



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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August 2010

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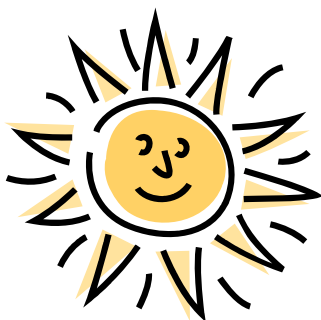
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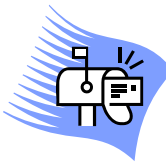
Thanks for the Glowing Support!

Thanks to the efforts of several committed volunteers and to your generous support, our neighborhood entrance signs now shine brightly at night. The solar lighting project at our neighborhood entrances is complete! This project was made possible by a matching grant that SPPCC received from the City to fund 50% of the cost—thanks go to **Tom Dornak**, SPPCC treasurer, for overseeing the application process. Volunteers **Chuck Blesener** and **Charlie Hebert** spearheaded the installation of the solar panels and lights, with assistance from the employees at Heights Electric. And many of our residents helped fund the project with generous contributions. Thanks go to the following donors:

Valerie & Josh Thompson, 1106 Chamboard
Carole & Bruce Boatner, 1042 Martin
Trisha & Matthew Roberts, 1106 Curtin
Mary & George Parnham, 1003 Chamboard
Donna & Ron Kleist, 1049 Martin
Donna & Robert Kelley, 1123 Richelieu

Jessica & Owen Jenschke, 1010 Candlelight
Susan & Al Vera, 1038 Candlelight
Vickie & J. Royce Simpson, 967 Chamboard
Dawnell & Robert Morris, 1106 Curtin
Renee & Joe Klenke, 1131 Richelieu
Craig Dietz & Don Obenrader, 1039 Thornton

Donations for the lighting project are still welcome and much appreciated. To contribute, simply make your check payable to SPPCC, note that it is a contribution to the lighting project and mail to:



Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club
 Attn: Treasurer
 P.O. Box 10453
 Houston TX, 77206

Pay Your SPPCC Dues Online!

Many thanks to the 170 (23%) homes that have paid their 2010/2011 SPPCC dues as of June 30. Your \$25.00 dues payment helps maintain the outstanding neighborhood we all call home. For those of you who have not yet paid your annual dues, you may now pay electronically at www.shepherdparkplaza.com. It's quick, convenient, and an easy way to contribute to our neighborhood. The Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club is comprised of residents who generously volunteer their time and talents to help preserve the quality of life we've come to enjoy. While our association is volunteer-run, it does take money to make some things happen. A review of past patterns of dues payment participation indicates there are a number of homes that usually support the SPPCC who have not yet sent in their payments. **It's easy to pay your 2010-2011 dues—simply log on to www.shepherdparkplaza.com and pay with PayPal or download an application and return with your check as instructed.** For more information, contact **Tom Dornak** at membership@shepherdparkplaza.com or 713-683-6502.

SPPCC Member Directory Delivers!

An updated SPPCC membership directory was delivered to SPPCC members in July. This directory provides contact information for SPPCC members—those paid in 2009 and early 2010. Many thanks to **Rhonda D'Eramo** for putting the directory together and to **Tom Dornak** and **Billy Hartman** for their assistance with the project. With a project of this nature, mistakes are inevitable. If you did not receive a directory or if your information needs to be updated in some way, please contact **Tom Dornak** at Membership@ShepherdParkPlaza.com or 713-683-6502.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Plaza Moms Co-Rep.
Trisha Roberts & Julie Landreth

Men's Group Rep. Chuck Blesener

Pulse Editor: Laurie Hardwick
713-956-2474

Pulse Design: Paula Collins
713-594-5295
pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com

Get to Know Your Deed Restrictions

By Chuck Blesener

This is the first in a series of articles about our neighborhood deed restrictions, City building codes, and City ordinances that we all must follow to keep Shepherd Park Plaza a desirable and safe neighborhood in which to live. SPP Deed Restrictions are available at www.shepherdparkplaza.com under Section Information.

Building Setbacks & Easements—According to the deed restrictions of all four sections of Shepherd Park Plaza, as well as the building code for the City of Houston, the following applies: the building setback lines for a primary residence and an attached garage is five feet, and the setback for a detached garage or separate outbuilding is three feet.

This means that no structure or addition may be closer to the property line than this prescribed distance. Most lots in SPP also have a utility easement at the back of the property that is five feet wide at ground level extending to twenty feet up in the air where it becomes a ten foot aerial easement from there up. There are some properties in the neighborhood that have larger or special setbacks such as flood control drainage easements. Most of these are on the south side of Chamboard and the west side of Apollo. All homes and garages must be at least 25 feet from the front property line and 10 feet from the side street line if on a corner.

