

Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club

# The Plaza Pulse

Vol. 27 No. 10 Houston Texas October 2003

Grandest Night of the Season!

AND POSITIVELY

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

BEING FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPP RESIDENTS

COME ONE, COME ALL, TO THE "FALL FLING"

On SATURDAY evening, OCTOBER 18, 2003

at Durham Elementary Cafeteria

4803 Brinkman (at Candlelight)

DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.

DINNER SERVED AT 6:30 P.M.

Catering by Spaghetti Western (Italian!)

Only \$7.00 per person

attire for this event is casual!

*babysitting available*

- ★ Door prizes (50 or more!) to be given away
- ★ Delicious desserts for sale by the SPP Garden Club
- ★ "Safekids" ID kit - sponsored by Plaza Moms
- ★ Citizens Patrol and Constable Patrol information
- ★ Political candidates will be available for casual discussion prior to meeting



*Having been some weeks in preparation, a splendid time is guaranteed for all!*



*August 7, 2007 found these two young beauties celebrating "National Night Out" in the Plaza*

The October 2003 Fall Fling saw one of the biggest turnouts we have ever had for our annual neighborhood meeting

**SPP History Project**  
**Phase II**

# Shepherd Park Plaza Pulse

Informing, Improving,

Promoting, Protecting

Chuck Blesener, Editor

JUNE 1994

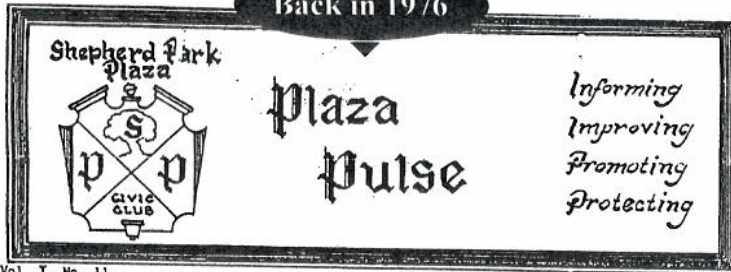
## CRIME REDUCED 77% IN S.P.P. 1994

Crime in Shepherd Park Plaza for the last 12 months has been reduced by 77% below the crime rate for the two years prior to our Citizen's Patrol beginning operation. This is the lowest crime rate recorded for any 12 month period since we began keeping records on our crime statistics.

The Citizens Patrol, the Neighborhood Watch, and the actions of concerned residents is working to make this a safer, more secure neighborhood and has proven to be a tremendous success. The SPP Citizens Patrol has become a model for the entire City.

We have actually had 4 months out of the last 12 where there were no actual crimes reported. Congratulations SPP. Neighbors helping neighbors does indeed work wonders.

Back in 1976



Vol. I, No. 11  
May 1976

## A ROBBERY A DAY IN S.P.P.!

Alarming as that may sound, that's what's happening in our neighborhood: from March 15 - May 1 there were 31 burglaries, 18 C.B.s stolen, and 37 acts of vandalism.

What are we going to do about it?

Faced with this alarming rise in reported crime in our subdivision your Civic Club Board has initiated a review of our current security program and has examined alternatives which would provide a more effective deterrent to crime than we presently have now.

Your Board can't solve this problem alone! YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY.

Yes, it is hard to believe, but back in 1976 our Plaza was over-run by crime. By 1994 the Patrol almost wiped it out!



# Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club The Plaza Pulse

Vol. 27 No. 9 Houston Texas September 2003

Shepherd Park  
Plaza Civic Club  
Board of Directors  
Officers  
President -  
Eileen Hartman  
Vice-President -  
Jimmy Walker  
Secretary -  
Laurie Hardwick  
Treasurer -  
Bill Scheel

Committees &  
Liaisons:  
Membership:  
Polly Wilhelm  
Traffic & Safety:  
Jim Olivenbaum  
Parks/City/DRT/PIP:  
Chuck Blesener  
Deed Restrictions:  
Tommy Whitley  
Architecture:  
Charles Kubin  
Historian:  
Dorothy Lofton  
Hospitality:  
Betty Montague  
The Plaza Pulse:  
Mike Bratcher  
Publicity/Advertising:  
Billy Hartman  
Citizens Patrol:  
Diane Olivenbaum  
Deputy Constable:  
Bill Scheel  
Plaza Moms:  
Audrey Lokker  
Garden Club:  
Cindy Wolfram

Section  
Representatives  
Section 1:  
Monique Krause  
Section 2:  
Monica Krause  
Section 3:  
Mike/Anna Mateja  
Section 4:  
Ryan/Kathy Moroney

