

CANDLEGRAM

To Trick or To Treat, That is the Question

It is that time of year again; the kids are back in school and we are settling into the fall routine and hoping for cooler weather that ~should~ accompany the autumn season. If you've lived in CP for more than a year, you know that this is also the season of the annual trick or treat discussion. If you're new to CP, you may be wondering what on earth I'm talking about. Being in CP for about 20 years now, I figured I would take the opportunity to address the inevitable and give some light to the trick or treat tradition that has been happening in CP since long before I arrived.

Many moons ago, residents of CP decided to host trick or treating in our neighborhood on October 30. There are a lot of tales, lores and variations of stories as to the reasoning behind this choice. Even in talking with several original residents over the years, I've never been able to nail down a concise and consistent story. So instead of trying to dig into the past and guess the intent of people long since passed, I figured I'd focus this article on what October 30 th in CP is nowadays.

October 30 th trick or treat has become a beloved tradition by many families who come from all over to enjoy the unique and welcoming Halloween Block Party in Candlelight Plaza. You will find throngs of people filling the streets! Residents with chairs and buckets of candies sit in their yards & driveways to greet the countless princesses, minions, ghouls, witches and goblins making their way around the blocks, filling their bags with sweets. Many home owners also have music, snacks and other goodies to encourage socializing and community fun. It's a great opportunity to meet people and have some old-fashioned fun in the neighborhood! To ensure the safety of kids moving up & down the street, the Constables patrol and residents encourage their guests to park in the driveways, keeping the streets as clear as possible.

To the dismay of some, as the block party on the 30 th has grown, the number of trick or treaters on the 31 st has dwindled to very few. In talking with residents whose children don't go back out in CP on the 31 st , I've learned that they're engaging in other Halloween activities on October 31. Some kids go to their church's fall festival or to their cousin's neighborhood. Some children pass out candy with their friends who live in other neighborhoods (since their friends joined them in CP on the 30 th), others trick or treat again, but hit up the nearby neighborhoods of SPP/GOOF instead.

Of course neighbors always have the choice to participate in the festivities and whether they want their children to trick or treat on one or both nights. The wonderful thing about living in Candlelight Plaza is that neighbors are respected, valued and appreciated, even when they disagree. This unity is what keeps our neighborhood community strong and makes CP such a special place to live. So I would ask all of you to extend your neighbor ~sweetness~ whether they decide To Trick Or To Treat. Happy Halloween All Y'all!

- The Candlelight Plaza Board

Cat Got Your Car?

Did you know that since about the 70's you've been driving around with platinum under your butt? As you probably have heard catalytic convert theft is the new cool thing in the criminal world. But what makes this one part of your car so valuable to theives and what can you do to make yours less tempting to a would be thief.

Catalytic converters are a part of your cars exhaust system that take hot dirty exhaust gases from combustion and clean them up before they pass out your tail pipe. They do this by using exotic materials such as platinum, rhodium, and palladium. While there are only trace amounts of these materials, the COVID19 pandemic severely limited supply and caused there value to skyrocket, in the case of rhodium from around \$100 an ounce in 2019 to over \$27,000 an ounce in 2021. Because most Catalytic converters are exposed and under the car connected by thin metal they can be cut our in a matter of seconds making them an easy target.

So how can you prevent becoming a victim? Well to start your car may just not be of interests. Many cars have the cats buried in the engine in hard to reach places, or be old enough that they just aren't wroth much money, a very low to the ground car is also just more of pain to jack off the ground and not worth a crooks time. Parking in a well lite area and under security cameras also helps to deter would be criminals. If you want to go one step further with minimal effort is to have your VIN number engraved on the cats in multiple places, there are a number of places that will do this at little to no cost and make the part harder to resell and thus less tempting to steal. Finally, products called cat cages are very effective in stopping theft by securing them to the car with thick steal cables that are hard to cut. You may even be able to install these products yourself with little effort research these products however before buying as may turn out to be more trouble than they are worth.

At the end of the day if someone wants your catalytic converter bad enough there is little you can do to stop them, the goal is to make it too much trouble than it is worth. Rising awareness and penalties are helping, but doing some minor things such as parking in well lit areas, engraving your parts, and looking into other deterrents can end up saving you thousands of dollars in having to replace this essential component

Garden Club

The 2022-2023 Garden Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:45pm for a social, and 7:00pm meeting. Please contact our Club President, Davi Garza, at gardenclub@shepherdparkplaza.com for details. We would love to have you!

October will, hopefully, inspire new gardeners to get outside and plan their fall gardens. With some cooler weather approaching, we do not have to deal with our Texas extreme temperatures and nasty pests. Fall brings to mind the planting of a vegetable garden. This is the ideal time to sow beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard and other greens. You might also consider okra (which I always think of as a summer crop, but it does grow well in the fall since we have moderate temperatures). Additionally, you might want to plant onions, parsley, peas, spinach and turnips. If you choose to plant lettuce, consider several plantings spaced out as these greens can be harvested 30 days after planting and you want to enjoy them into winter. Our neighborhood nurseries have lots of seedlings for your selections so check them out.

For those of you who are not interested in planting a vegetable garden, how about planning your flower gardens. Some flowers to consider are alyssum pansies, petunias, and snapdragons. These perform exceptionally well throughout our winters and into late spring. You can also start sowing your wildflower seeds for next spring's showing.

