

## THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

#### **MARCH 2021**

#### Winter Storm Uri - February 2021

The week of February 15th took a lot of us by surprise.

It started with Valentine's Day, which quickly turned into a snowy white post-Valentine's Day. While we prepared for winter weather conditions, anticipating freezing temperatures, it's unlikely any of us were truly prepared for what the week would bring.

Many SPP residents were left without water for more than 48 hours and some without power for various spells, relying on neighbors and generators. Out of all of this, the neighborhood rallied together; helping each other turn off water, drain pipes, address frozen pipes, and inform each other of leaks and burst pipes. For those without water, those with pool water were ready to share. For those without power, homes were offered to warm up and charge. Shepherd Park Plaza is an amazing place to live and the community built is unique. Let's all remember to support and encourage each other throughout this year and to come.

2021 is looking to be another 'historic' event!

home!
2021- Same, but
now let's test your
survival skills!

The rolling blackouts have people acting like they're on an episode of Chopped. You have 15 minutes to cook an entree and all you have is hot dogs, soup, pineapple, and hot sauce. Time starts now

## Annual Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club



All SPP residents are invited to join (virtually) for the annual SPPCC Spring Business Meeting. We'll meet and elect the 2021 –2022 Civic Club Board, as well as discuss how YOU can get more involved in the neighborhood. Please join us!

**Spring Business Meeting** 

When: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:30 - 8:00pm

Where: Zoom https://zoom.us/j/95983978090?pwd=Z0RGVlR1eStVdFpwcldDeWN2a3RTUT09

Or http://alturl.com/rfc38

If joining manually: Meeting ID: 959 8397 8090; Passcode: 917406

Hope to 'see' you there! Below are the Civic Club positions and neighbors up for election.

	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022 Nominees	
President	Courtney Selinidis	Jesse Yoburn	
Vice President	Jesse Yoburn	Davi Garza	
Citizens Patrol	Deborah DeBram, Katherine Peale	Pending Nominees	
City Liaison	Deborah DeBram, Katherine Peale	Pending Nominees	
Decorating Award	Paige Locke	Pending Nominees	
Greeter	Shannon Zierau, Ally Hilsher, Courtney Carlson Siegmund	Shannon Zierau, Courtney Carlson Siegmund	
Hospitality	Leslie Bordelon	Pending Nominees	
Plaza Pulse	Rachel Mathews, Laurie Hardwick	Rachel Mathews, Elissa Walters	
Section 2 Rep	Davi Garza	Pending Nominees	
Section 3 Rep	Romi Sandel	Pending Nominees	

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### [Officers]

President Courtney Selinidis Vice President Jesse Yoburn Secretary Kelly McNeill Treasurer Tom Caver

#### [Committees]

Advertising & Publicity Holly Inderrieden Architectural Control Darryl Rickaway Citizens Patrol Deborah DeBram, Katherine Peale City Liaison Deborah DeBram, Katherine Peale **Decorating Award Paige Locke** Deed Restrictions Darryl Rickaway Deputy Constable Bill Scheel Digital & Social Media Aurélien Bouchet Entrance Bed Maintenance Elissa Walters Greeter Shannon Zierau, Ally Hilsher, **Courtney Carlson Siegmund** Historian Aurelien Bouchet Hospitality Leslie Bordelon Membership Michele Wiechman Plaza Pulse: Rachel Mathews, Laurie Hardwick

#### [Representatives]

Section 1 Rep. Kelley Sebesta Section 2 Rep. Davi Garza Section 3 Rep. Romi Sandel Section 4 Rep. David Barrett Garden Club Rep. Susan Fitzpatrick Plaza Moms Rep. Kelly Laning



#### **Share Your News!**

Do you have an interesting story or news you want to share? Do you have ideas on content that you would like to see in future Plaza Pulse Newsletters?