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## S.M.A.R.T. Comes to SPP

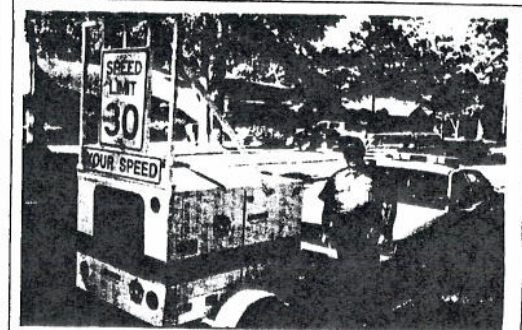
SPP was selected as one of the sites for a test of the new "S.M.A.R.T." - Speed Monitoring Awareness Traller. The trailer is currently a demo being loaned to the Precinct One Constable's department for a short test period. The trailer is a completely self-contained radar unit that monitors the speed of approaching vehicles and displays the driver's speed in brightly illuminated numbers. The radar monitoring is constant and the speed display changes along with the speed of the approaching vehicle. When the vehicle exceeds the posted speed limit, the display turns to red and starts flashing making it apparent that the driver is speeding.

Officers have the ability to change the posted speed limit sign and the speed at which the flashing red display is activated. Everything is powered by solar batteries and it even comes with its own anti-theft alarm.

Is it a real neat toy or does it actually work? The first test in SPP was on Chamboard during the afternoon rush hour. When speeders saw the flashing red lights with their speed displayed, they immediately backed down to or below the posted speed limit. It really does have a beneficial effect on drivers.

Besides, you never know when an officer is waiting down the street. The S.M.A.R.T. unit has been tested in several other locations in SPP with the same benefit.

As stated above, the unit is being tested on a short trial basis. If there is enough support for this type of device, the Constable's office can ask that it be placed in the budget. We can then request that it be placed in SPP from time to time. Our neighborhood has a high number of cut-through drivers and anything we can do to slow these folks down is a plus for our safety.



It's "S.M.A.R.T." to drive safely and obey the speed limit. Our Constable Deputy Victor Torres with the test unit.

If you would like to see the Constable's office acquire a S.M.A.R.T. unit or if you have a suggestion for a location, please email Captain Calvin Harvey at: [Calvin\\_Harvey@ltc.co.harris.tx.us](mailto:Calvin_Harvey@ltc.co.harris.tx.us)

or send a letter to:  
Capt. Calvin Harvey, 7300 N. Shepherd  
#120, Houston TX 77091.

-story and photo by Bill Scheel

In 2003 speeders were cutting through the Plaza so our Deputy Constable brought in a little surprise for them.



Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club  
**The Plaza Pulse**

Vol. 24 No. 8 Houston Texas August 2000

**Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club Board of Directors**

- Officers**  
 President - Dave Devine  
 Vice-President - Bill French  
 Secretary - Kristin Poe  
 Treasurer - Bill Scheel
- Committees**  
 Membership: Steve Rundell  
 Traffic & Safety: Jim Olivenbaum  
 Parks/City Liaison: Chuck Blesener  
 Deed Restrictions: Tommy Whitley  
 Architecture: Charles Kubin  
 Historian: Dorothy Lofton  
 Hospitality: Eileen Hartman  
 The Plaza Pulse: August Galiano  
 Publicity/Advertising: Allene Hartman  
 Citizens Patrol: Diane Olivenbaum  
 Plaza Moms: Susan Gibbons  
 Garden Club: Monica Krause
- Representatives**  
 Section 1: Cindi Phelps  
 Section 2: Monica Krause  
 Section 3: Karen Key  
 Section 4: Mike/Connie Clark

**Pat Kubin: "Constables, Dignitaries to Parade in Plaza" National Night Out Tuesday, August 1 in SPP**

National Night Out, Tuesday August 1 from 6 pm to 9 pm, is a wonderful opportunity for each Shepherd Park Plaza family to plan a block party, so you can meet your neighbors, new and old!

