



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

June 2020

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July 4th Parade!

We want to celebrate our nation's Independence Day as we've always done in years past by having a July 4th Parade, so we are working on a plan to have a "Reverse Parade". What does that mean? It means you can enjoy the parade from your front yard as we have a variety of vintage cars, golf carts and maybe a fire truck drive down a few of our longer streets. Don't forget to decorate your yard for the drivers to enjoy as they drive by.

We will have more information in the July Pulse, including a Reverse Parade route. If you have a vintage car or golf cart that you want to drive that day, please email Pulse@ShepherdParkPlaza.com, and in the subject line please indicate July 4th Parade.



POWER OUTAGES

Lately, it seems like each storm causes a power outage on several streets in our area. It appears that one of the issues is that tree branches are touching power lines. Take a look around your house or on your street while you're out walking, and if there are branches touching or near power lines, please contact CenterPoint Energy. If the branches are in your yard and not near the power lines, keep them trimmed back if you can do so safely. Otherwise contact CenterPoint Energy. Be sure to have an address and cross street ready when you call so that the location can be easily identified. As we approach Hurricane Season, cutting branches back is especially important in order to lower our chances of outages.

<https://www.centerpointenergy.com/> or 800-332-7143.



New to the neighborhood?
Contact Shannon Zierau at
713-775-0307 or
szierau@yahoo.com so we
can welcome you officially.

CONGRATULATIONS ALL 2020 GRADUATES!



Whether you are graduating from high school or college, you've worked years to walk across that stage! But Covid-19 derailed those plans. We want you to know we are proud of your hard work, your tenacity, and your accomplishments. You survived the stay-at-home order, finals on line, moving back home mid-semester, lost Spring Break and more, so you have the strength to go the distance. **Dream Big Class of 2020!**

Get the 3-1-1 on Houston!

Did you know you can download the 3-1-1 app for all kinds of things related to City of Houston services? It can be used to report:

- ⇒ Street lights not working.
- ⇒ Large potholes.
- ⇒ Fire hydrants that are leaking.
- ⇒ Traffic lights not working.
- ⇒ Stop signs that are down.
- ⇒ Fallen tree limbs.
- ⇒ Trash dumping issues.
- ⇒ Missing or damaged garbage cans.



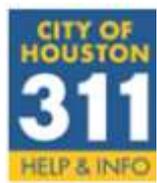
HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!



June 1st officially starts Hurricane Season, so in case you ran out of supplies during the pandemic, it's time to replenish water, toilet paper (yes!), canned goods, batteries, matches, and other essentials. Also, if you have a generator, fill it up with gas and test it before you actually need it. Fill your cars up with gas in case a storm starts forming in the Gulf.

Also important is to check out the National Hurricane Center's website and the Weather Channel's website as shown in the links below:
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
<https://Weather.com>

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Street sign down? Traffic light blinking? Tree limb down over the street? The City of Houston has a dedicated phone line for these types of non-emergency related issues. You can dial 3-1-1 from any land or cellular line or you can download the app to your SmartPhone.

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Since our Club has not been meeting the last few months, it is hard to write about Club news. But here are some Coronavirus ramblings for you:

An unintended consequence of our lockdown is that the yards in SPP have never looked lovelier! You wonderful residents have obviously put your time at home to good use sprucing up your front yard and planting spring color. Well done! Most of us have not minded doing our outside chores this spring as the fresh air, exercise and feeling of accomplishment was particularly good for our mental health.

I found this particularly interesting from the Lazy Gardener and Friends Email Newsletter:

“In previous issues I have mentioned that gardeners have more vitamin-D in their bodies than non-gardeners.

Several previous studies have shown high levels of this vitamin are inversely related to the severity of covid-19 infections. Two more studies have been published on this issue. A group led by Northwestern University did a statistical analysis from 10 countries and found that countries with high mortality rates had low vitamin-D levels compared to those with lower death rates.

Another study in the Journal Aging Clinical and Experimental Research by Anglia Ruskin University has found an association between low average levels of vitamin-D and high numbers of covid-19 cases across 20 European countries.

These are great reasons to get outside, work in our gardens and enjoy the sunshine!” Of course you want to protect from too much sun exposure, to guard against skin cancer.

You can sign up for the free newsletter at natureswayresources.com

Stay safe and happy gardening!

As always, we welcome newcomers and visitors, so come and join us on the second Monday of the month once we are able to resume. Please contact Club President Susan Fitzpatrick, susanfitz1@att.net, for the address of the home where the meeting will be held. We would love to have you.

Our May Yard of the Month goes to Gail Stoops! Her striking yellow day lilies and hostas are the current standout, flanked by lemon grass, flax grass, and camellias. The society garlic is another personal favorite of Gail's. Other accents include irises, Drift roses, and transplanted holly. The Japanese Yew, River Birch tree, and Crepe Myrtle give height and depth to the yard. Perhaps on a future backyard Garden Club tour, she might show you her backyard hanging baskets!



Microsoft Edge.Ir

LET'S ROCK!!

That's exactly what the Garden Club wants you to do. Paint a rock that is. Join other residents in SPP who are painting messages, flowers, animals and other colorful pictures on flat rocks for the garden in Shepherd Park. When you finish your masterpiece, place it in the garden near Cheshire and Dunsmere in Shepherd Park.