We want to hear from you! Please let us know by emailing Pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month



#### Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club

**SPPCC Garage Sale** - Due to continued COVID-19 precautions, the Annual SPPCC Garage Sale has been postponed. The SPPCC recognizes that this event coordination is of eagerly anticipated neighborhood interest; however, at this time and for the overall health of our residents, the SPPCC prefers to postpone formal SPPCC led-coordination until further notice.

While the SPPCC is taking a step back from a formal Garage Sale event coordination, residents can coordinate and host their own garage sales. Consider pairing up with a neighbor for a multi-home sale or coordinating on your street for a common date. Check out Garage Sale tips online for how to prep, price, and host a successful garage sale. If you prefer not to conduct a garage sale, consider donating unwanted items to a local donation center. Depending on drop-offs, your donations may provide tax-deductible receipts.

#### In the Neighborhood

**Loose Dogs** - There have been quite a few posts on the SPP Facebook page about loose and/or stray dogs. As a general best practice and to help ensure the safety of both our residents and furry family members, please ensure that your pets are secure and backyards/gates do not have potential escape routes.

If you see loose dogs without an owner present, please be self-aware. If you feel comfortable, consider seeing if there is a collar/ID tag and assist with returning the dog home. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, consider contacting our Constable Dispatch (713-755-7628), Harris County Animal Services (281-999-3191), or 311 (or 713-837-0311). If you are being chased, Runner's World recommends these actions: 1) Stop running, 2) Talk in a loud firm voice, giving common command/stop words, and 3) Walk away slowly, backwards if necessary, to keep an eye on the animal, but try not to stare, as that can be perceived as a threat to the dog.

#### In the Community

**Oak Forest Foster Closet** - You may have seen an article in the local Leader Newspaper on the new Oak Forest Foster Closet. This dream child is the result of Oak Forest resident Nicole Aboudaher's hard work. Now open, the Oak Forest Foster Closet, located at 1216 Bethlehem St, is ready to help meet the needs of families with foster or adopted children. If you are fostering, adopting, and/or serving as a kinship provider, please visit the Oak Forest Foster Closet or join the Facebook group under the same name to learn more about how this nearby resource can help you along the journey. Have items on hand you no longer need? They accept donations of all items in good condition that children ages 0-15 need, including but not limited to, clothes, shoes, toys, bikes, books, and baby items, including formula and baby food. Please check the Oak Forest Foster Closet Facebook page for the latest on hours and days open.

Check out the Shepherd Park Plaza website for access to the Plaza Pulse online, as well as key documents, such as the Neighborhood Directory Update Form, New Neighbor Packet, and much more! https://shepherdparkplaza.com



Check out the Shepherd Park Plaza Facebook page for recent discussions, news, alerts, ideas, recommendations, and neighborhood events.

Ready to pay your annual Civic Club dues and join the Constable Contract? You can pay by check, Venmo (@SPPCC), scan the provided QR code, or visit the link below. Checks should be made out to SPPCC and can be mailed to SPPCC P.O. Box 10453 Houston, TX 77206. Please include your name and address in the memo. http://shepherdparkplaza.com/pay-constable-and-membership-dues/

Can't remember if you contributed? Please send an email to Membership@shepherdparkplaza.com. If you haven't received your 2021Constable Program sticker, please contact your Section Rep. *Civic Club:* \$25 Constable Program: \$295





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#### DEPUTY CONSTABLE PROGRAM RESPONSE CALLS \*Figures are for entire contract, including SPP and Candlelight Plaza\*

#### JANUARY 2021

C	NA D	
CONTRACT CHECKS189	MILES PATROLLED2,734	MEET THE CITIZEN32
VACATION WATCH11	OPEN DOOR/WINDOW4	ALARMO
Burglary3	Suspicious Person4	Suspicious Vehicle2
CRIMINAL MISCHIEFO	WELFARE CHECKO	Information Check0
DISTURBANCE LOUD NOISE1	Traffic1	Follow Up0
Animal4	Park Check14	SCHOOL CHECK0

<sup>\*\*</sup>SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING - CALL CONSTABLE DISPATCH AT 713-755-7628\*\*

