



THE PLAZA PULSE

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CIVIC CLUB

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January 2016

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- Storm drain construction progress

Share Your News!

Please pass along any news of note about SPP residents so 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 by contacting your section rep (see names on p.2)



CHRISTMAS DECORATING AWARD WINNERS!

DRUMROLL PLEASE! The Christmas Decorating Awards have been tallied and while it was a fierce, but friendly competition, the following homes are recognized by the panel of judges:

- 1st Place Best Overall: 1131 Thornton—Bob Warren & Michael Pate
- 2nd Place Best Overall: 1043 Martin—Geraldine & Daniel Melott
- 1st Place Religious: 1162 Curtin—Bill & Aileen Hartman
- 2nd Place Religious: 1016 Cheshire—Michael Dorn
- 1st Place Most Original: 1026 Chantilly—James & Mindy Wilson
- 2nd Place Most Original: 4439 Apollo—Aaron & Monica Ross
- 1st Place Best Traditional: 1147 Thornton—Gary & Sarrah Moseley
- 2nd Place Best Traditional: 1049 Martin—Ron & Donna Kleist
- 1st Place Best Novelty: 4707 Apollo—Chris & Kim Schultea
- 2nd Place Best Novelty: 1003 Martin—Evan Campbell
- 1st Place Best Lighting: 4725 Apollo—Kenneth & Pat Thompson
- 2nd Place Best Lighting: 1051 Cheshire—David & Stacey Bartula
- 1st Place Best Door: 1104 Cheshire—Adolf & Janice Benys
- 2nd Place Best Door: 1178 Curtin—Michael & Robin McClung
- 1st Place Best Window: 1111 Cheshire—Andrew & Sadie Barcia
- 2nd Place Best Window: 1071 Thornton—Nelson & Marti Turner
- 1st Place Best Street/Cul-de-sac: Candlelight
- 2nd Place Best Street/Cul-de-sac: Chantilly Circle
- Section I Favorite: 1003 Chamboard—George & Mary Parnham
- Section II Favorite: 1142 Thornton—Lynn Grimes
- Section III Favorite: 1102 Martin—Kenneth & Christine Michels
- Section IV Favorite: 1106 Richelieu—Ryan & Kathy Moroney
- Children's Favorites (by Section)
 - Section I: 983 Chamboard—Stephan Hildenbrand & Mary Magsamen
 - Section II: 4603 Chantilly Circle—Kurt & Kimberly Roe
 - Section III: 1033 Cheshire—Roland and Edna Potts
 - Section IV: 1044 Candlelight—Norma Aguilar
- Mom's Award: 1012 Richelieu—George & Beverly Rubenstahl
- President's Award: 1110 Richelieu—Chris & Deborah Campos

Thanks once again to the residents, the judges and the "Christmas in July" Group that kept the spirit going!

New Year's Eve!

Looking for something to do New Year's Eve? Check out the events sponsored by the City of Houston, including an appearance by the B-52's. <http://www.houstontx.gov/nye/index.html>

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Men's Group Rep. **Chuck Blesener**
Pulse Editor: **Roni Sandel**
713-316-9688 or pulse@shepherdparkplaza.com
Pulse Co-Editor: **Laurie Hardwick**

STORM SEWER AND ROAD PAVING PROJECTS BY: CHUCK BLESENER



The contractor hired by the City to replace the sanitary sewer lines in our neighborhood has completed the project and left the area. They were not gone long when another contractor working for Center Point Energy moved in to replace, move, and abandon some of the natural gas lines in our area. Light poles have been replaced and set back on Pinemont. This is some of the preliminary work necessary before the start of two large storm drain and road paving projects. Both projects have been included in the City Capital Improvement Plan for many years but have been delayed multiple times for various reasons over the last couple years.

The first project beginning in the first quarter of 2016 is the completion of the Pinemont widening from Ella to Shepherd. After placing massive new storm drains down the middle, the street will be widened with curb and gutters and new sidewalks. The project had been delayed for new engineering work after the City passed a new ordinance allowing for underground detention of storm water rather than building detention ponds on the surface.

