

March 2022

# CANDLEGRAM

## The Late Edition

### Spring Time is Green Thumb Time

**DID YOU KNOW**, in 1985, over 30 years ago, Candlelight Plaza Civic Club was presented with the City of Houston's Landscaping Award! Such an honor and most of our residents still strive for that acknowledgement. It shows in all the hard work and persistence that are shown as our residents continue to keep up with their yards and gardens. After these past few weeks of freezes, it seems we will once again be starting over. Don't despair. Most of our plants will return just as they did after our abysmal 2021 freeze. So far we have been fortunate in that the freezes did not last long. The dead leaves and branches you are seeing on the surface can be trimmed back once all danger of another freeze is gone. It will take time and patience waiting for new growth to appear, but it will happen. Spring is only weeks away.

Over the next few months, I hope to bring you some gardening tips which may help in adding beauty to your landscape. As current president of the SPP Garden Club, I have learned from others as to what we can do to encourage better looking yards. Right now, with so much dead foliage in my yard, it is hard to appreciate what may be hiding under those brown leaves. I know what is hiding in my front yard – **gophers or moles**. They have dug tunnels large enough for a Tonka truck to traverse. Hopefully, I can contain them to my yard as I certainly do not wish to share my "good fortune" with my neighbors. Today I had the yard treated and will continue until these rascals bid farewell.

Recently, it was announced that the SPP Garden Club had invited all interested Candlelight Plaza residents to join the Club. A few of you have come to our meetings. If you are interested in learning more about gardening, we would like to share what we know with you. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, September through May. Our programs consist of a variety of subjects. In the past we have learned about an assortment of topics including the caring of bees, hydroponic growing, bonsais, ferns, caring for roses, and flower arranging. We have traveled to Brookwood to purchase poinsettias, to a natural wildlife habitat in

Oak Forest, to Peckerwood Gardens in Hempstead, and to farmers markets. There is a variety of events in which to participate. Email me if you are interested: [susanfitz1@att.net](mailto:susanfitz1@att.net).



**Plant Sale!**

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
4507 Apollo  
8am-12pm**

# Pancake Breakfast 2.0

Well, this looks familiar, doesn't it? weather and health kept us apart last time, but this time it's a date!

Starting 2022 on a high will be a piece of pancake with the annual Candlelight Plaza Pancake Breakfast! Come out to join your neighbors and Civic Club on April 30th at 9:30 am for yummy pancakes, bacon, and a cup of coffee. Hop on your bike, put the kids in the stroller, or walk down to the corner of Bethlehem Street and Alba. We will have plates of Pancakes available for pick up and will start the official meeting at 10 am.

While enjoying breakfast we will also hold our first Civic Club Meeting of the year. Not only will you be able to enjoy a chance to mix and mingle with your neighbors and the board members, but you will also get to discuss what happened in 2021 and what is upcoming in 2022. Constable and Civic Club Dues, Social Events, and Beautification will be some of the exciting topics discussed. Come to find out more about the Candlelight Carnival to be held this summer, Cornhole Tournament this spring, National Neighbors Night Out, and, of course, how to take home the gold in the Chili Cookoff this Fall. 2021 was a great year of events and fundraising, we can't wait to make 2022 even better! Want to make sure you are paid up for the Civic Dues and help keep our Constable Program? Great! You can knock that off your to-do list and keep your resolution to get things done. There will be a drop-box for the Dues and Constable Program so you don't need to worry about scrambling to drop off a check with our treasurer or tracking down the Paypal account later in the year. Have something you want to discuss with the neighborhood to improve or change? Great! we can't wait to hear from you as well!

We can't wait to see you at the corner of Bethlehem Street and Alba at 9:30 am on April 30th!