VACATION WATCH REGISTRY (\*2 WEEK NOTICE\*)...HTTP://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP/VACATION-WATCH/

SIGN UP FOR THE CONSTABLE OFFICE'S NEWSLETTER...HTTPS://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET SELECT SIGN-UP > NEWSLETTER

#### **Meet Your Constables!**

Introducing... Deputy William Purcell

**Favorite part about SPP:** I enjoy the fact that the entire Shepherd Park Plaza subdivision looks out for one another. I have lost count of how many times I have responded to calls for service from concerned neighbors regarding suspicious activity near other people's homes. These calls clearly show that the residents are concerned about the safety and well-being of not only themselves, but for those around them.

I can also boast that I have received full cooperation from residents regarding any criminal activity that has occurred or was about to occur in Shepherd Park Plaza. No one has ever been hesitant to provide surveillance video or eyewitness accounts of what they have seen or heard. This may sound trivial but not everyone is willing to cooperate with law enforcement when asked to provide statements that may lead to the arrest of a suspect involved in a crime. Shepherd Park Plaza residents believe in Precinct I and proudly expresses it with yard signage, police support decals, and even by simply going out of their way to greet me at my patrol unit in person to tell me how much they appreciate having me in the area. I have been told that it is known that deputies can't be everywhere at once and that our mere presence of just passing down the street provides a sense of security.

What do you wish SPP residents knew about the Constable Program? Precinct 1 provides many programs to the community, such as the Eviction Assistance Program, R.A.D. Systems of Self-Defense, and Citizens Police Academy. Find out more at: http://www.pctlconstable.net

Constable Tip: During my career in law enforcement, the vast majority of burglary of vehicle calls were committed on vehicles that were left unsecured overnight. It is common practice for criminals to pull on door handles while searching for an easy opportunity to enter a vehicle and take whatever they deem to be of value. Criminals who elect to live a life of crime try their very best to avoid getting caught. This is the reason they commit crimes during the dark of the night to avoid visibility and so you cannot provide a description of them if seen before they flee the area. They also avoid making a lot of noise which is why they do not shatter windows or unlock vehicles with criminal instruments to avoid activating car alarms and alerting you of their presence. Burglary of vehicles typically occur after midnight and before 4:00am when criminals believe the homeowners are in a deep sleep. In my professional opinion, I believe Shepherd Park Plaza is fully capable of having zero burglary of vehicles if all vehicles left outside were locked overnight and there was nothing of value left in plain view to tempt a criminal from making entry in the vehicle.

> Stay tuned to a future newsletter to meet Deputy Lopez! The next time you see these Constables in the neighborhood, please say hi! They would love to meet you. We would love to share your story of how you have benefited from the Constable Program! Please email us at Pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com



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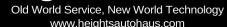


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SPP Garden Club meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7pm.

All meetings are currently being held outside and masks are required. New members and visitors are always welcome! Please contact our Club President, Susan Fitzpatrick, at gardenclub@shepherdparkplaza.com for details on our next meeting location.

We would love to have you!

In February, the Garden Club took a field trip to verdegreens, a local, urban farm just a couple miles from SPP. Verdegreens is a hydroponic farm, which means produce is grown directly in nutrient-rich water. We enjoyed a tour of the farm and an explanation of their process and vision. Find out more about verdegreens in the GC Monthly Local Highlight below.



#### Garden Club Tip of the Month

Don't commit "crape murder!" This term has been coined by horticulturists to describe severely cutting back crape myrtle trees, which is not the preferred way of handling these graceful and beautiful trees. It is not healthy for the trees in the long run, and cutting back crape myrtles creates large wounds that can serve as points of entry for fungal decay organisms. Pruning like this also shortens the life of the tree. Crape myrtles should be pruned only if necessary, such as removing dead, weak, or damaged branches.

