

# CANDLEGRAM



a publication of the Candlelight Plaza Civic Club



## TRICK OR TREATING IN SCARY COVID TIMES

To trick or not to treat? That is the question. Masks are already a part of everyday life but Halloween and its associated masks are up in the air, as is Covid 19.

Although Halloween has long been a holiday favorite in Candlelight Plaza, it is not nor has it ever been a Board sponsored event. The Civic Club does, however, promote safety, diligence and caution for the evening.

During this year's annual haunting, feel free to participate (according to your comfort level) or not (turn your porch light off).

If you know of guests who choose to come into the neighborhood for treats, encourage them to refrain from parking on Lehman or Bethlehem, both of which have seen heavy pedestrian activity in the past. Remember: Pedestrian rules of the road still apply: don't walk in the middle of the street! Be mindful.

## VIRTUAL ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF



The Civic Club Board is proposing a virtual Annual Chili Cook Off and General Meeting for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Residents can prepare their favorite chili, and enjoy it simultaneously and virtually with other neighbors eating chili, all via ZOOM.

A General Meeting will also be held to keep in touch with our wonderful residents. Annual elections for Board positions and Committee appointments are around the corner. This is the time to throw your hat into the ring if you are interested in any position. If you don't let one of the current volunteers know of your talents and interests, we probably won't be coming knocking on your door... because we won't know! Still, there is no guarantee they won't come knocking on your door! Just think: The *CandleGram* can be yours!

## NEW VOLUNTEERS

Area III has two new Directors:

**DOUG PAYNE & SEAN MARSHALL.**

These two brilliant volunteers will deliver hot editions of the *Candlegram* to Area III residents as well as liaison with the Board.

*Thank you Doug and Sean.*

Sean's wife, **REBECCA MARSHALL**, has been Chairman of the Improvements and Beautification Committee since the beginning of this year. You may have passed by them diligently weeding our main entrance.

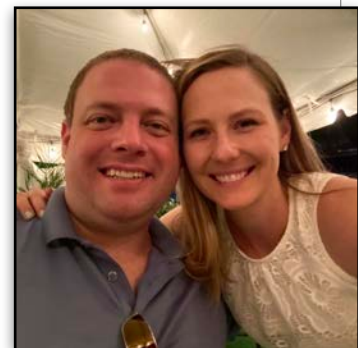


Rebecca & Sean Marshall

The **Security Committee** is in need of a Chair. 1st VP **CANDACE HELSTROM** will step into the position temporarily until a willing and able resident emerges from the shadows. The position will receive emails from the Constable regarding issues and safety in the neighborhood.

In addition to maintaining the CPCC website, **CHRIS OCHTERBECK** has eagerly become Chair of the Community Partnership committee. He will attend bi-monthly Super Neighborhood meetings, and will be our Civic Club voice and advocate.

Chris' wife, **PAIGE OCHTERBECK** has been the Civic Club Secretary for two years.



Chris & Paige Ochterbeck

*Thank you to the volunteers who give their time, talents and spark!*

## DUES UPDATE

59% of households in Candlelight Plaza are currently contributing to the Constable Program. We have 90% of the funds needed to pay for our annual contract. The Civic Club needs 18 more households to participate in in order to break even.

71% of households have paid dues, for a total of 217 homes out of 307. There are currently 90 unpaid addresses, which includes 40 homes who also did not pay last year. 20 of those 40 homes have not paid dues for the past 5 years.

If you are unsure whether or not you have contributed for 2020, contact Civic Club Treasurer.

mike.e.harryman@p66.com.

*Mike Harryman*

## HOMESTEADER PROFILE

### JOE AND TINY ALBERT



Joe and Tiny Albert are original residents of Candlelight Plaza. Tiny reports:

I wanted to tell the Civic Club that on June 30, my 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, my daughter Lara and I repainted my metal bench a pretty green color. When I got up the next morning, the first thing I did was go look at my new painted bench. It was gone. Stolen that night. I hope the robbers got covered with paint.

Joe and I celebrated our 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary August 6<sup>th</sup>. Keep up the good work. I sure miss every body. I miss Civic Club. Love you all.

*Tiny Albert*

## CRIME REPORT: WASHER AND DRYER THEFTS

Two incidents of washer and dryer thefts have been reported in the subdivision. In both instances, the homes were temporarily vacant. Be diligent about unoccupied homes. Alert the Constable that the house will be unoccupied. The "Vacation Watch" is one of the top perks of being a supporter of the Constable Program.

Also, please call the Constables if you notice anything suspicious. At our February General Meeting, the constable said, "If it makes you uncomfortable, it makes us uncomfortable. Call us."

Not too long ago, I was walking on Bethlehem, not too far from the home of my friend, Susan Fitzpatrick. Suddenly a late model SUV zoomed onto Bethlehem from Brinkman. The vehicle had a few large dents and a plastic liner covered a back panel where there should have been auto glass. The paper license tag was probably a specialty handicapped tag, as the two males inside the vehicle were obviously deaf judging by the volume and intensity of the music pulsing from their radio.

I wish I had had my phone so I could call the Constable. Through traffic from Brinkman should be discouraged. There are many small and large children on bicycles riding on our streets.

## GO GREEN

Would you like to plant a one year old oak tree? Last year I harvested rooted acorns from the large live oak in my front yard with the hope that they could be planted to commemorate our second World Series championship. It turns out we can commemorate the 2020 lock down. If you would like one or two of these baby beauties, email o.suzannah@mac.com. They are in one and five gallon nursery pots.