The second project is the installation of new larger storm sewers and road repaving on Alba, Chamboard, and Brinkman. On Alba and Brinkman this will include widening and lowering pavement with curb and gutters and sidewalks added. This is the first phase of a 635-day, three phase project that will begin at Alba and Judiway. The current schedule is now slated to be: job bids in December 2015, contractor awards in February 2016, and construction start in May 2016. The project had a major delay when Garden Oaks protested the engineering plans. They did not want sidewalks, wanted to keep their ditches, and did not want Alba becoming a major traffic artery. The compromise includes widening Alba from 19 feet to 21 feet and not the city standard of 27 feet.

Be prepared for major construction in the area and possibly altering your normal driving routes. The inconvenience will be worth it to get better streets and improved storm drainage, especially if your street floods or you have had water in your home.



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PROPERTIES

CITIZENS PATROL STATS

November 2015 Patrol Hours *Prepared by Chuck Blesener*

| WEEK | Driving | Walking/ Biking |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 17 | 3 |
| 2 | 12 | 2 |
| 3 | 16 | 1 |
| 4 | 26 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 71 | 10 |

The winner of the random \$10 bonus for November is Merle Majewski. Patrollers who turn in at least 4 hours by the 5th of the month are eligible for a random drawing for a \$10 card. Gift cards for accumulated driving hours will be distributed at the monthly meeting. Please turn in your hours on time!

SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA CITIZENS PATROL WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS! YOU CAN SIGN UP TODAY

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 respected volunteer by signing up today!

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 nationwide.

Contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com for information. Training for Citizen Patrol certification is the second Tuesday of each month at 9455 West Montgomery at 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the neighborhood is invited to join the COP group. More eyes on our neighborhood means more awareness of suspicious activity. HPD Citizen Patrol Applications can be downloaded at http://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/vip_citzpatrol.htm. The applications must be sent in one week prior to the training.

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SSP HAYRIDE A CROWD FAVORITE!!

The SSP Hayride on December 19th and 20th was enjoyed by over 300 residents, friends and neighbors. The riders enjoyed a 30 minute drive through the neighborhood. They enjoyed lights, decorations, singing and of course, SANTA CLAUS! Two trailers were loaded with 25 riders and each made 4 to 5 trips each night. A special thanks to the Bleseners, The Dornaks and the Inderriedens for coordinating a very special evening! Thanks also to John Mills and Joe Klenke for driving.

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around the neighborhood



Plaza Moms

Plaza Moms Group

The Members of Plaza Moms wish all the neighborhood ladies a Happy New Year! Plaza Moms is not just an organization for mothers—we welcome women of all choices and stages of life! Come join us for one of our get togethers in January and check us out.

General Meeting - Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Courtney Zavala's house, 1018 Candlelight. The meeting's topic will be Summer Camps.

Ladies Night Out - Thursday, January 14th at 8:00 p.m. at Plonk.

A big thank you to all who joined us for Breakfast with Santa in December and to Plaza Moms Sponsor IndyQuest for providing the breakfast.

Want to be part of a group of area moms that has fun and shares information? Then check out Plaza Moms. Learn more at <http://shepherdparkplaza.com/plaza-moms/>



SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA TRAVELERS

On Wednesday, January 27th, the group will travel by bus to Danevang, Texas, the Danish capital of Texas. They will view a short film depicting Danevang's history, tour the museum and Pioneer House, and enjoy a family style, sit-down, hot Danish lunch. Bus trips are open to all SPP residents and their friends over the age of 50. For more information about the group contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945 or ccbles77@gmail.com.

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SHEPHERD PARK PLAZA MEN'S GROUP

The SPP Men's Group will meet at Live Oak Grill on Thursday, January 14th, at 11:30 a.m. August Galiano will present a short video presentation. Make your New Year's resolution to be more socially active and meet with some great neighbors for lunch and friendly discussions. For more information about the group, contact Chuck Blesener at 713-683-9945, or ccbles77@gmail.com.