Don't forget to care for your lawns and shrubs. Since many of us have had our lawns die this summer, we must give them extra care so they will bounce back next spring. Do not scalp when mowing; St. Augustine should be cut at two to four inches and Bermuda at one to two inches in height. Prune dead wood from your shrubs and trees, but wait for further pruning until late winter. Remember that these are still struggling with the stress of our drought.

Consider planting spring bulbs after adding organic matter to the soil so that you provide proper draining. Mulching with coffee and tea grounds is an excellent way to enhance your acid-loving plants' growth, but don't overdo. Too much can encourage excessive leaf growth and diminish fruit production.

Join Us!

01.

The Garden Club is open to residents of Shepherd Park Plaza and Candlelight Plaza and dues are \$35/year.

Email gardenclub@shepherdparkplaza.com to join.

Green Thumb...or Not!

02.

No gardening experience is required! We meet on the second Monday of the month (Oct-May) at 6:45 PM to socialize with light bites and drinks, a short business meeting, and then listen in on an interesting gardening-related program. (Sept meeting is traditionally at Shepherd Park on a Saturday).

03.

Learn Something New

Last year we invited local business Ground Up to teach us about soil, learned orchid care from a member, received tips on creating a bird habitat from the Houston Audobon Society, and took a VIP tour of the neighborhood community garden.

04.

Give Back to the Neighborhood

Our largest fundraiser is the annual plant sale. Last year, proceeds were donated to Durham Elementary PTA to purchase a greenhouse for the Garden Class, and to the Garden Oaks/Shepherd Park Community Garden on Alba.

The Social Scene

Chili Cookoff/Cornhole

It's time once again to prepare your argument for the great debate: Beans or No Beans? Chili Cook-Off! We look forward to bringing the neighborhood together for another year of cook-off and silent auction to help raise money for our great constable program. Get ready your family recipes, your special spices, whatever your secret weapon may be! Below is the QR Code to sign up, entry fee will be \$10 per person. Don't fret if you can't get that pesky code to work, walk up entries are more than welcome as well.

Don't want to cook but still want to chip in to raising money for the constable program? No problem! There will also be a silent auction and this is your opportunity to help the 'hood. Please reach out to Jessi Cayce at jessi.cayce@gmail.com to let us know what you'd like to provide to be auctioned off. From gift baskets to game day tickets, we welcome any donation. Again, day of items are more than welcome as well!!

Still not enticed? How about a round of Corn Hole? This year the Corn Hole tournament will be combined with the Cook-Off. Get your boards and your partner ready and sign up using the QR code! Didn't plan ahead and it's a game time decision? That's fine too! You can sign up day of as well. Corn Hole teams will have an entry fee of \$25 a person or \$50 a team. Winners will be named the current Candlelight Corn Hole Champion and will earn a prize. All entry fees go to the constable program.

Even if you're not participating in the events, please come join and have a fun filled Saturday afternoon with Neighbors, Auctions, Chili and Corn Hole and support the Constable Program. This fun filled event will be the afternoon of **November 12th**.

Neighbors night out

It's time again to come out and say hello to your neighbors and constables. The Civic Association will be hosting a Pizza Party at the corner of Alba and Bethlehem on October 4th at 5:30 pm. Come out with the family and have a good time getting to know the neighbors of Candlelight.

Ladies Night

School is back in session and the holidays are around the corner; it's perfect time to have a glass of wine with your neighbors! We're picking back up Ladies Night! Join us October 12th at the corner of Del Norte and Park Plaza at 7pm. Bring your chair and beverage of choice and come have a great evening with the Ladies of Candlelight!

Chili Cookoff
QR Code



Chili Cookoff
Volunteer Signup



Cornhole
Signup



Pumpkin Carving Contest!

Happy Fall Y'all! The Candlelight Plaza Civic Club is excited to welcome in the fall, which brings several of our fun neighborhood traditions such as the long-loved Chili Cook Off as well as the newly added, Pumpkin Carving Contest! As with many traditions, this "younger" event has grown in popularity over the past few years, so we are excited to announce yet another expansion to the contest this year!

To those of you new to CP, our neighborhood has a strong community feel and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. The Pumpkin Carving Contest is a fun way to show off your pumpkin creativity and skill while competing for some fun prizes! This year's contest is brought to you by Candace Helstrom with Led Well Reality - Thank You for sponsoring!

The categories this year will be: Scariest, Funniest, Most Creative, Best Traditional, Best Painted (new in 2022!) and Kids 1st -3rd places. The judging will take place on Saturday, Oct 29 from 7-9pm. Please have your pumpkins lit and out for display in front of your home during the entirety of the judging period to be considered for the contest. Happy carving & painting, CP!



Constable Dispatch (713) 755-7628
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Obscure Vocabulary

Poltergeist — Noun

Pol-ter-geist

Definition of zephyr

1: a noisy usually mischievous ghost held to be responsible for unexplained noises (such as rappings)

October 2022

Did you know? October and February always end on the same day? If

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|-----------|----------------------|--------|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4  Trash | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Inspect electrical cords for ware  |
| 9 | 10  | 11 Trash & Recycling | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Look outside for burnt out lights  |
| 16 | 17 | 18 Trash Pick Up | 19 | 20 Junk Waste Pickup | 21 | 22 Buy Candy  |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Trash & Recycling | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Buy more Candy... Seriously  |
| 30  | 31 | 1 Trash Pick Up | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Clean behind Fridges  |

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



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Contact me today with all your real estate needs.

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