



# THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

September 2020

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Pulse Editor: Rachel Mathews  
Pulse Co-Editor: Laurie Hardwick

## President's Note

My husband and I moved to Shepherd Park Plaza in 2014, settling into a home on a quiet cul-de-sac that would later become home to our three boys. At the time, we didn't know much about SPP. However, we figured out very quickly that we had struck gold – caring neighbors, wonderful traditions, and a strong focus on safety for our people and property. The Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club stewards many of the programs and events that create the foundation of this wonderful neighborhood.

Some of the services your Civic Club provides are:

- ◆ Deed Restriction Enforcement and Architectural Control
- ◆ Constable Patrol Program
- ◆ Recognition of Yard of the Month and Holiday Yard Décor Award Winners
- ◆ Community Relations
- ◆ Common Area Maintenance
- ◆ The Plaza Pulse

We are formally kicking off our annual fundraising campaign for the 2021 Constable Contract and Civic Club Membership. Each year, we kick off our fundraising efforts in September to ensure we have sufficient support for the Constable contract before committing to the upcoming year. Without a doubt, this year has brought about significant uncertainty for all of us. During this time, our contract with the Constable's office is critical to maintaining the safety and security we all enjoy in our neighborhood. So, if you are able, please consider becoming a member of the 2021 Constable Contract and SPP Civic Club today.

Courtney Selinidis – President



## What is Labor Day and why do we celebrate it?

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States.



# around the neighborhood



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School begins virtually on **September 8, 2020!** Virtual instruction will continue for at least 6 weeks, through October 16, 2020. This date is subject to change based on local COVID-19 conditions and recommendations. Parents have the opportunity to opt out of in-person learning for the entire fall semester. Parents who choose this option are asked to complete the 2020-2021 Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning Online Course by September 4, 2020. Visit <https://www.houstonisd.org/reopening> for more information.

On August 24, HISD kicked off Camp Spark, which is an entirely virtual academic enrichment camp. Camp Spark is available to all HISD students. Elementary activities include virtual field trips and interactive literacy, math, science, and technology activities. Secondary activities include interactive sessions about navigating through the HUB, Microsoft, and Google, as well as college prep and career readiness skills.

Camp Spark is free for all students and goes through September 4. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Go to <https://www.houstonisd.org/CampSpark> for more information!



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# HEAT SAFETY TIPS

Summer's not over yet, so here are a few reminders to survive until fall finally arrives.

- ◆ Drink water or drinks that replenish electrolytes (like Gatorade).
- ◆ Cut back on alcoholic beverages when you are outside.
- ◆ Use a wet, cool rag around your neck.
- ◆ Cover your head with a hat or carry an umbrella.
- ◆ Walk or run early in the day or late afternoon.
- ◆ Shield your kids' faces from the sun with the shade from the stroller, and bring along a sippee cup for them.
- ◆ Watch out for the pavement and your pets' paws as you walk them. Also, they are lower to the ground than you are and the heat coming up from the pavement covers more of their body percentage than yours. Their paws can actually blister.
- ◆ Have a water-balloon fight!
- ◆ Break up your gardening or yard work into two parts: 1) early morning and 2) late afternoon.

Check out the Red Cross for info at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)



Have you been wondering about the construction near Shepherd Park? As part of the Houston Public Works Sidewalk Program, a new sidewalk was recently completed along Dunsmere, with ramps at the intersections with Martin and with Cheshire.



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CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE

\*FIGURES ARE FOR ENTIRE CONTRACT INCLUDING SPP AND CANDLELIGHT PLAZA

JULY 2020

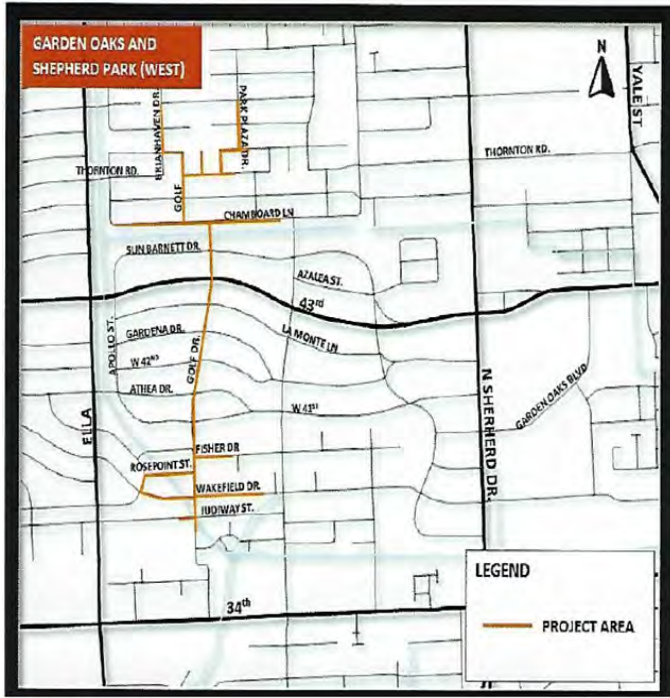
Table with 3 columns: Call Type, Count, and Description. Includes categories like TRAFFIC STOP, CONTRACT CHECKS, ACCIDENT MINOR, etc.

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



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Table with 2 columns: Field Name and Content. Fields include PROJECT NAME, PROJECT NUMBER, MEETING INFO, VIRTUAL MEETING, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, CONTACT INFORMATION.



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.

Real estate advertisement for CLARK/KOTZUR REAL ESTATE TEAM featuring photos of Mike Clark and Debbie Kotzur, contact information, and RE/MAX Metro logo.

Star separator line: ☆☆☆☆☆ See the business card size ads throughout this publication? They are the advertisers that pay for this monthly neighborhood newsletter, so call them, visit them, and use their services whenever you can. ☆☆☆☆☆



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**ALL EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB OR SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA GROUPS ARE CANCELLED FOR SEPTEMBER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



SPP Garden Club has elected to postpone the September Fall Kick-off meeting. In the meantime, if you would like more information on the SPP Garden Club, please contact our President, Susan Fitzpatrick at [susanfitz1@att.net](mailto:susanfitz1@att.net).

**Garden Club Tip of the Month:**

Composting has many benefits for your garden and flower beds. Gardeners have long used compost to return valuable nutrients to the soil and improve soil health and structure. Ideal items for composting include vegetable and fruit scraps, grass clippings, and even coffee grounds. Animal products (meats, grease, etc.) should be avoided. If you are interested in starting a backyard compost, you can build or purchase your compost bin. They come in many shapes and sizes and can be found at your local nursery or hardware store. Give composting a try - it's healthy for your plants and recycles your organic consumables!

**Garden Club Local Monthly Highlight:**

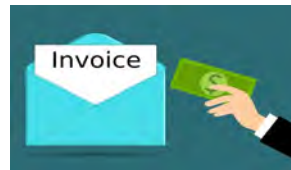
Did you know that the Garden Club of Houston hosts an annual Bulb and Plant Mart? This tradition is in its 78th year and for 2020, will be facilitated with online sales only. Pre-orders for bulbs are going on now! Check out their offerings at <https://www.gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart/>. Pick up will be on Oct 16 & 17th, so don't delay - their bulbs and plants tend to sell quickly. Another online bulb resource is Southern Bulbs. Founded by the "Bulb Hunter", Southern Bulbs focuses on bulbs that will thrive in our warm climate, oftentimes highlighting heirloom and rare flower bulbs! <https://www.southernbulbs.com/>.

**Reminder!**

Your 2020-21 Plaza Moms Club dues are due! Check your inbox for an email with your invoice to pay online.

Not a member yet and looking to join us this year? Send an email to [plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com](mailto:plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com) for more information. Pay your dues by September 15th and be entered to win one of three great items from some great local businesses, including Marchese's Kitchen, GloGirl Spray Tanning, and Brush & Bobby. Check the Plaza Moms Facebook page for details & the winner announcements.

We are so excited for a new season and our officer team is working on some fun & creative ways for us to stay connected during this time. Please continue to check our Facebook page for the most up to date information.