We are receiving increasing complaints about neighbors who are building storage sheds or garage storage areas out to the fence line. In some cases, the roofs are draining into a neighbor's yard or even encroaching onto their property. This is one of the instances where the City Attorney's Office will help us defend our deed restrictions. If in doubt about your property's restrictions, please contact our Architectural Control Committee at 713-956-1167 or Deed Restriction Committee at 713-305-5035 for more information.

Fences—Contrary to what many believe, there are no height restrictions for fences. If you choose to build a wood or metal fence over eight feet high, or a concrete or masonry fence over four feet, you must obtain a City of Houston permit requiring architectural drawings and engineering studies. No fence can be erected forward of the front building line. City ordinances prohibit any type of electrified fences, and any barbed wire used in fencing must be above six feet in height.

Yard Signs—Our deed restrictions are explicit on this, stating "No sign of any kind shall be displayed to the public view on any residential lot except one sign of not more than five square feet advertising the property during the construction and sales period."

Calling All Captains!

Thanks to the SPP residents who have already signed up to serve as block captains! If you've not yet volunteered and would like to provide support to the SPPCC on your block, we're still looking for a few more willing participants. Block captains will:

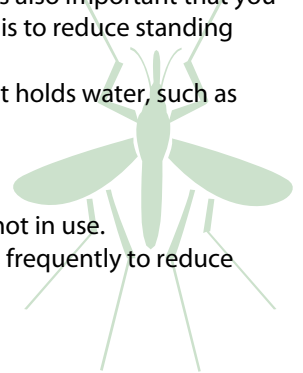
- Be the most local connection between SPP civic club and residents,
- Notify others of news and happenings on your block,
- Welcome new neighbors and encourage more resident interaction, and
- Assist their section rep in distributing information and communicating to residents.

If you'd like to get involved, contact **Mike Clark** at 713-906-4148 or by email at mike@hartmanassociates.com.

Manage Those Mosquitoes!

It's summertime and that means that mosquitoes are out in force. SPPCC does contract for periodic spraying to help reduce the mosquito population, but it's also important that you do your part. The best way to minimize the mosquito population is to reduce standing water around your home.

- Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down any container that holds water, such as saucers for flowerpots and buckets.
- Change water and scrub birdbaths at least twice each week.
- Repair leaking pipes and outdoor faucets.
- Empty plastic wading pools weekly and store indoors when not in use.
- Move drain hoses of window or central air conditioning units frequently to reduce standing water.
- Get rid of old tires, cans, bottles, etc.
- Keep gutters free of debris and standing water.



Patrol Hours <i>Prepared by Charli Merchant</i>	SECTIONS				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Auto Patrol Hours	7	33	7	31.5	78.5
Walk/Bike Patrol Hours	14.5	81.5	3	25	124
Total Patrol Hours	21.5	114.5	10	56.5	202.5
Base Station Hours	0	53	0	0	53
TOTAL HOURS	21.5	167.5	10	56.5	255.5

Interested in patrolling? Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or kjcfm4954@yahoo.com for information. Required Citizens Patrol certification/re-certification training is usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am and 7 pm at 9455 W. Montgomery. New members must fill out the application forms and return them one week prior to the training date. Certification is good for two years. For more information about the training, call 281-405-5341.

The \$10 winners for June were **Chuck Blesener, Karen Cruse, Jim Kelly and Sarrah Moseley**. Shipley Donut certificates went to **Angela Heinrich, Melvin Hohle, Pat Kubin, Bruno Majewski, and Sarrah Moseley**. To qualify for monthly drawings, patrol/base hours must be turned in to **Charli Merchant** at 4615 Dunsmere by the 5th of each month.

Looking for Lost CP Equipment

If you have any Citizens Patrol magnetic signs, radios, antennae, or other equipment you are not using, or know of someone else who does, please let us know. We will gladly pick it up and let one of our active patrollers put it to good use. If you are no longer patrolling or are moving out of the neighborhood, please return any signs, shirts, jackets, or caps with the HPD/SPP logos on them. We do not want them getting into the wrong hands where someone might pose as a patroller to gain the confidence of a resident. Do not give Patrol equipment or clothing to a charity. Please contact Karen Cruse at kjcfm4954@yahoo.com or 713-824-4799 to turn in any unused equipment.