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*Figures are for entire contract including SPP and Candlelight Plaza

April 2020

TRAFFIC STOP...1	Contract checks...313	WRIT...2
Follow-Up...2	Miles Patrolled...2,263	Stolen vehicle...1
Welfare check...6	Meet the Citizen...87	Suspicious Person...4
Suspicious Vehicle...7	Disturbance Loud Noise...2	Criminal Mischief...3
Alarm...2	Traffic Hazard...1	Solicitors...3
Information call...1	Park Checks...34	Burglary Motor Vehicle...3
Vacation Watch...22	Theft other...1	Other...14

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

CITY OF HOUSTON CONNECT

Have you ever wondered how to contact particular Departments at the City of Houston? This new section of the Pulse should give you some direction. Check back frequently, as new items may be added. The main number is 713-837-0311.

Website—www.houstontx.gov/

City Ordinances—www.houstontx.gov/codes/

Non-emergency concerns (street issues, traffic signal problems, fire hydrant issues).

<http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php> or Dial 3-1-1. There is also a mobile phone app for this.

Permit questions—www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/

Interactive map (to find information about your City Council district, police department, solid waste schedule)—<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public>

CenterPoint Energy has a new website to report street lights that are out at <http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/sloreporting/>

Rollout Houston!—check out the app for figuring out the COH trash pickup schedule.

Report a pothole at <http://www.houstontx.gov/potholes/>

TAKE SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE & PREVENT CRIME

We're passing along some important safety tips:

- ◆ If you experience a crime, report it to both the Constable at 713-755-7658 and HPD asap. Reporting crimes provides statistics that drive manpower requirements and frequency of patrols, so it impacts us all when crime is reported.
- ◆ If you have a house alarm, use it all the time. If you use it occasionally, that "off" day might be the day the crooks hit.
- ◆ If you see suspicious vehicles or suspicious actions of unknown parties, report it to the Constable.
- ◆ Park your vehicles in the driveway or garage and LOCK them.
- ◆ Close and lock your backyard gates.
- ◆ Turn on your front porch, backyard and driveway lights at night. Add a dusk-to-dawn light or timers.
- ◆ Remove all items from your car that can be seen when a potential burglar is peeking in the windows. This includes laptops, cell phones, purses, wallets, packages, briefcases, backpacks, etc.
- ◆ Trim the bushes that can be hiding places.
- ◆ Ask a neighbor to pick up packages off your porch if you are gone when a delivery is made.
- ◆ Consider a security camera system.



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May Yards of the Month

Section 1: 975 Curtin Sandy Klander	Section 3: 1054 Martin Dot & Walter Shepherd
Section 2: 1042 Thornton Erma & Barney Smith	Section 4: 1065 Candlelight Sandra White & Kenneth Welsh

HANDWASHING RECOMMENDATIONS



Not Back to Normal

We may not recognize normal if we ever see it again, but just in case, let's vow to:

- ⇒ Smile more often to make up for those smiles lost behind masks.
- ⇒ Tip bigger.
- ⇒ Pay it forward.
- ⇒ Watch a classic movie.
- ⇒ Sit in the grass and read a book.
- ⇒ Invite someone to lunch that had a tough time during Shelter-in-place.
- ⇒ Mail a card to your Mom, Dad, sibling, friend or neighbor.
- ⇒ Shop local!!
- ⇒ Buy a nice bottle of champagne for no reason.
- ⇒ Kiss your spouse for no reason.
- ⇒ Visit a Houston museum.
- ⇒ Plant a garden.

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Neighborly reminder

Check on your elderly neighbors and make sure they have the food and cleaning supplies and toiletries that they need. Ask them if they want to borrow a book or a puzzle. Pass along your phone number in case they need to call for something. Offer to pick up groceries for them when you pick up yours.



Check out the Shepherd Park Plaza Facebook page for the most recent discussions, news, alerts, ideas, recommendations and neighborhood events. It's also a good place to post about lost pets or lost items.

ALL EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB OR SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA GROUPS ARE CANCELLED FOR JUNE.

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Our thoughts are with all our neighbors and their families during this time. Again, please reach out if there is anything we can do to help!

While the uncertainty remains, we have decided to cancel our monthly social in May. This social was an opportunity for babysitters to attend and introduce themselves and get their names out in the neighborhood. If your child/friend/neighbor would like their name on the babysitters list, please send their contact info, availability, and short bio to plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com. The information will be compiled and e-mailed out to our moms and posted to our FB page.

We are currently looking for volunteers to be officers for the 2020-2021 year starting in August. Current positions available are Special Events, Treasurer, Membership, and Hospitality. Please e-mail plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com for more details!

Join/Renew Your Plaza Moms Membership Today! Interested in joining? Please e-mail plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com for more info or with questions you might have about membership, events, or anything else! Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/plazamoms

Please Note: All Plaza Moms events (except for Movie in the Park and Fourth of July Parade) as well as our FB page are for Plaza Moms members only. We wouldn't want you to miss out on all of the fun, so join/renew your membership today!



HELP STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Houston ranks as one of the top areas for human trafficking. This crime involves forcing humans against their will into various types of labor. It's a serious human rights violation that involves force, coercion, and fear tactics, to remove a person's basic freedoms. The problem is being tackled from many angles from various law enforcement groups. You can do your part by speaking with your family about using caution when being approached by strangers promising jobs, money, or other similar opportunities. You can learn more about the City's efforts to recognize and reduce human trafficking at the link below:

<http://humantraffickinghouston.org/>

GET HELP NOW! Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.

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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 Open	City Liaison 713-688-7979	Pulse Advertising 713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600	Men's Group 832-623-4268	HPD 713-884-3131

SPP CALENDAR June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31	June 1	2 	3 	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 	July 1	2	3	4 

 = Trash and Yard Waste
 = Curbside Recycling

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.

3 FEET!

The City of Houston requests that you leave 3 feet between your trash bin and recycle bin, and 3 feet between either bin and other trash, your car, etc. This gives the trash and recycle trucks plenty of room to pick up the bins without damaging nearby items.



Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club
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