For more tips and info, check out this article on AgriLife: https://agrilife.org/harrishort/2015/02/04/do-crapemyrtles-really-need-pruning/

#### Garden Club Monthly Local Highlight

Looking for fresh, local produce? Check out verdegreens, an urban farm in the heart of Houston. Using a combination of hydroponic and no-till soil cultivation methods, verdegreens produces healthy, nutritious, pesticide- and herbicide-free leafy greens, herbs, and mixed vegetables for our community. You can find them at several farmers markets around town, or visit their website to order a FARMBOX that contains a variety of hand selected vegetables, lettuce, leafy greens, and mushrooms that change weekly depending on seasonal availability. Visit www.verdegreens.com to learn more.

#### Garden Club Member Yard of the Month

Our March yard of the month is Kelcie Berry. Kelcie's yard includes three mature live oaks. Since they shade the majority of the yard, they have been selective about choosing "shade lovers." Foxtail ferns, giant Liriope, ginger plants, azaleas, and pink Oleanders have made themselves at home. The front flower beds are a mix of pink, coral, and white nightshade begonias. To add a pop of color, they are planting brightly colored kalanchoes on the corner of the lawn as the centerpiece.









#### Save the Date!

#### Annual Plaza Moms' Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration in the Park

Saturday, March 27th, 9:00 - 11:00am

This year, to best manage crowds and lines, we're excited to offer staggered entry for our Easter party at Shepherd Park, which will include:

- Egg hunt (each time slot will have its own hunt divided by age group)
- Breakfast and coffee
- Easter crafts for kids
- PLUS family photos from neighborhood photographer, Bouchet Images, featuring the Easter Bunny himself! *No lap photos. Families will be placed at a safe distance from the bunny.*

Families must RSVP online to pick a time slot to arrive. Starting March 8, Plaza Moms members will be able to sign up for a spot (check your email and Facebook page for invite).

(check the SPP and Candlelight Facebook pages for invite).

Other community members may purchase tickets to the event for \$15 starting March 15.

Questions or want to join Plaza Moms? Send an email to plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com and we'll get you set up for just \$35 for the season.

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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 and app for these types of non-emergency related issues. Call 311 or 713-837-0311.

City of Houston Council Member, Abbie Kamin, represents the Shepherd Park Plaza neighborhood. Find out more about how she represents District C, as well as FAQs at www.houstontx.gov/council/c/



#### We appreciate our local advertisers!

☆ The local advertisers that you see throughout the Plaza Pulse ☆ help pay for the printing of our neighborhood newsletter. Please show your support and consider contacting one of these local businesses the next time you need a quote or service.

> *Interested in seeing your ad here? Contact* advertising@shepherdparkplaza.com for details.

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#### Kids' Corner

### Celebrate St. Patrick's day with these cool green recipes!

Leprechaun Lime Drink

- 1 quart lime sherbet, softened
- 1/2 cup thawed limeade concentrate
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cans (12 ounces each) lemon-lime soda, chilled
- 1 to 2 cups crushed ice
- Lemon slices and lime peel strips, optional

In a large bowl, beat sherbet, limeade and sugar until blended. Stir in soda and ice. Serve in chilled glasses. If desired, top with lemon slices and lime peel.

Fluffy Key Lime Pie

- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1 package (0.3 ounce) sugar-free lime gelatin
- 2 cartons (6 ounces each) Key lime yogurt
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen fat-free whipped topping, thawed
- 1 reduced-fat graham cracker crust (9 inches)

In a large bowl, add boiling water to gelatin; stir 2 minutes to completely dissolve. Whisk in yogurt. Fold in whipped topping. Pour into crust. Refrigerate, covered, until set, about 2 hours.

Recipes from Taste of Home

Do you have a budding journalist or future writer in your family? We are considering having this 'Kids' Corner' feature guest articles/content from our little neighbors! If you have a child who would be interested in being a rotating guest columnist, please let us know by emailing Pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com



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**COVID-19 Vaccine -** Harris County Public Health has launched a new COVID-19 vaccination portal allowing eligible residents to be placed on a waitlist and contacted once vaccines and appointments are available.