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- * Group Homes Services
- * Veterinary Pharmacy Services
- * Medication Management for Memory Care, Dementia, Alzheimer's Care & Group Homes
- * Competitive Pricing Program

CALLS HANDLED BY DEPUTY CONSTABLE

*FIGURES ARE FOR ENTIRE CONTRACT INCLUDING SPP AND CANDLELIGHT PLAZA



NOVEMBER 2015

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE... 16 | MILES PATROLLED...3892 | TRAFFIC STOP ...20 |
| BURGLARY RESIDENCE... 1 | TRAFFIC HAZARD... 1 | TRAFFIC INITIATIVE... 10 |
| ALARM RESPONSE...3 | CITIZEN CONTACTS...392 | VACATION WATCH...17 |
| DRUG OD/POSSESSION...2 | TRAFFIC HAZARD... 1 | PARK CHECK... 18 |
| BURGLARY VEHICLE... 1 | SUSPICIOUS PERSON...3 | SOLICITORS...4 |
| MEDICAL EMERGENCY... 1 | ANIMAL-HUMANE... 1 | SUBJECT STOP & DISTURBANCE... 1 |

VACATION WATCH REGISTRY (1 WEEK IN ADVANCE)...[HTTP://PCT1CONSTABLE.NET/SIGN-UP/VACATION-WATCH/](http://pct1constable.net/sign-up/vacation-watch/)

Our deputies have notified us that they have encountered friends or family members who have interfered with a traffic stop or investigation. If you approach a traffic stop or investigation because of your concern for a family member or friend, the deputy will usually ask you to step aside until they have completed their investigation and will then talk to you. Continued interference may result in the deputy placing you in the back seat of a patrol car or under arrest. The officers have a job to do and need to devote their full attention to the matter at hand, so please don't compromise or contaminate a crime scene. If you know, or even suspect a crime has been committed, call HPD or Constable Dispatch immediately and let them investigate. By touching, moving, or removing items at the scene, you are making the subsequent investigation more difficult, and could possibly be letting a criminal avoid prosecution.

Traffic Tickets: Our deputies write citations for traffic violations and have radar units in their cars. In the past, as a courtesy to our residents, they have been giving warning tickets to residents who live in the neighborhood and real tickets to repeat violators and those drivers cutting through our neighborhood. Effective immediately, the department will be issuing more tickets and fewer warnings. The real motivation for safe driving skills should be the safety and security of our families, children, and neighbors.

REMINDERS



SOLICITORS -

We continue to have problems with solicitors going to homes in the neighborhood. Other than Girl Scouts selling cookies, and a few other charitable exceptions, it is a good policy not to buy anything, sign anything, hire anyone, or contribute to anyone coming to your door. They may sound legitimate and have a good story, but in most cases they are not who they say they are and want to take your money and/or identity. If they come at unreasonable times, are demanding or abusive, or refuse to leave when requested to do so, call Constable Dispatch at 713-755-7628. You should deal directly with reputable charities, order your magazines by mail or online, and only hire workers with verifiable references. Not all solicitors come to your door. Many are calling on the phone trying to sell a product or service, even requesting a home visit. Irreputable alarm companies and other vendors, questionable charities, and scam artists use high pressure tactics to separate you from your money. Use the same caution with callers you use at your door. A good policy is not to purchase anything, donate to anyone, or provide any information to anyone who calls you on the phone.

TRASH COLLECTION—Lately there has been an increase in our neighborhood of bags of lawn clippings at the street for days before collection. It is ugly and illegal. If you hire a lawn service to do your yard, they are required by City ordinance to haul off these bags as part of their cost of doing business. Any contractor you hire to do any work on or around your home must haul off any waste material. If you do your own yard work or maintenance, you may place your bags or waste materials at the curb in approved containers but not before 6:00 p.m. on the day before collection.



LOOSE DOGS - Facebook is still busy with notices of lost and found dogs. Even if your dog is always in the house, or always in a fenced yard, all dogs get loose at some time in their life. Please get an identity collar for your pet with a phone number or name and address or have them microchipped. Both of these things will improve their chances of being returned home safely after they've gotten loose.





GARDEN CLUB NEWS



SPP Garden Club Meeting

The SPP Garden Club enjoyed a delicious Christmas holiday lunch and gift exchange at the Café at Brookwood on December 12th.



Our next meeting will be held Monday, January 11th at Colleen Robert's home, 943 Thornton at 7:00 p.m. Kim Ellis, owner of HABITATS, will be our guest speaker discussing one of our favorite topics: creating a natural wildlife habitat. If you are interested in learning more about native gardens, what host and nectar plants attract wildlife, or what sustainable practices to use in your garden, please join us at our January meeting!

