

CANDLEGRAM

a sometime publication of the Candlelight Plaza Civic Club



CHRISTMAS ARCHES

Christmas in August!?!? While we all long for the cool, crisp fall weather, now is the time to get your orders in for your holiday arch!

Neighborhood arches in Shepherd Park Plaza have been a holiday highlight dating back to 1968 and has caught the attention of KHOU 11, *Houstonia Magazine*, and online at TexasHillCountry. It has only been in recent years that Candlelight Plaza has started in with the arches as well. If you don't have an arch yet, now is the time to order and Arch Kit.

The arch kit includes all you need to set up your arch (arch, nuts and bolts, ground stakes, lights, tie-down wire). Garland and other decorations are not included (as certain streets and cul-de-sacs have their own themes every year). Arches are typically shared with neighbors across the street.

For arch orders or more information, please contact Corley and Elissa Walters at ArchesofSPP@gmail.com
Orders now until August 31: \$190
September 1 - October 31: \$225
Lastly, a HUGE thanks to Kevin Schiffer for all of his work with the arches over the last few years! His support and transfer of the tools, experience and tricks to Corley has been invaluable. We have already built and delivered all orders placed thus far and look forward to many more! Let's continue this long standing tradition of joy and cheer!



CRIME ADVISORY

NextDoor advises that recent scammers are targeting our elderly neighbors. Claiming to be from AT&T or other reputable company, they ask to come in and check out the home equipment. Please alert your neighbors to this danger and reiterate: **Do not let anyone into your home whom you are not expecting.**

When my neighbor needed three hard-to-reach light bulbs replaced, she called an electrician advertising in *the Leader*. Although she told the electrician over the phone exactly what type of bulbs she needed, he arrived empty-handed, then charged her for his shopping/travel time (at \$100/hour). The bill to change three light bulbs was over \$200.

SEWER LINE UPGRADES

When residents were curious about the natural gas lines that were flagged on Bethlehem, they discovered the City is replacing all sewage lines in the neighborhood (and the gas lines run along with the sewage lines.)

The project manager, a Mr. Lara, said the 'gray' water lines (aka sanitary sewer lines) will be upgraded from 6" clay pipes to 8" poly-something or other. Pipe bursting will be utilized for the smaller pipes and the larger pipes will be cured-in-place.

Below is a (poor) reproduction of what our neighborhood sewage system looks like and where the work will be:



It looks like most everyone will end up with a hole in their yard as existing lines have to reconnect with the new main lines.

Danny Cannon and Paul Witkowski



ZOOMING LIKE A PRO

You probably have been asked to be on a zoom call, either for personal or professional reasons. You can passively watch events via zoom by muting your audio and not turning on your camera so no one knows you are lounging on the couch in your pajamas.

There are, however, situations that require active participation and you will have to turn on your camera and audio

In his book *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct*, P.M. Forni writes, "Behind the attention to our grooming are the goals of appearing at our best on the stage of everyday life."

When using zoom, your stage is a small screen that is being viewed by people who are developing perceptions of you based on your facial expressions, posture, attire, setting, tone of voice, eye contact, and words. You might consider the following tips when you want the person viewing your performance to think well of you.

1. Come to the meeting "looking your best on the virtual stage" meaning comb your hair and make sure what you are wearing is appropriate. Minimal makeup for women allows you to look more polished.

2. Make sure your background is simple and has no distractions such as fans or dirty clothes.

3. Find a location with good lighting that is flattering to you and shows your face. When you are in front of a window you are backlit. You might consider a soft light in front of you.

4. Adjust your camera so the lens is at eye level and that your face is framed. Consider using an external microphone and

small earbuds as the sound is better.

5. Take a deep breath and smile before you turn on your camera so the first thing the other person sees is you with a smile on your face.

6. Engage and pay attention if you are a part of a group. Avoid distracting gestures such as playing with your hair or yawning or leaning back in your chair. Have good posture and a smile on your face.

7. The more you use zoom the more confident you will become with the technology.

Randi Mays-Knapp
Certified Etiquette & Leadership Coach

Restrict & Griev..... Susan Fitzpatrick
Social Danny Cannon
Historian Susan Fitzpatrick

DUES UPDATE

Good afternoon! Through July 28, 64% of households have paid dues and 53% have contributed to the Constable program.

This week, a 3rd invoice was delivered to the 100 houses that we have not yet received payment.

We received 60 payments subsequent to the 2nd invoice that was delivered in May, so hopefully we'll have good luck with the 3rd invoice as well.

Mike Harryman

2020 CIVIC CLUB VOLUNTEERS

PresidentCyndi Moore
First VP.....Candace Helstrom
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TreasurerMike Harryman
SecretaryPaige Ochterbeck
Area ITaylor Schleier
Paul Witkowski
Area IIAndrew Johnson
Heather Hanrahan
Area III.....Craig Taylor
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Area IVLorraine Cole
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Holiday.....Heidi Skiff
SecurityAshley Kelley
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Publicity II (Candlegram)Suzannah Mays

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Hello, my name is Ally and I work really well with dogs and cats and love being around them.

you can contact me at:
adcole10132@gmail.com
or
281-635-8567



Alexandria Cole, niece of Candlelight Plaza residents Lorraine Cole, is a freshman at Michael E. Debakey High School for Health Professions. She recently completed middle school at T.H. Rogers. She loves drawing, reading, playing video games, and pet sitting! References can be provided from several satisfied neighbors!

