



RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

This year, instead of tossing your live Christmas tree in the garbage, help the City preserve the environment by dropping off your tree at any of the drop-off locations provided by The City of Houston Solid Waste Management. The drop-off location nearest Shepherd Forest is usually **TC JESTER PARK, 4200 West TC Jester**. At the time of printing this newsletter, the City still could not verify this location as a drop off point, so be sure to check before you head out to recycle your tree. Make sure to remove all decorations, tinsel, plastic bags, tree stands and water bowls before dropping off your tree. A complete list of Christmas tree recycling drop-off centers should be available later in December at <http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste> or by calling the City of Houston Helpline at 311.

Join or Renew
your membership

January 1st is the kickoff of the **2023 Membership Drive** Month for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club and we encourage all homeowners and renters to join the SFCC. Membership dues cover a calendar year starting on January 1st and end on December 31st of the same year. Civic club dues are only **\$25 per household** and are a vital part of the continuing programs and projects of the Shepherd Forest Civic Club. Membership forms will be included in the January newsletter, or you can get a jump on the Membership Drive by joining at the civic club website: www.shepherdforest.org or at any of the SFCC upcoming events.

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Just above the barcode on your **drivers license** is a telephone number in very small print. This number can be called for **emergency assistance** on the highway or wherever you might have trouble **in your car**. Just dial **1-800-525-5555** and help will be sent to you. This service is State operated and paid for with your tax dollars. Please pass on this number to your family & friends.



Emergency Roadside Assistance



Don't forget to save your aluminum cans this holiday season for the Citizens on Patrol "Cash for Cans" program. All proceeds will benefit the Shepherd Forest Civic Club Security program (COP). A can drop off is being planned for after the holidays or if you can't wait, please contact Security Chairman Paul Berry at (915) 373-8820 to arrange for pickup of your cans. Please support our Citizens on Patrol program and Save Your Aluminum Cans this holiday season!



DON'T MISS THE SFCC CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MUSICAL PROGRAM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH !



THE SHEPHERD FOREST TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

DECEMBER 2022

SANTA TO VISIT SHEPHERD FOREST ON DEC 4TH

Santa is heading to Shepherd Forest in a just a few days, so be sure and mark your calendars for this fun filled event. Light snacks and drinks, along with some fun activities, will be available as you visit with Santa and have your photo taken. The event will be held next **Sunday, Dec 4th** at the Children's Lighthouse of Oak Forest (2109 West 34th @ Oak Forest) from **2-4pm**. Please **RSVP** so we can have an accurate count and reserve room for you. Sponsors for the event include Children's Lighthouse, PortraitEFX, and Signature Care. For more info about Santa's visit, check out the Civic Club website (www.shepherdforest.org), [FaceBook.com/group/shepherdforest](https://www.facebook.com/group/shepherdforest), or contact Chairman Kim Syrinek at 713-412-1471. You may also RSVP directly by visiting the [SignUpGenius website at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-photos](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-photos).



The Shepherd Forest Civic Club **Annual Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Tuesday, December 6th** at Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 N. Shepherd (across from Gabby's) and all residents and their families are invited to attend. Social time with neighbors starts at 5:30 pm and a delicious **BBQ**

dinner (compliments of SF resident Greg Restivo) will be served at 6:00 pm. Following the dinner will be a short program and heartwarming Christmas music by SaxWorx, perfect for getting you into that "holiday spirit". Residents are encouraged to bring their favorite appetizer or dessert to share. This is a great time to invite your new neighbors or someone who may need a ride. Please join your neighbors for a wonderful evening with great food and some special Christmas music. For more info about this event, call the SFCC at 713-742-2470. Don't miss this festive Christmas dinner with your neighbors!



Christmas DECORATING CONTEST

It's almost time for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club's **Christmas Decorating Contest** which will be held on the weekend of **December 10th-11th**. For the decorating contest, a team of judges selects the best decorated yards in each of the three sections of Shepherd Forest and recognition is given to the winners. A sign will be placed in the winning yards and will remain there throughout the Christmas holidays.