**NEW OFFICERS**

- President:** Kelly Laning
- Treasurer:** Brandy Pratt
- Membership:** Victoria McDonough
- Sponsorship:** Katie Whittington
- Hospitality:** Amy Poerschke
- Special Events Coordinators:** Kate Riley & Meagan Lakin



## CITIZENS PATROL STATS

### JULY 2020 Patrol Hours

Prepared by Deborah DeBram & Katherine Peale

WEEK	Driving
1	9
2	8
3	14
4	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>

### 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](mailto: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 August Galliano. 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.**

# SUMMER FUN



This summer has definitely been different! We asked our neighbors how they have been staying occupied these past few months since our regular summer activities haven't been as readily available. Some answers included gardening and composing music. Some families have reintroduced fun backyard games, like Four Square, or stayed with tried and true activities, like reading and swimming. This has also been a prime opportunity to tackle those home improvements projects everyone has a list of but can never quite conquer! Have you taken on any new hobbies or found ways to stay occupied this summer? **Share your feedback on the Shepherd Park Plaza Facebook page for a chance to be featured in a future issue of the Pulse!**

## HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!

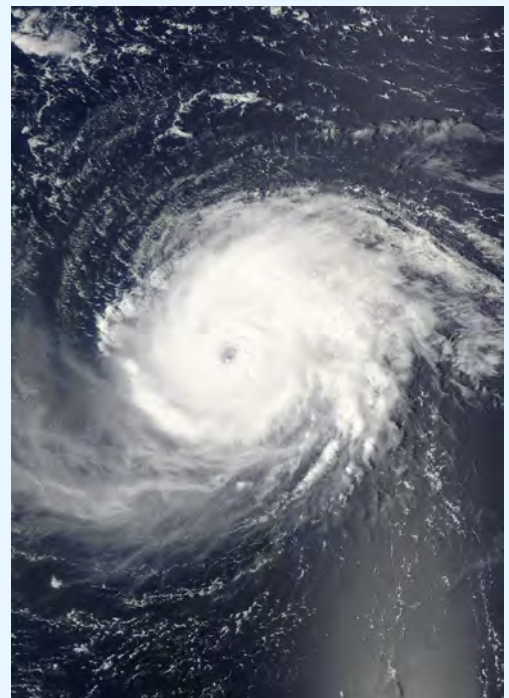
June 1st officially started Hurricane Season. If you ran out of supplies during the pandemic, it's time to replenish water, toilet paper (yes!), nonperishable food, batteries, matches, propane, and other essentials.

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.

Check out the National Hurricane Center's website, the Weather Channel's website, or Space City Weather:

- ◆ <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
- ◆ <https://Weather.com>
- ◆ <https://spacecityweather.com/>









If we begin receiving alerts of an impending storm, a good practice is to make sure your storm drains are clear of debris, and bring your cars up off the street in case of localized flooding. If you have flags, signs, flower pots, etc., secure them or move them into the garage, along with trash and recycling bins. Stay safe!





**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 N/A	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 303-588-0424	City Liaison 713-688-7979	Pulse Advertising 713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600	Men's Group N/A	HPD 713-884-3131

**SPP CALENDAR September 2020**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUG 30	31	SEP 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
26	27	28 	29	30	OCT 1	2

 = 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.

July Yards of the Month	
<b>Section 1:</b> 1138 Chamboard Bill Bland	<b>Section 3:</b> 4727 Brian Haven Margaret Mock
<b>Section 2:</b> 935 Chantilly Lori Wheeler	<b>Section 4:</b> 1008 Candlelight Creston & Holly Inderrieden



# THE PLAZA PULSE

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## HOMES SOLD

32

HOMES SOLD

▲ 28%  
YEAR OVER YEAR

25  
HOMES SOLD  
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

## HOME PRICING

\$597,486

AVERAGE SOLD PRICE

▲ 11.3%  
YEAR OVER YEAR

\$537,174  
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

\$252.36

AVERAGE PRICE PER SQ/FT

▲ 6.7%  
YEAR OVER YEAR

\$236.49  
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

\$214.50

LOW PRICE  
PER SQ/FT

\$301.86

HIGH PRICE  
PER SQ/FT

▲ 30.1%  
YEAR OVER YEAR

\$164.82  
SAME PERIOD  
LAST YEAR

▼ 2.8%  
YEAR OVER  
YEAR

\$302.35  
SAME PERIOD  
LAST YEAR

## DAYS ON MARKET

28

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

▼ 26%  
YEAR OVER YEAR

44  
AVERAGE DOM  
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR



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