students would be very appreciative!

Want to make a difference in your local community? Please consider volunteering at Durham! There are countless ways for neighborhood members to help out- listening to children read, making copies for teachers, helping with large events, and so many more! Contact the school office at 713-613-2527 or contact PTA at pta@durhampta.org.

CITIZENS PATROL STATS

October 2017 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Deborah DeBram & Katherine Peale

WEEK	Walking/ Biking	Drive
1	3	14
2	2	10
3	3	16
4	3	16
TOTAL	11	56

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 Deborah DeBram. Patrollers 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.



The November monthly meeting was a fun time for the members. Thanks to Genevieve's hard work and preparation, we all made plant markers for our gardens in between our regular business meeting. There were no two markers alike and lots of sharing of our gardening stories.



For our next meeting the Garden Club members will have a Christmas luncheon on December 2nd at the Café at Brookwood which is such a great place during Christmas. The poinsettias at the Brookwood Garden Center are amazing with color varieties and many different sizes. The next regular monthly meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2018 held at 943 Thornton. The program will be organic gardening presented by Wabash Feed and Garden. If you are interested in attending please reach out to Colette Robichau, 713-201-3322.

YARD OF THE MONTH—Genevieve Erdbruegger at 1138 Chantilly Lane. Genevieve has chosen beautiful polkadot plants, brake ferns, sweet potato vines, ajuga, violas and the standout Joseph's Coat (Amaranto Tricolor) to welcome visitors to her home. Additionally, the flower beds contain five kinds of coleus, four varieties of hydrangea, two different hostas and azaleas. Adding to the beauty of her yard are two mature live oaks. She definitely knows how to put together an outstanding landscape.

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Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 2nd, 9:00-11:00 a.m.; Durham Elementary

Please join us for the Annual Plaza Moms' Breakfast with Santa. **IndyQuest Properties** will be sponsoring breakfast and we will have a photographer on hand to capture pictures with Santa (personal cameras welcome). We will have fun crafts for the little ones! Waiting in line to see Santa is no fun, so this year we have created a color system that will hopefully make waiting minimal. Make sure you check in and get a color. This is a member-only event.



December Social – White Elephant Party

Tuesday, December 19th, 7:30 p.m. - Jeannine Petree's Home @ 1053 Martin St.

Eat, drink and be merry! Join us for our Annual White Elephant Party, each guest is asked to bring a \$10 gift to exchange (not required). This year our neighborhood's very own Doughmestic Kitchen will cater the event. We will have a few extra surprises as well!



January Social – Back After Baby

Tuesday, January 16th, 7:30 p.m. – Host Home TBD

We all have aches and pains that come with being a mom. Please join us as Ingrid Hanna and Hallie Ager introduce you to the Back After Baby online rehabilitation program. This workshop is designed to educate and guide moms through postpartum recovery and is appropriate for every mom at any stage of motherhood and fitness level. Participants should plan on wearing workout clothes or something comfortable they can move easily in.

Volunteers Needed

We still need volunteers for Breakfast with Santa. Needs include setup on Friday, December 1st from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 2nd from 8:00-9:00 a.m. We also need help with clean up following the event from 11:00-11:30 a.m. If you would like to volunteer for these events, please contact us via email or Facebook.

Join/Renew Your Plaza Moms Membership Today!

We are excited to announce that we have a new website for Plaza Moms Society. The website: <http://groupspaces.com/PlazaMoms/> will allow you to pay your dues online and will be another way to keep up with Plaza Moms. Please login today to create your account. 2017/18 dues are \$35/school year and can be paid online or at our next event via cash or check. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms **Please Note:** All Plaza Moms events as well as our FB page will be for members only this year. We wouldn't want you to miss out on all of the fun, so join/renew your membership today!

HURRICANE HARVEY AND THE FOOD PANTRIES

An unexpected victim of Hurricane Harvey has been several local food pantries that provide meals for residents in need. So much of the supplies of the food pantries were distributed to Hurricane Harvey victims, so the pantries need replenishing. Are you having a holiday party or street gathering this month? Why not ask your guests to bring a non-perishable food item that can be donated to the food pantry of your choice? It might go a long way in helping them put meals on the table for a needy family this Christmas.

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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 Open	HPD 713-884-3131

SPP CALENDAR

December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28 	29	30	DEC 1  <small>Mayor's Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting</small>	2 Breakfast with Santa <i>Garden Club Meeting</i>
3	4	5 	6 	7	8	9
10	11	12  <small>HAPPY HANUKKAH</small>	13	14	15 Christmas Yard Decorating Judging	16
17	18 Durham ES Winter Program	19   <small>Special event</small>	20	21	22 SPP Hayrides!	23
24  <small>Merry Christmas</small>	25	26	27 	28	29	30
31 	JAN 1	2 	3	4	5	6



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