December Yard of the Month

Cindy Wolfram – 4507 Apollo

Cindy's garden is her favorite place! Over the years, her garden has evolved into a pollinator garden where she focuses on plants that feed nature. Her garden is brimming with butterflies, bees, and many other "friends" including caterpillars that become beautiful butterflies. Cindy welcomes neighbors to visit and perhaps take some plants with them to their garden to enhance nature's food chain in our neighborhood.



SAFETY FIRST ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!

If you're planning to enjoy New Year's Eve with a little champagne, please put your safety first by having a designated driver or the phone number of a taxi service or Uber pre-programmed in your cell phone. It's much cheaper to pay for a ride than pay for a DWI.



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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/

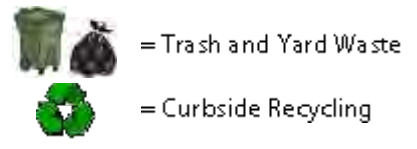
Interactive map (to find information about your City Council district, police department, solid waste schedule)—<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public>

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

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


Important Numbers Police/Fire: 911 City Helpline: 311

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Citizens Patrol 713-683-9945 | Deed Restrictions 713-316-5255 | Plaza Moms 713-775-0307 | New Neighbor/Greeter 713-824-8684 | Garden Club 281-888-6306 |
| Architectural Guidelines 713-316-5255 | Plaza Pulse News 713-628-4210 | SPP Historian 713-681-1552 | Traffic & Safety 713-683-9945 | Constable Dispatch 713-755-7628 |
| SPP Membership 713-683-6502 | City Liaison 713-688-7979 | Pulse Advertising 713-688-0574 or 713-681-3600 | Men's Group 713-683-9945 | HPD 713-884-3131 |

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|----|-----------|---|
| <p>Reminder about Heavy Trash: Our heavy trash pickup is the <u>3rd Thursday</u> of each month. Tree waste is picked up in ODD months, and Junk waste in the EVEN months.</p> | | | | | | JANUARY 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| | |  |  | | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| | Garden Club Meeting |  Plaza Moms Meeting  | | Plaza Moms Ladies Night Out  Men's Group Meeting | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 22 | |
| | MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY | |  | Heavy trash TREE Waste | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| | |  | SPP TRAVELERS TRIP | | | | |
| 31 | FEBRUARY 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| | |  | | | | | |



Durham Elementary is looking for a few good neighbors...
 Tutoring opportunities in Reading and Math for students in grades K-5

Days and times are flexible
 Contact Nicole Planck for more information nplanck@houstonisd.org, 713-613-2527



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December Yards of the Month

Section 1:

1171 Chamboard
Kelly Sebesta

Section 3:

N/A

Section 2:

4719 Clift Haven
Margaret Listenberger

Section 4:

1005 Richelieu
Elizabeth & Kenneth
Kuntz

SPP
Wants to Welcome You

New to the neighborhood?

Even if you are not-so-new, but haven't gotten around to introducing yourself yet, contact **Lynn Myers** at 713-824-8684 or myers.lynn@yahoo.com so we can welcome you officially.



Are You Feelin'
Lucky?

The Durham Elementary PTA is proud to present its 3rd Annual adults-only Casino Night to support Durham Elementary

Friday, February 5th, 2016
SPJST Lodge 88
1435 Beall St. • Houston, TX 77008
6:30 to 11:00 p.m.

EARLY BIRD PRICING THROUGH JANUARY 15th:
\$40/person or \$70/couple*
JANUARY 16TH-FEBRUARY 5th:
\$50/person*

Each ticket includes Dinner, Play Money for Casino Games, and a Silent Auction. *Additional \$40/person to enter the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.

Purchase event and poker tournament tickets online at www.DurhamPTA.org

Interested in being a sponsor? Please contact pta@durhampta.org

Stay tuned for event childcare options. Advanced purchases will be claimed at the door with valid ID.

**NEW
This Year!
Now through
January 15th:
A RESERVED table
plus 6 entrance
tickets for
\$300!**

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN WITH CASH OR CHECK MADE OUT TO "DURHAM PTA".

Online ticket sales at www.durhampta.org

INDIVIDUAL TICKET SALES

___ Tickets at \$40 each
 ___ Sets of 2 tickets at \$70 per set

Total \$ Enclosed: _____

Name or Table Host: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Child's Teacher(s): _____

RESERVE YOUR TABLE FOR 6

___ Tables at \$300 each