- * **SANTA VISITS SHEPHERD FOREST – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th - 2-4pm**
- * **CHRISTMAS DINNER – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH SOCIAL 5:30 – DINNER 6PM**
- * **DECORATING CONTEST JUDGING – WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 10-11TH**

COMMON SENSE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

It may seem like common sense, but when the busy times of the holiday season capture your attention, you can easily overlook the practical steps you can take to help avoid accidental fires. These six reminders will help keep your holiday free from fire mishaps:

1. Turn off or unplug all electrical holiday lights before leaving your home or office, or before going to bed at night
2. Never leave food cooking on your stovetop or in the oven unattended
3. Keep candles away from combustible materials, and extinguish all candles or other open flames before leaving the room or going to bed
4. Do not overload electrical outlets, and keep all electrical cords out of the reach of children, and away from standing water
5. Use non-combustible decorations where possible. Keep Christmas trees and combustible decorations away from your fireplace, space heaters and open flames
6. Do not block doorways; keeping paths to exits in the house clear can help you and your family get out safely in case of a fire



HOLIDAY GARBAGE SCHEDULE CHANGES

Regular garbage pickup scheduled for **Christmas and New Years** holidays will be delayed. At the time of printing, the City had not released the new pickup schedule. For more information about your holiday collection schedule, log on to the City of Houston's Solid Waste website at <https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html> or call Solid Waste at 3-1-1.



FROM THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

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CITIZENS ON PATROL SECURITY REPORT

As Christmas approaches, most of our City will see a continued increase in crime. The SFCC strongly encourages everyone to be on extra alert and asks that residents **REPORT ALL CRIME** to HPD, regardless of how insignificant it seems. Your small crime may just be a part of a larger crime that has happened or even a recurring crime in the neighborhood. You know your home, your street, your neighbors – so if you see something that isn't right, please report it to HPD immediately – you may be witnessing a crime taking place. We all play a role in keeping Shepherd Forest safe – so make that call to HPD.

Listed below are the HPD reported incidents in and around our neighborhood that the SFCC has been made aware of (in addition to reports of vandalism, disorderly conduct, and shoplifting).

- 11/03 – 3000 block of Ella – assault at gas station
- 11/04 – 2000 block of West 34th – assault
- 11/05 – 900 block of Stonecrest – drug arrest
- 11/08 – 2000 block of West 34th – theft from a motor vehicle
- 11/09 – 1500 block of Wilde Rock – assault
- 11/12 – 1700 block of Stonecrest – assault/abduction
- 11/13 – 3000 block of Ella – robbery at gas station
- 11/20 – 2400 block of Ansbury – burglary
- 11/20 – 2400 block of Ansbury – drug arrest
- 11/20 – 3000 block of Ella – assault at restaurant



After you have contacted HPD, please contact our Security Coordinator, Paul Berry, at 915-373-8820. The number of calls and reports that are made to HPD directly impacts the number of patrol units that will be assigned to our neighborhood on a daily basis. The more reports we make, the more patrol cars that HPD will send our way. So please report ALL criminal activity to HPD.



Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors who will be celebrating their birthdays in the month of December. They are: **EDNA CARTER (12/13)**, **GRAHAM AND HARPER ALLEN (12/25)**, **TORRY HILL (12/29)**, and **HADLY D'BLANCA (12/21)**. Happy Birthday! A belated, but very sincere, Happy Birthday wish is also sent to **DARRELL TIDWELL (10/13)**.

Sincere sympathy is sent to the family and neighbors of longtime Wilde Rock resident **VERNA POLASEK**. The Polaseks were original homeowners in Shepherd Forest and volunteered with the civic club for many years. They were known for their extensive vegetable garden and beautiful flowers that they proudly shared with neighbors.

Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of **DON WESSELS** who passed away recently. Don was a long time resident on Gardendale in Section 3 and will be missed by many.

REMODELING OR UPDATING YOUR HOME? Shepherd Forest Deed Restrictions require residents to submit all building plans to the Architectural Committee for approval BEFORE any work begins. For more info or a Building Application, visit www.shepherdforest.org and look under "Quick Links."

Keep Your Curb Clean – Leaves are beginning to fall and will soon cover our lawns and streets. Don't forget to keep your curb free of leaves, trash, newspapers, and other debris as it will end up stopping up our drains and backing water up to flood our streets and yards. Eventually, all the debris will flow into our waterways. We have a limited number of storm drains in Shepherd Forest, so let's keep them clean and prevent unnecessary flooding issues. *Every* home should help with this issue, not just those near drains. Take a look in front of your home and make sure your curb is clean.



Have you recently moved to Shepherd Forest? New baby? Birthday? Illness? School news? Whatever news you have to share with your neighbors, please contact the Shepherd Forest Civic Club at info@shepherdforest.org and give us your information so that we can share it in the next issue of the SF Times!