GO GREEN

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Plaza Moms may look a little different from prior years, but we are working hard to plan some fun and safe events including a virtual "hangout" this month! We appreciate your ongoing support of this great neighborhood organization, especially in these challenging times.

We are so excited for a new season & our officer team is working on fun & creative ways for us to stay connected during this time. Continue to check our Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Reminder, your 2020-21 Plaza Moms Club dues are due! Check your inbox for an email with your invoice to pay online.

Pay your dues by September 15th & be entered to win one of three great items from some great local businesses including Marchese's Kitchen, GloGirl Spray Tanning & Brush & Bobby. Check the Plaza Moms Facebook page for details & the winner announcements.

Thank you!

**NEW OFFICERS**

President: Kelly Laning

Treasurer: Brandy Pratt

Membership: Victoria McDonough

Sponsorship: Katie Whittington

Hospitality: Amy Poerschke

Special Events Coordinators:

Kate Riley & Meagan Lakin

If you would like to be a member but do not have paypal, email [plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com](mailto:plaza.moms.houston@gmail.com).



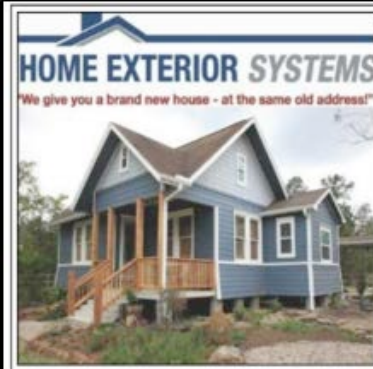
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I am thankful to be part of this neighborhood and would welcome the opportunity to help with your home improvement project.

For a free estimate, call Caleb 281-797-8367

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**DURHAM ELEMENTARY**

Hello Neighbors! While you may not be seeing the usual hustle and bustle on the school grounds, you can be sure it is happening in the safety of our homes.

Virtual learning is underway at Durham. It has not been without hiccups (as expected), but teachers and staff have been working incredibly hard to meet the needs of our students while also fulfilling Houston ISD and Texas Education Agency requirements. Not an easy task, but our educators have risen to the challenge. Virtual learning has offered an opportunity to witness and appreciate their passion and efforts more than ever. Virtual high-five to all of them!

Like everyone else, the PTA is practicing flexibility and creativity as

we determine how to continue to support teachers, students and families. There's one thing that will never change - our desire to HAVE FUN while raising funds to support other PTA activities and initiatives.



As such...we would like to invite you to our annual adults-only gala - a virtual "Maskerade" - on October 23. Please be on the lookout for more details! We would love to have you join us!

Follow the PTA on Facebook to stay up to date on school news and activities:

@DurhamElementarySchoolPTA

*Principal Flores*

**POLITICAL SIGNAGE**

The political landscape is heating up, and while Candlelight Plaza residents have the lawful right to post political signage in their yards, the practice is in violation of our Deed Restrictions.

Our neighborhood is neat and tidy, for the most part, and residents take pride in maintaining their homestead. Homeowners are made aware of Deed Restrictions when they purchase a home here, and by abiding by the restrictions, they are "good neighbors" and are showing respect for their fellow neighbors.

Please be respectful and maintain the atmosphere for which we aspire.





# GOT BOO?

CP resident **Sylvia Virgadama**, reports that her company, Sign Gypsies, will run its annual BOO campaign, with a portion of the proceeds going towards the Constable program.

Sign Gypsies will place a BOO greeting in a recipient's yard after dark and will come back to move it to the next location the following night. Each greeting will include a goody bag and a note that they have been BOO'D!

The greeting is \$35 and \$10 of each sale goes to the Constable Program. The BOO! campaign runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 30th.

To boo-k a date, go to  
<https://sign-gypsies-nw-houston.square.site/>  
[www.signgypsies.com](http://www.signgypsies.com)



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

OCTOBER 6, 2020

Social distancing was observed when the Civic Club Board convened recently on the beautiful lawn of the Helstrom home. National Night Out was discussed and it was hoped that, weather permitting, neighbors would be able to mask up, come together, responsibly, and enjoy a lovely evening outdoors.

Subsequent to that hope, Mayor Turner announced that Law enforcement would not be participating in any in-person events, nor would the City generally.

The Office of Abbie Kamin, our Council Member for District C, responded to our participation inquiry with, “The City of Houston does not believe it is wise to hold an in-person event due to the state of COVID-19 and will be encouraging virtual events..I know we all look forward to coming together for NNO; it’s personally one of my favorite nights of the year, but I appreciate that each of you continues to put the safety of our community first.” Our hope now is to Zoom, Zoom Zoom!

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2020

**reminder: no parking on cul-de-sacs on Trash days**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20	21	22 <b>Trash Pickup</b>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 <b>Trash &amp; Recycling</b>	30	1	2	3
4	5	6 <b>Trash Pickup</b> <b>National Night Out</b>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Trash &amp; Recycling</b>	14	15 <b>Large Trash Pickup</b>	16	17
18	19	20 <b>Trash Pickup</b>	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 <b>Trash &amp; Recycling</b>	28	29	30	31

CONSTABLE DISPATCH (713) 755-7628

EMERGENCY 911 | NON-HPD EMERGENCY (713) 884-3131 | CITY OF HOUSTON 311