Find out more, including eligibility requirements, and sign up online at <a href="https://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information">https://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information</a>. Eligible residents without internet access can call 832-927-8787 to find out more and be added to the waitlist.

Please note that this is only one avenue to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccination. You are highly encouraged to talk to your health care professional about your personal situation and available resources. Other avenues for vaccinations include hospitals, community clinics, and long-term care facilities.

#### CITIZENS PATROL STATS

**January 2021 Patrol Hours** 

WEEK	TOTAL DRIVING HOURS
1	7
2	5
3	11
4	13
TOTAL	36

Patrollers who turn in at least 4 driving hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for a random drawing.

The winner of this month's \$10 random drawing is

Michelle Ganter.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

The Houston Police Department is concerned about crime in the neighborhoods and communities throughout the city. The Citizen Patrol Program was established in an effort to bring the citizens and the police department together for a common goal: improve the quality of life by preventing, reducing, or eliminating crime. The Citizen Patrol Program is designed to provide a means for citizens to organize into patrol groups for the purpose of being visible 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.

You can become a volunteer by signing up today! Training is just a few hours and YOU can help protect our neighborhood.

Questions? Contact our Citizens Patrol Rep at algebrakp@aol.com.

www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/vip citzpatrol.htm



#### IMPORTANT CONTACTS POLICE/FIRE: 911 CITY HELPLINE: 311

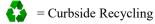
Constable Dispatch 713-755-7628	HPD (non-emergency) 713-884-3131	Plaza Pulse Editor pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com	Pulse Advertising 832-477-7871	<b>SPP Membership</b> 303-588-0424
Deed Restrictions 713-316-5255	Architecture Control 713-316-5255	<b>Entrance Bed</b> 713-501-3695	Plaza Moms Rep plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com	<b>Garden Club Rep</b> 713-201-3322
Section 1 Rep 713-882-8613  Section 2 Rep pending new rep		Section 3 Rep pending new rep	Section 4 Rep 713-291-4485	SPP Civic Club

#### SPP CALENDAR March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<b>F</b> &	SPPCC**********************************			
7	8 Shapherd Perk Plaza GARDEN	9	200m Spring	11	12	13
	CLUB		SPPCC Spring Business Mtg			
14	15	16	Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18 HEAVY TRASH	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	PLAZA MOMS
28	29	30	31			



= Trash and Yard Waste





Please leave 3 ft between your bins and any other objects. This gives the trucks room without damage to nearby items.

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Reminder about Heavy Trash: Tree waste is picked up in ODD months, and Junk waste in the EVEN months. "Tree Waste" is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps. Lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted as Tree Waste. "Junk Waste" is defined as items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.

#### February Yard of the Month

Section 1: David and Julie Hetrick 1019 Chamboard	Section 2: Melissa Berena and Matt Johnson 1042 Chantilly
Section 3: Angie and Matt Hoover 1002 Cheshire	Section 4: Daniel and Carolyn Barrett 1119 Candlelight



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB P. O. Box 10453 HOUSTON, TX 77206 WWW.SHEPHERDPARKPLAZA.COM PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID DMR, 77041

# SPP Wants to Welcome You

#### New to the neighborhood?

Contact Courtney Carlson Siegmund at courtneytcarlson@gmail.com so we can welcome you officially!



Don't forget!
Daylight Savings occurs on March 14, 2021

## IT TAKES MORE THAN LUCK TO SELL YOUR HOME

Per HAR MLS Data for 2020



#### BE REALISTIC ON PRICING; IT'S BOTH AN ART AND A SCIENCE

IndyQuest's listing performance was #1 in SPP in 2020 with a 99.5% Listing Price/Sales Price average.

The #2 broker was a full 2% behind in listing performance.

#### PREPARE YOUR HOME TO SELL

We work with numerous designers, at our expense, to get your home into peak condition for presentation and marketing purposes.

## CHOOSE A REALTOR® WITH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

No team of agents did more business in SPP in 2020 than the IndyQuest Team

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