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NEW NEIGHBOR PROFILE
BRAD AND DAISY MILLER



Brad and Daisy Miller recently moved to Candlelight Plaza from a two-story townhome in Washington Heights. Brad and Daisy have been married 2½ years (they met on match.com) and have a 17-month old son, Jack. Daisy says, "Jack is at that age when he is happy go lucky; he laughs at his own burps and toots, just like his dad."

A native Houstonian, Daisy is originally from the Meyerland area. She attended Tulane for undergrad, U.T. for Law school, and taught high school math for twelve years. She has run six half marathons although none in the last two years as her focus has been directed toward Jack.

Brad is a transplant from Baton Rouge. He became a Houstonian twelve years ago when he was transferred here for work. Brad attended LSU and is in Business Development for Quanta Oil and Gas Services. He is an avid fisherman (both salt and fresh water though he prefers salt) and likes to fish in South Louisiana for trout, redbfish and red snapper. He occasionally goes out for tuna and mahi.

Daisy and Brad enjoy attending sporting events, especially LSU football and baseball. They are sports fans of the Texans, Astros and Rockets and their No. 1 team above all else is LSU (except when the Tigers play Tulane or Texas). As she stays at home with Jack, Daisy continues to tutor all levels of high school math in the evenings. "We are excited to be here and to be a part of the neighborhood. We are looking forward to the holiday events."

DURHAM ELEMENTARY



Hello Families!! I am excited to share the names of new teachers who are joining our fabulous Durham Family.

Please welcome: Ms. Gonzalez (k), Ms. Jimenez (1st), Ms. Akhtar (2nd), Mr. Medina (3rd), Mr. Hampton (4th), Ms. Yang (4th), Mr. McIntosh (5th).

At the time of this writing, planning is in the works for some great lessons, exciting TEAMS meetings, and small group instruction. A community meeting will be held soon to share the plan.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! Be safe,

Principal Flores



We are currently looking for volunteers to be officers for the 2020-2021 year starting in August. Positions available are Special Events, Treasurer, Membership, and Hospitality. For more information, e-mail plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com and we will reply with detailed descriptions of each position and time commitment. We would love your help in any way big or small.

Annual Kick-Off Party!
August 21, 2020 8 p.m.

Back to School and the start of the Plaza Moms year is looking a little different for everyone this year! We want to start the year cautious, hopeful, and positive, and are so thankful for our strong community that can support each other throughout this tough time.

For the Plaza Moms annual kick-off party this year, we are exploring options for an outdoor Happy Hour for those who wish to come. We will send final plans via Facebook and e-mail.

For now, all events this year will be evaluated month-to-month. Please continue to check back for updates!

We will hopefully have many reasons to have volunteers this year! Please e-mail plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for an officer position, one-time, or however you wish, it is a huge help! *Thank you!!*



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YARD OF THE MONTH



Area IV 959 Del Norte

Quick Statistics (14 Listings Total)

	Min	Max	Average	Median
List Price	\$410,000	\$675,000	\$532,279	\$532,000
Sold Price	\$425,000	\$640,000	\$545,418	\$572,000
Adj. Sold Price	\$415,000	\$640,000	\$542,473	\$562,000
LP/SF	\$195.20	\$287.11	\$235.83	\$228.49
SP/SF	\$183.00	\$276.09	\$234.92	\$228.48
Adj. SP/SF	\$183.00	\$276.09	\$233.57	\$222.22

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
reminder: no parking on cul-de-sacs on Trash days						1
2	3	4 Trash & Recycling	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Trash Pickup	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Trash & Recycling	19	20 Heavy Trash Pickup (3rd Thurs/mo)	21 Plaza Moms Kickoff	22
23	24	25 Trash Pickup	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 Trash & Recycling	2	3	4	5

REAL ESTATE 411

The real estate market in Candlelight Plaza is booming! Covid 19 has made many folks realize that they would like more space (either for a home office, a 4th bedroom, or a larger backyard). Another contributing factor for the boom is mortgage rates, which are at all-time lows. Inventory is relatively low with only two homes currently active on the market (as of 7/28/2020) and one home pending.

Compared to the first 6 months of 2019, homes are selling faster and at higher prices in 2020. There have been 11 homes that have sold in the last 6 months (January-June 2020) at an average closed price of \$545K which is a 5.4% increase over 2019's average sales price of \$517K.

Homes are also selling faster in the same time period which is reflected in the average number of days on market (DOM) decreasing from 53 in 2019 to 33 in 2020.

See adjacent chart for a quick snapshot of sales data for the first 6 months of 2020 (Jan 1st – June 30).

Bottom line? Candlelight Plaza is in high demand! If there's any advice I would tell our residents, professionally speaking, it would be to always consult a licensed Real Estate professional before considering selling your home. Personally speaking, as your president, get out and meet your new neighbors! With a mask and socially distanced of course! I simply can't wait until the day when we can all get together again as a community.

Cyndi Moore