# CP Board

## Candlelight Plaza Board

President Candace Helstrom  
 First VP Cyndi Moore  
 Second VP Dorothy Vetrano  
 Treasurer Sean Marshall  
 Secretary Daisy Miller

## Area Directors

Area I Jordan McDonough  
 Paul Witkowski  
 Area II Nikki Holcombe  
 Heather Hanrahan  
 Area III Sean Marshall  
 Doug Payne  
 Area IV Shana Gerosa  
 Bob Alban

## Committee Chairs

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 Security Will Cook  
 Greeting Kal Massad  
 Improve & Rebecca Marshall  
 Beautification  
 Membership Mike Harryman  
 Publicity Bradley Cayce  
 Restrictions & Grievance Susan Fitzpatrick  
 Social Danny Cannon  
 Jessi Cayce  
 Meg Randall  
 Historian Susan Fitzpatrick

A new year and a new call for donations, dues, and constable contributions. So far Candlelight is well on the way to making our 2022 quotas, but we are not there yet! If you haven't done so already please take a moment to scan the paypal QR code on the back page and pay your dues today. Or bring a check to the Pancake breakfast and hang out with your neighbors as an added bonus! Keep an eye out for the donation meter in the Candlegram and around the neighborhood for updates on our Contestable Program funding!

| Area         | Total Households | Dues Paid  | Constable Program Paid | Dues Payment Rate (Of Total Households) | Constable Program Participation Rate (Of Households Paid) |  | Dues Payments     | Constable Payments | Additional Donations | Total Payments     | PayPal Fees    |
|--------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|              |                  |            |                        |   |   |  |                   |                    |                      |                    |                |
| Area 1       | 71               | 26         | 18                     | 36.6%                                   | 69.2%   |  | \$1,300.00        | \$5,324.50         | \$212.25             | \$6,836.75         | \$0.00         |
| Area 2       | 79               | 29         | 25                     | 36.7%                                   | 86.2%   |  | \$1,450.00        | \$7,150.00         | \$350.00             | \$8,950.00         | \$2.00         |
| Area 3       | 77               | 26         | 23                     | 33.8%                                   | 88.5%   |  | \$1,300.00        | \$6,462.07         | \$1.75               | \$7,763.82         | \$32.11        |
| Area 4       | 80               | 22         | 19                     | 27.5%                                   | 86.4%   |  | \$1,100.43        | \$5,334.94         | \$0.00               | \$6,435.37         | \$53.58        |
| Cash Rec'd   |                  |            |                        |   |   |  |                   |                    |                      | \$0.00             |                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>307</b>       | <b>103</b> | <b>85</b>              | <b>33.6%</b>                            | <b>82.5%</b>  |  | <b>\$5,150.43</b> | <b>\$24,271.51</b> | <b>\$564.00</b>      | <b>\$29,985.94</b> | <b>\$87.69</b> |
|              |                  | 33.6%      | 27.7%                  |   |   |  |                   |                    |                      |                    |                |
|              |                  |            |                        |   |   |  | Goal              | \$50,994.00        |                      |                    |                |
|              |                  |            |                        |   |   |  | % of Goal         | 48.5%              |                      |                    |                |
|              |                  |            |                        |   |   |  | \$ need           | \$26,722.49        |                      |                    |                |
|              |                  |            |                        |   |   |  | Homes             | 89                 |                      |                    |                |

Dues: \$50.00 \$300.00

## Dubious Donations

Just as it felt the world was getting back on track and we all started looking forward to 2022 Russia had to go and ruin it. We try to stay away from politics in the Candlegram and will continue to do so, however, everything we see in the news and media leaves many of us wondering what we can do to help those in need. While world events can show the best in us as we come together as communities to help those in need they can also bring out the worst of society and unfortunately now is no different. As many of us see pleas for donations and calls for monetary aid it's important to keep an eye out for potential scams, some key indicators followed.

look carefully at the spelling of the name, many scammers will carefully change a letter in hopes you will overlook it, for instance, "helpUkraine". also, check the spelling of the URL or web address for the same spelling tricks. i.e. "unicefusa.org" is correct, but "umicefusa.org" is suspicious.

Another point of caution is organizations that claim that 100% of donations will go to that cause. Even the best and most giving organizations have overhead that needs to be covered and operating expenses to cover making use of your donation.