Our Citizens Patrol Needs You! Do you regularly walk or bike the neighborhood? You can put those hours to good use by joining the Citizens Patrol. Or, you can drive SPP in your vehicle. Either way, your time puts more eyes on the street and helps prevent crime in our neighborhood. There's no required amount of time that you must patrol each month—even an hour or two is appreciated and needed! **We especially need patrollers in Sections I and III.** Contact **Karen Cruse** at 713-824-4799 or kjcfm4954@yahoo.com for information. Required Citizens Patrol certification/re-certification training is usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am and 7 pm at 9455 W. Montgomery. New members must fill out the application forms and return them one week prior to the training date. Certification is good for two years. For more

information about the training, call 281-405-5341.

Watch Your Step

The sidewalks in our area are showing the effects of age, water damage and tree growth. Broken and uneven sidewalks are not just unsightly, they present a serious hazard to walkers. The City of Houston's Legal Department says that sidewalk maintenance in front of our homes is the homeowner's responsibility. That means that homeowners are also liable for injuries caused by lack of maintenance. Whether caused by tree roots, subsidence, or construction damage, any broken or uneven concrete should be repaired or replaced.



Welcome to the Neighborhood!

SECTION 1 **Ben & Haley Montgomery**
958 Chamboard

Shane Mansur & Megan Daigle
959 Chamboard

SECTION 4 **Scott & Emily Moore**
1013 Richelieu



Stay on Schedule with Heavy Trash

The City of Houston typically picks up SPP's heavy trash on the 4th Tuesday of the month. But, each month, the type of heavy trash that they will retrieve varies. To ensure that your trash is picked up, make sure to only put the right materials at the curb.

- **Tree Waste in Odd Months** (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) - "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps (lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted)
 - **Junk Waste in Even Months** (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) - furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.
- Confused? Check the calendar in each issue of the *Plaza Pulse* to see what's being picked up this month.



CHECKING IN WITH OUR DEPUTY CONSTABLE

Call Deputy Dispatch 713-755-7628

Clip & Save

You will see a familiar face patrolling the streets of SPP these days—**Deputy Constable James Ebdon** has been assigned to our neighborhood. Those of you who have been here a while will recognize him, as he served in our neighborhood several years ago. Deputy Ebdon attended the SPPCC Board meeting in July and asked that we remind residents of a few key safety items:

- **Watch Your Speed**—The speed limit in SPP is 30 miles per hour unless otherwise posted. Due to several complaints of speeding on Chamboard and Thornton near Brian Haven, the Constable has begun patrolling these streets more frequently.
- **Make a Complete Stop**—Drivers are required to come to a full stop at all stop and yield signs in the neighborhood before proceeding through the intersection. Please make sure to observe all traffic signs for the safety of our residents.
- **Maintain Your Lane**—It's easy to "cut corners" at several of our neighborhood intersections, especially when driving a bit too fast. It's important to reduce your speed so you can maintain your lane and avoid oncoming traffic.
- **Out of the Park by Dark**—Shepherd Park closes to the public at dark—and this ordinance includes individuals who may be using the walking/jogging trail. For your safety, please observe all posted park rules, including the stated curfew.
- **Call for Help**—In the event residents notice someone speeding or ignoring stop signs or traffic signals, they are asked **not** to approach the offender. Report any suspicious vehicles or activities to Constable Dispatch at 713-755-7628 so that a proper and safe response may be made.



Constable program contributors are encouraged to take advantage of the Constable's **Vacation Watch** program. Download a Vacation Watch form at www.shepherdparkplaza.com and turn it in to the Constable several days before you leave. Your home will then be added to the patrol schedule, so that special checks can be made while you're away. And while you're enjoying your trip, make sure to ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers—or have these services stopped—to make sure that your home does not appear to be vacant. Leaving a few lights on or setting some to turn on and off with a timer are great ways to maintain a "lived in" look while you're on a trip.

Police Report

by *Chuck Blesener*

While the North Division of HPD has the highest call volume in the City, crime is down in both Three District and Six District. Shepherd Park Plaza is in 3B30 Beat of Three District. Statistics show most violent crime is committed in apartment complexes.

Victims Compensation - In 1969 the State legislature passed the Crime Victims Compensation Program, requiring every law enforcement agency to have a crime victim's assistance unit. To file for compensation under this program, you must be a Texas resident with an address, file in the jurisdiction where the crime was committed, suffer from criminally injurious conduct and not a property crime, have reported the crime and be cooperative with law enforcement. Texas has a large pool of money from

finances levied on convictions and compensation can be received for counseling, medical bills, funeral expenses, relocation and rental expenses.

