



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | APRIL 2022 TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 38. ISSUE 4

It's been a while, but the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will again be hosting a "social" event on **Thursday, May 19th from 5 to 7 pm** and everyone is invited. The social will be held on the patio at one of our



newest area restaurants, **Local Table**, which is located at 2003 West 34th (Across from Waltrip High School). Local Table prides itself on offering a social gathering spot for great food and drink, while promoting community spirit. Social Committee Chairman Kim Syrinek says this will be a great time to meet, mingle, and reconnect with your neighbors, while you enjoy some light appetizers provided by the SFCC. A large variety of food



and beverage options from the restaurant menu will also be available for purchase. Come early for the "social" and stay after for dinner! Mark your calendar now and don't miss this fun Shepherd Forest "social".

YARD OF THE MONTH

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club Yard of the Month Contest will begin in the month of **MAY**, with judging of yards being done on the **first full weekend of each month**. Yards are judged on best "overall appearance"



and a variety of beautiful yards have won the award. Past award winners included lawns with beautiful shrubs and greenery and other yards were filled with flowers of beautiful spring colors. Both homeowners **and** renters are

eligible to win the Yard of the Month Contest, so there are no excuses for not getting your yard into shape

Volunteers are needed to serve as judges for this contest. What a great volunteer job - it takes less than an hour a month (May through September) and your help would be greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved with your civic club, especially if *your time is very limited*. Contact Beautification Chairman Jeanne Berry at (915) 269-1770 to volunteer.



Looking for an easy way to support the Shepherd Forest Citizens on Patrol, but don't have the time? Here's your chance!

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club is once again **collecting aluminum cans** to raise cash for our Citizens on Patrol (Security) program. All you need to do is recycle your aluminum cans (pie pans and foil can also be recycled) and save them for our Citizens on Patrol.

Collection dates are still being worked out, but the first collection week will be between **May 23-26th**. A large container will be provided at **4206 Marlborough** (Section 3) so that you can drop off your cans any of those days. Make sure they are in a closed plastic bag for easy transport and less mess. The cans will be recycled for cash and all proceeds will benefit our Shepherd Forest Citizens on Patrol and Security Committee.

If you are unable to drop off your cans or have questions about the Cash for Cans program, please contact our Security Chairman Paul Berry at (915) 373-8820.



PARTY LINE

Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors celebrating birthdays soon: **RUBEN ALVAREZ** (4/23), and **PAYTON ARENS** (4/27).

Also being sent wishes for a very special Happy Birthday are our neighbors celebrating in early May. They include: **DYLAN MOORE** (5/3), **JENNIFER WOODRUFF** (5/4), **MARY WISNIEWSKI** (5/4), **STELLA CASTRO** (5/5), **EVELYN AND ELIZA MILSAPS** (5/11), **CLYDE MUSKE** (5/13) and **JANELLE DANIELS** (5/15). Hope each of you have a great birthday!

Happy Anniversary wishes are sent to **BRANDON & CLAUDIA TRISTAN** who celebrate on May 6th and to **BOB WILLIAMSON** and **KATY CATTONI** who will celebrate on May 10th. Congratulations!!

Belated, but sincere, Baby Congratulations are sent to **JILL & EDDIE ANDREW** on the January 25th birth of their precious son, **ROWAN ANDREW** !! The Andrew family resides on Larknolls in Section 3.

Sincere sympathy is sent to **ESPERANZA MEDINA** and family on the March 5th passing of her husband, long time Marlborough resident **LORENZO MEDINA**.

Sincere condolences are also sent to the family and friends of **ROBERT (BOB) HEMPHILL**, an original homeowner on Bron Holly, who passed away last week.

Heartfelt sympathy is sent to the family of **CARMEN NIETO** who passed away recently. Carmen's husband, **JOE NIETO**, was a former Past President of the SFCC and they both served our community for many years. The Nieto's were former long time residents on Ansbury in Section 1.

Two lucky SF residents recently won gift cards in the SF Civic Club Membership drawing. There are **NATALIE DUNN - \$25 Card to Monkey's Tail** and **RYAN CHASE - \$50 Card to Postino's**. Congratulations to these residents who prove "it pays to be a civic club member!" A special thanks goes to these restaurant sponsors who generously donated the gift cards!

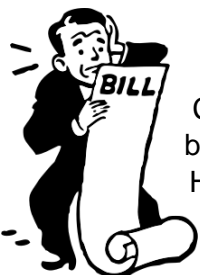


NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRY SIGN BEAUTIFICATION

You may have noticed work underway on many of our neighborhood entry signs. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Stonecrest resident Corbin Leverton has taken on a beautification project in Shepherd Forest that includes cleaning the entry signs, repainting the wooden posts, adding plants, and landscaping the area around each sign. Corbin has enlisted the help of his family and fellow Boy Scouts to help with this enormous project and he hopes to be finished by the end of the month. Donations for plants are gladly being accepted and money can be sent to Corbin through venmo@tasha-Leverton or by calling 713-825-8471.



After the project has been completed, the SFCC will be looking for residents to "adopt" each of the 11 neighborhood signs to help maintain the area around it. This is a great project for neighbors to join together and work on. For more information about this beautification project or to volunteer to "adopt" a sign near you, please send your contact information to info@shepherdforest.org or call (915) 269-1770.



WATER BILLS TO INCREASE THIS MONTH.....AND AGAIN !