The SPP Citizens Patrol Parade will start at 7 pm led by city officials and law enforcement officers who have been invited to join us for this special night along with an area fire truck and our new

constable Kelly Bates. If you have a vintage car, or just want to show your support of the patrol, plan on joining our parade. Here's a chance for you to Join your neighbors right in front of your house and cheer for our loyal patrollers. Neighbors have been asked to talk about plans for the annual Christmas Decorating Contest during the National Night Out block parties. Get a jump on the

*Continued on Page 5*



**Babes on Broadway Plaza Moms Invade New York's "Big Apple"**

Plaza Mom's took on New York City in June. Fifteen moms (including a few "recruits") had a wonderful time doing the "Big Apple." It will never be the same! Shown above are SPP members of Plaza Moms: Cassie Opila, Eileen Hartman, Cheryl Barta (transplant), Dee Davis, Polly Wilhelm, Kathy Moroney, Diane Zuccarini, Cristy Gavlick, Pam Rogers and Connie Clark. An annual trip to various destinations was discussed at a recent meeting and approved unanimously!

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Bicentennial Year 2000 sees Eileen Hartman and the Plaza Moms on a junket to the Big Apple

**Shepherd Park Plaza Pulse**

Informing, Improving, Promoting, Protecting

Rhonda Rhodes, editor

January/February 1997

**SPP Extends Warm Welcome to DRT Officers**

Although the local Differential Response Team ("DRT") office has yet to open, on November 2 two DRT officers began working in our neighborhood. We extend a warm welcome to Officer Bert Jandal and his wife, Officer Lisa Jandal.

As you may remember, we have been awaiting the opening of an office (similar in many, but not all respects, to a "storefront" operation) on 43<sup>rd</sup> St., which will be the base for the DRT officers. We continue to have our normal police patrols; the DRT officers are in addition to these patrols. The DRT officers will get to know the neighborhood well (as well as the other neighborhoods in their "beat"), and help solve problems such as abandoned cars, local scams, areas with high incidences of burglaries, etc., relying in part on their knowledge of the key

roles many government agencies and services can play in eradicating such problems.

Officer Lisa Jandal is due in June with their first baby, and so now is manning the DRT desk at the North Station on W. Montgomery. Officer Bert Jandal is out patrolling our streets; his car looks just like the regular police patrol cars. There is a possibility that a substitute patroller may be assigned to ride with him in his wife's place until after the baby is born.



If you know of a problem with which you think the DRT can assist, please call 405-5466. The DRT hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; these hours may be adjusted in the future according to neighborhood needs. When no one is manning the DRT desk, please leave a message on the voice mail.

**Security Alert...Security Alert...Security Alert...Security Alert...Security**

Prior to recent thefts in the neighborhood, residents reported seeing strangers going door to door. In one case, the strangers were soliciting money for a drug rehabilitation center in the Heights. Another resident reported someone ringing door bells of only homes where there was apparently no one at home. It appeared to him that the houses were being cased to determine the pattern of when the residents were not home.

Any door-to-door solicitor must have a permit and a photo identification issued by the city. If you see something that seems out of the ordinary, please act to protect our neighborhood. Make note of any suspicious activity. A description of clothing, vehicle, and license number would help. Report your observations first to HPD at 222-3131, then also to the Citizens Patrol Help Line at 682-5959.

**Security Alert...Security Alert...Security Alert...Security Alert...Security**

By 1997 we not only had the Citizens Patrol but the City of Houston added the W.43rd HPD Store Front too.

# Shepherd Park Plaza Pulse

Informing, Improving, Promoting, Protecting

Vol. 21, No. 6 - September 1997

**Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

President - Kurt Nondorf  
 Vice-President - Bill French  
 Secretary - Pat Kubin  
 Treasurer - Lillian Leeds

**Committees:**

Membership: Diane Olivenbaum  
 Deed Restrictions: Ray Vitulli  
 Architecture: Charles Kubin  
 Parks/City Liaison: Billie Wheat  
 Traffic & Safety: Jim Olivenbaum  
 Citizens Patrol: Tony Zuccarini  
 Historian: Dorothy Lofton  
 Publicity: Susan Bunosky  
 Plaza Pulse: August Galliano

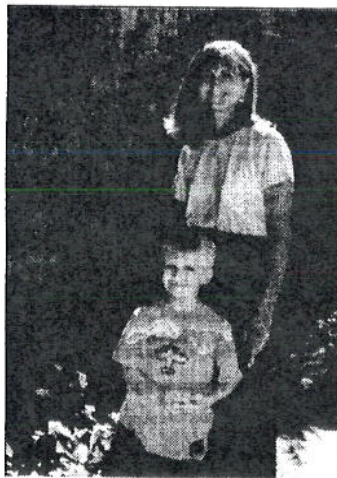
**Representatives**

Section 1: Cristy Gavlick  
 Section 2: Monica Krause  
 Section 3: Phil Lee  
 Section 4: Mary Anne Simon

Garden Club  
 Addie Smith  
 Plaza Moms  
 Lillian Leeds

## Plaza Mom Brings Home the Bacon Durham School Wins Houston Beautiful Award

Mylie E. Durham Elementary School in Shepherd Park Plaza has won one of the awards in the "Keep Houston Beautiful: Proud Partners" competition. The project was led by Marlene Nondorf a Durham parent and SPP resident who saw the need for a more attractive school exterior.