Juvenile Curfew - In the City of Houston, it is unlawful for any minor under the age of 17 years to remain, walk, run, drive or ride about, in or upon any public area in the city between the hours of 11 pm on any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and 6 am of the following day, or between the hours of 12 am (midnight) and 6 am on any Saturday or Friday, or between the hours of 9 am and 2:30 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. It is also unlawful for the parent or guardian, having legal custody of a minor under the age of 17 years to knowingly allow the minor to be in violation of these curfew hours. There are a number of exceptions that are a defense to prosecution.



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around the neighborhood

By Romi Sandel & Laurie Hardwick

► **Special Delivery**—Congratulations to **Kenny and Emily Eldridge** on the arrival of **Abby Elizabeth** who was born on June 17.

► **A Summer To Remember**—The **Cangelosi Family** recently returned from vacationing in Hershey, Pennsylvania. They were impressed to learn the history of Hershey Chocolate, and how hard Mr. Milton Hershey worked to make his company a success. Along with touring the factory and visiting the amusement park, they enjoyed a trolley tour, 3-D show, and got to make their very own Hershey Chocolate Bar! On the way to Hershey, they visited Washington, D.C. where they enjoyed the beautiful architecture and learned more about our nation's history. With a private tour of The White House, a tour of The U.S. Capitol, a visit to The Smithsonian, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, and Washington Monument, their trip was full of many "must-sees!"

► **Waltrip Turns 50!**—S.P. Waltrip High School is turning 50 years old this year. A celebration is being planned for Friday, October 15 – Sunday, October 17, 2010. A cookbook is also in the works. For information on activities and how to submit your recipes, visit www.Waltrip50.org.

► **A True French Experience!** **Bill and Cathy French** along with their children **Kelsey, Carly and Rafe** traveled to France and Barcelona recently in honor of daughter Kelsey's high school graduation. They enjoyed all the history of France, including visits to Versailles and several castles.

► **Stork Sighting**—**John and Brittany Gilmour** and big sisters **Lexi and Gracie** celebrated the arrival of **Abigail Faye** on June 23.

► **Birthday Blast**—A very special *Happy Birthday!* goes to **Sharon Boone**. Since this was a landmark birthday, she celebrated the entire month of July instead of just one day!

► **Wedding Bells**—**Michelle Montague and Lance Voelkel** were married on June 26. Congratulations to the couple and to the proud mother of the bride **Betty Montague**.

Share Your News—Please pass along any news of note about SPP residents so that we can spotlight them in future issues of the *Pulse*. If you have news to share, please let us know by emailing pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com or contacting **Romi Sandel** at 713-962-4171.

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& ASSOCIATES

- MARKET LEADER IN SPP 2000-2008
- SPP RESIDENT
- LIFETIME AREA RESIDENT
- SPP BOARD MEMBER
- SRES (Senior Specialist)

*It's not just my business,
it's my neighborhood*



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

POLICE/FIRE: 911

CITY HELPLINE: 311

Citizens Patrol
713-824-4799

Deed Restrictions
713-305-5035

Traffic & Safety
713-824-5799

New Neighbor/Greeter
713-305-5036

Garden Club
713-681-6049

CP Vacation Watch
713-682-5959

Architectural Guidelines
713-956-1167

Plaza Pulse News
713-956-2474

SPP Historian
713-682-0920

Plaza Moms
713-476-9466

SPP Membership
713-683-6502

Park & City Liaison
713-688-7979

Pulse Advertising
713-398-3917

Men's Group
713-683-9945



SPP CALENDAR AUGUST 2010



= Trash and Yard Waste



= Curbside Recycling

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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	31	DEPUTY CONSTABLE DISPATCH 713-755-7628			
			A Note About Trash: You can legally put your heavy trash out at 6:00 PM the Friday before your heavy trash day.			

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Men's Group Enjoys Summertime

By Chuck Blesener

The SPP Men's Group will hold its monthly luncheon on Thursday, August 12, at 11:30 am at Yank Sing, 1801 Mangum. All men of the neighborhood are invited to participate in the luncheons and trips. There are no requirements, dues, or officers. This group of guys is small in number but large in opinions and ideas, and just radiating in historical intelligence. If you don't think so just ask them. Their motto could be—stay sociable, stay informed, and live longer.

The group's next bus trip will be to the Houston Fire Museum and the San Jacinto Monument and Museum, with lunch at Brady's Landing, on Wednesday, August 25. While this may be a Men's Group, the trips are open to all men and women of Shepherd Park Plaza and their friends over the age of 50. For more information contact **Chuck Blesener**, at ccbles@earthlink.net or 713-683-9945.