City Ordinances require certain automatic annual adjustments to the water and wastewater rates based on inflationary indices. The one-year inflationary index for our area is 4.3%. The City of Houston population increased by 1.3%. The inflationary index of 4.3%, when combined with the population increase of 1.3%, resulted in an automatic annual water and wastewater **rate increase of 5.6% on April 1, 2022**. This year, in addition to the 5.6% automatic annual rate adjustment, Ordinance No. 2021-515 adopted the 2021 Water & Wastewater Cost of Service Rate Study, which allows for **new annual rates over a 5- year period**. New rate tables can be found at www.HoustonWater.org

EGG HUNT SUCCESS

The April 9th Easter Egg hunt was a huge success and turned out to be the largest in civic club history! Nearly 50 kids, along with parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors gathered for a festive morning filled with activities, photos with the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt, and refreshments. The crowd was estimated between 125-150 people and the weather was beautiful. Every child took home a prize.....and great memories as well.



A huge thank you is sent to our Community Partners for helping to underwrite this festive event and making such a memorable day for our residents. They are:



Thanks also to KEVIN DUNN and PORTRAITFX for the beautiful Easter Hunt portraits !



SF SECURITY REPORT

Theft and suspicious activity seems to be on the rise in our neighborhood, according to HPD reports. They are:

- 4/6 – 1400 block of Wilde Rock – Burglary of vehicle
- 4/6 – 2200 West 34th – Assault
- 4/7 – 1200 Stonecrest – Theft
- 4/8 – 1000 West 31st – Tailgate stolen

Several residents reported seeing suspicious vehicles and people rummaging through parked cars. Please report ALL crime to HPD, regardless of how insignificant it may seem. The more reports we make to HPD, the more patrol cars are assigned to our area.

Did you know that parking any vehicle on the grass (or any other non paved surface) in Shepherd Forest is ILLEGAL? The Prohibited Yard Parking Program is intended to protect neighborhood property values, prevent damage to the City of Houston’s underground infrastructure, and to stop the degradation of the aesthetic appearance of single-family residential areas. Parking of vehicles on any unimproved surface in the front or side yards in residential neighborhoods is prohibited in areas where a **Prohibited Yard Parking Requirement Area** was adopted and Shepherd Forest opted into the program several years ago. Any person who violates the Prohibited Yard Parking Requirement Area shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be **fined up to \$150 each day a violation occurs**. You can report these violations by calling 311 or using the 311 app on your smart phone. Be sure to state that Shepherd Forest is included in the ordinance. This applies to any vehicle (including trailers) parked on a non-paved surface.

Abandoned or junk/immovable vehicles may also be reported by calling 311 or by using the 311 app.

Shepherd Forest Deed Restrictions state that “....no livestock or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred, or kept on any lot.....” City ordinances pertaining to these animals are also applicable to Shepherd Forest.



www.shepherdforest.org

Check out the Shepherd Forest website for access to the SF Times online, as well as upcoming events, key documents such as membership forms, deed restriction information, Architectural Approval forms, links to City info, and much more! Residents can reach the Shepherd Forest Civic Club by calling 713-742-2470 or by email at info@shepherdforest.org.

PROPERTY TAXES TOO HIGH?



Most Shepherd Forest homeowners have received their property tax evaluations and are considering whether or not to officially protest their appraisals. Property owners in Harris County have until May 15 to protest the values assigned by the Harris County Appraisal District, which is encouraging homeowners to file online protests instead of "in-person" protests. HCAD says that some property owners still have not yet received their property value notices and will have 30 days to file protests once their value notice is received.

A Notice of Protest form for you to complete should have been included in your value notice from HCAD or they can be downloaded at www.hcad.org. Protests may be brought in person to HCAD's office at 13013 Northwest Fwy. or mailed to P.O. Box 922004, Houston, TX 77292-2004. Mailed protests must be postmarked by May 15.



Property owners also can protest their appraised values electronically by using HCAD's iFile and iSettle programs. Unique iFile numbers needed to file a protest can be found near the property account number in the upper-right corner of your value notice or retrieved from HCAD's mobile app by scanning the property owner's Texas driver's license (assuming the name and address on the ID match the information in HCAD's system.) Within five days of filing a protest through iFile, those who choose to use iSettle can upload supporting documents such as deeds, photos, closing statements, repair estimates or comparable sales information. If a settlement through the online system isn't possible once HCAD makes an offer, the property owner will be scheduled for a hearing with the Appraisal Review Board. A video explaining how to file an online protest and use the residential iSettle system is available at www.hcad.org under the "help" heading.

SOCIAL SECURITY RE-OPENS

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced that they have recently reopened its local offices for in-person services after being close nearly 2 years. The nearest SSA office is just off Hwy 290 at 16200 Dillard Dr in the Jersey Village area. It is open from 9am-4pm Monday through Friday and appointments are recommended. You may call 800-772-1213 to schedule an appointment, but be prepared for a long wait time. At the end of the options, you will be asked why you are calling and then you will have the opportunity to say "make appt." You may also visit www.socialsecurity.gov.



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Area Construction Updates:

Avenue on 34th, the four-story, 70 unit low-cost/affordable apartment complex at the site of the former Doyle's restaurant on West 34th is nearly complete. Applications are now being taken for rentals.



Construction is in full swing at the upscale Hines apartment complex on West 34th near Alba. When completed, the complex will consist of a 7 story parking garage and nearly 400 units in two (four story) buildings.

The property on the south end of Oak Forest (behind the homes on Ansbury) has been totally cleared and it appears that construction is about to begin. It is rumored that 70 townhomes will be built on the land, but as of printing, the SFCC nor The Leader have been able to confirm this. We will continue to monitor this property and keep our residents abreast of any developments that we become aware of.