Marlene Nondorf and son Daniel at the entrance to Durham Elementary.

Sponsored by Keep Houston Beautiful, the competition recognized projects completed during the past year that

*"The Durham PTA endorsed her dream by naming her... Chairman..."*

enhance the image of cleanliness and beauty of Houston. It was open to all community organizations, including Houston schools. Rhonda Rhodes submitted the proposal on behalf of Durham and spelled out in detail Nondorf's vision and efforts: "The Durham PTA endorsed her dream by naming her Beautification Chairman and supporting the endeavor every step of the way. Principal Virgil Fisher's enthusiasm was evidenced by his involvement in many aspects of the project."

The project also had support and help from SPP residents and these businesses: Bartlett Tree Service, Grochett's Lawn Care, Another Place in Time, San Jacinto Stone, Lesco, Domino's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Aztec Rental Center, Houston

Garden Center, Home Depot, and Kroger. Additional phases of the beautification project are now underway. □

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**BULLETIN:** We've just been notified that the City will distribute recycling bins in Sec. I & II September 18. See next Pulse for details.

Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club

# The Plaza Pulse

Informing, Improving, Promoting, Protecting

Vol. 22, No. 10 - October 1998

**Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club Board of Directors**

**Officers**

President - Bill French  
 Vice-President - Dave Devine  
 Secretary - Kristin Poe

Treasurer - Bill Scheel

**Committees**

Membership: Steve Rundell  
 Traffic & Safety: Jim Olivenbaum  
 Parks/City Liaison: Ailene Hartman  
 Deed Restrictions: Tommy Whitley  
 Architecture: Charles Kubin  
 Historian: Dorothy Lofton  
 Hospitality: Ladell Freudenberg

Plaza Pulse: August Galliano

Ad/Publicity/Coord.: John Davis

Citizens Patrol: Tony Zuccarini

Plaza Moms: Linda Kelly  
 Garden Club: Monica Krause

**Representatives**

Section 1: Cristy / Bob Gavlick  
 Section 2: Monica Krause  
 Section 3: Phil Lee  
 Section 4: Bill Bijack

## by Kristin Poe Chantilly Welcomes New Neighbors

The night of August 31st Paula Brady hosted a coffee/dessert party for neighbors on her block. The purpose was to welcome five new residents to the neighborhood.

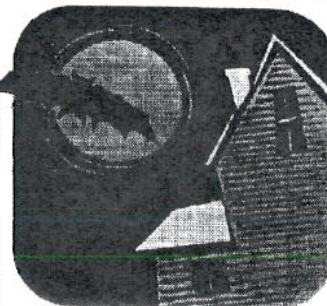
A few long-time residents on the block were unable to attend, but those folks at the party shared information about themselves such as the number of years in the neighborhood, number of children and information about their careers. Paula served her marvelous coconut cake, German chocolate cake and brownies.

A map of the street showing residents names, phone numbers and addresses was distributed and Paula prepared a beautiful begonia plant for a door prize. Betty and Clyde Riddle won the door prize, but all those in attendance were winners of the great gift of friendship.

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## Martin and Muench Win Academic Awards

Shepherd Park Plaza residents Emily Martin and Jessica Muench have earned awards for outstanding academic achievement at St. Rose of Lima School. Both girls were 5th graders at the time of the awards and are now enrolled at Seton Junior High. Emily is 11 years old and attended St. Rose since kindergarten. She is the daughter of Pat and Diana Martin on Curtin. Jessica is the daughter of Gayle and Fran Muench on Candlelight; She is also 11 years old and attended St. Rose for 3 years.



*October is the month of cooler weather (we hope) and Halloween. Let's all help those little goblins have fun this year. Candy is cheap, the joy of a child is beyond price.*

## Rip Roaring Good Time Council Member Tatro at Membership Meeting

You are receiving your newsletter a little late this month so that we can report to you on the fall membership meeting at Durham School Saturday, September 19.

What was on the agenda? A lot! First of all we had a change of pace in the food

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Later in 1997 a Plaza Mom, Marlene Nondorf, brought distinction to the Plaza with her work at Durham School.

In 1998 Paula Brady hosted a special party for New Neighbors on her block and served coffee and dessert.