Plaza Moms to Luau August 10

It's that time of year again! A celebration **Luau Party** kicking off a the 2010-2011

Plaza Moms year with new officers is planned for Tuesday, August 17. Watch for complete details coming soon, and make plans to come to the party with food and drink! It will be a hip-shaking good time. Bring your suits and get ready to do a hula dance at Jennifer Lamb's home: 1003 Martin. Be there! We had a great time last year! If you have been looking for a way to get involved with the Plaza Moms, this will be a great place to sign up to volunteer.

And mark your calendars for Friday, October 22 and **Shopping on the Plaza!** If you live in the neighborhood and have a budding business and would like to purchase a table at this event this year, please contact **Julie Landreth** at julie@julielandreth.com. If you have any questions or want to know more about joining Plaza Moms contact **Julie Landreth** at julie@julielandreth.com or 713-476-9466.

What's Happening Around Houston?

Looking for something cool and different to do in the heat of the summer? The Houston Area Traditional Dance Society (HATDS) sponsors and promotes contra and English country dancing—and they host a family-friendly dance on 2nd & 4th Saturdays at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Heights, 1819 Heights Boulevard.

Open to the public, the dance begins at 8 pm, and a special Newcomers Session is offered at 7:30 pm. Contra dancing is a type of American social dancing with roots in English, Scottish, and Irish traditions. It is done in long lines of couples in a "set" with partners facing each other across the set. A caller teaches the figures of each dance before it begins, and then cues the dancers the first several times through the dance. No lessons are required, as each individual dance is taught before it begins. Plus, there are only about 20 moves to learn. And every dance features live music.

The environment is smoke-free, alcohol-free, safe, and family-friendly. This is a community dance, similar to the barn dances of bygone days. For more information, visit www.hatds.org.



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What's Your Section?

Did you know that you reside in one of SPP's four sections? Your Section Rep—someone who lives in your section—represents you on the SPP Civic Club board. These folks distribute neighborhood flyers, choose the Yard of the Month winners and help organize neighborhood-wide events.

Section 1—Jason & Tara Williams

4400-4511 Apollo, 900-1191 Chamboard, 900-1187 Curtin

Section 2—Jonathan Sterbanz & Barbara Bryant

4602-4214 Alba, 4703-4715 Apollo, 902-1106 Chantilly, 4802-4619 Chantilly Circle, 4703-4719 Cliff Haven, 4603-4619 Dunsmere, 4815-4718 Golf, 942-1174 Thornton, 4702-4719 Thornton Circle

Section 3—Lynn Myers

4723-4729 Apollo, 4702-4729 Brian Haven, 1002-1125 Cheshire, 1002-1116 Martin

Section 4—Norma Salazar

4803-4907 Apollo, 4803-4805 Brian Haven, 1002-1139 Candlelight, 1002-1139 Richelieu

If you have questions, concerns or would like to help out, please contact these folks. They'd love to hear from you!

June YARDS OF THE MONTH

Section 1:

JOHN & KAYLEN YOUNG
1047 CURTIN

Section 3:

CHRISTY HEILAND & PAT
KOKES
1102 MARTIN

Section 2:

CHARLES & NICOLAZA
GURROLA
4602 CHANTILLY CIRCLE

Section 4:

TOM & AMBER CAVER
1050 CANDLELIGHT

SPP Wants to
Welcome You

Thanks again to Rainbow Lodge, 2011 Ella, for the donation of gift certificates to new neighbors! The Rainbow Lodge offers dinner, lunch and Sunday brunch—check out their menu at www.rainbow-lodge.com. If you have moved into the neighborhood recently and have not yet been greeted by the SPP Civic Club, please contact **Eileen Hartman** at 713-305-5036 or eileen@hartmanassociates.com.

Got Email?

If you provide the SPP Civic Club with your email address, you can receive periodic alerts about important news in our area. And if your email address changes, please be sure to provide your updated address to SPPCC at membership@shepherdparkplaza.com and advertising@shepherdparkplaza.com.

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Shepherd Park Plaza Resident

1201 Prince Street
Houston, Texas 77008
Phone: (713)868-3388



LEANN SALMONS
BROKER ASSOCIATE

832-868-9453

lsalmons@marthaturner.com

Area Specialist

Circle of Excellence Award Winner
Certified Marketing Specialist
Lifelong Shepherd Park Plaza Resident

Martha Turner

PROPERTIES