Finally, research the organization you wish to report. It is usually a safer bet to find an organization yourself vs engaging one who reaches out to you whom you have not worked with in the past. consider charity checking and verification sites that rate groups based on efficient use of funds, impact they have, and outlines core values. perhaps your hard-earned dollars may be more effective with a different group than the one you are initially considering.

whatever you decide to do and whomever you decide to support make sure you pay close attention and do your research to ensure you support who you mean to and in a meaningful way.

## Obscure Vocabulary

### Autotroph—noun

Au-to-troph

Definition of autotroph

1: requiring only carbon dioxide or carbonates as a source of carbon and a simple inorganic nitrogen compound for metabolic synthesis of organic molecules (such as glucose)

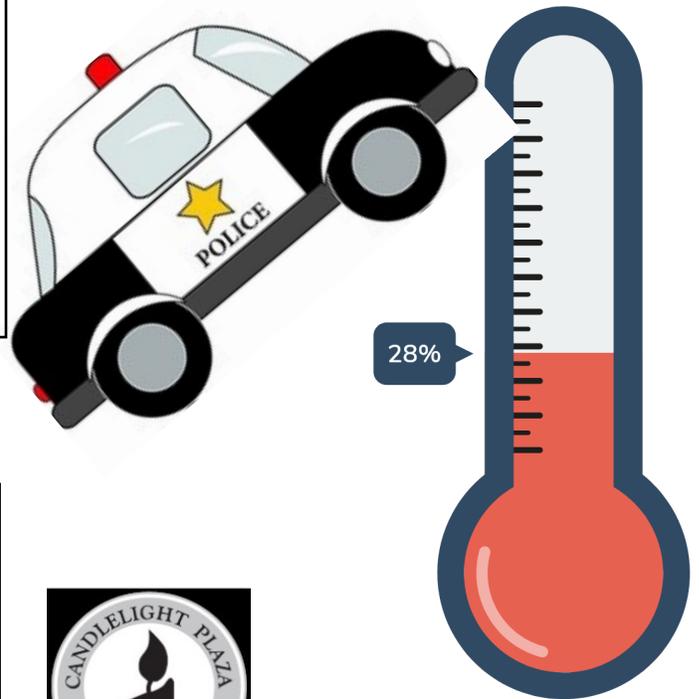
See if you can work our vocab word into a conversation today! (responsibly)

## Patrolling the Beat

Our officers have been doing the rounds in candlelight! Perhaps you have seen the officers patrolling our neighborhood or read our articles exulting their benefits of our community, but let's take a look at the data.

During the month of February, the constables performed 68 vacation watch visits, looking in on our homes when we tell them we will be out of town to make sure all is safe. they also visited with 17 neighbors, getting to know the community and playing a part in our daily lives. Although it looks like 4 of us met with them as part of a traffic stop, watch those stop signs and use those blinkers! Perhaps most impressive of all is they patrolled for a total of 3,010 miles! That's the same as driving from here to New York City and back, with 34 miles left over!

So in March say hi to our friendly constables if you see them driving around and get to know them, its a long trip to NYC and back after all.



2022 Constable Program

Constable Dispatch (713) 755-7628

Non-HPD Emergency (713) 884-3131

March 2022

Did you know? In the Southern Hemisphere, March is the same as September in the Northern Hemisphere.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY                            | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                       | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|--------|--------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------|--|
|        |        | 1<br><b>Trash &amp; Recycling</b>  | 2         | 3                              | 4      | 5<br>Oil any Squeaky doors or hinges<br>        |
| 6      | 7      | 8<br><b>Trash Pick Up</b>          | 9         | 10                             | 11     | 12<br>Set Clocks 1 hour forward<br>             |
| 13     | 14     | 15<br><b>Trash &amp; Recycling</b> | 16        | 17<br><b>Tree Waste Pickup</b> | 18     | 19<br>Change smoke alarm Batteries<br>          |
| 20     | 21     | 22<br><b>Trash Pick Up</b>         | 23        | 24                             | 25     | 26<br>Run a Clean cycle on washing machines<br> |
| 27     | 28     | 29<br><b>Trash &amp; Recycling</b> | 30        | 31                             | 1      | 2<br>Vacuum lint from dryer<br>               |

TRASH & RECYCING REMINDER: No cul-de-sac parking on pickup days.



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Total due by check  
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