



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | APRIL 2023 TIMES

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CITY WATER BILLS TO INCREASE..... AGAIN !

Houston Public Works sent notices to customers this week explaining that water rates will increase by 9.2% beginning on April 1st. This is an automatic adjustment that occurs every year based on inflation. And added to that is the water rate increase approved by Houston City Council in June 2021 that raises rates every year on April 1st over the next five years through 2026. These amounts do not include drainage and solid waste charges that are also on your water bill. 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 8.2%. The City of Houston population increased by 1%. The inflationary index of 8.2%, when combined with the population increase of 1%, resulted in an automatic annual water and wastewater **rate increase of 9.2% on April 1, 2023**. This year, in addition to the 9.2% automatic annual rate adjustment, Ordinance No. 2021-515 adopted the 2022 Water & Wastewater Cost of Service Rate Study, which allows for **new annual rates over a 5- year period**. The City says that the new rate increase will help cover maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure, reduce water main breaks, reduce sanitary sewer overflows, and provide resources to continue water and wastewater services. New rate tables can be found at www.HoustonWater.org

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*. Please give Jeanne Berry a call at (915) 269-1770 if you are interested in volunteering.



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 were just announced and will be **June 5th through June 8th**. A large container will be provided at **4206 Marlborough** in Section 3 (and other locations in Sections 1 and 2 to be announced next month) 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 have cans and are not able to drop them off, please contact our Security Coordinator Paul Berry at (915) 373-8820.

Donating your cans is an easy way to support our Shepherd Forest Citizens on Patrol, so **start saving** them now and mark your calendars for collection days.



Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors celebrating their birthdays soon:

MARTI NELSON (4/11), **PHIL KOWNSLAR** (4/13), **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), **RYLAND CAIRE** (5/4), **MARY WISNIEWSKI** (5/4), and **STELLA CASTRO** (5/5). Hope each one of you have a fantastic birthday!

Happy Anniversary wishes are sent to **BRANDON & CLAUDIA TRISTAN** who celebrate their wedding anniversary on May 6th. Congratulations!!

Sending best wishes for continued improvement to SFCC Past President **PATRICIA WILLIAMS** who is recovering from recent knee surgery. Good to see you out & about!

Graduation is just around the corner and we want to be sure and recognize your graduate.....whether it is preschool or college or anything in between. Send us your graduate's name, school, and possible future plans and we will recognize them in our Graduation Roll Call.

Many thanks go to our neighbors **SHARON LOUT, BROOKE MARKELOFF, JAN & CLAY THOMPSON,** and the **HURLEY FAMILY** for their generous donations to the recent Shepherd Forest Civic Club Easter Egg Hunt.



SHEPHERD FOREST SECURITY REPORT

Theft from vehicles, and assaults, seem to be on the rise around our neighborhood, according to HPD reports. If you are not familiar with the locations that seem to have the most problems, the 3000 block of Ella is the first block north of Loop 610 and the 3300 block of Ella is at West 34th. The 1100 block of W. 34th is at Alba and the 2000 block of W. 34th is across from Waltrip High School.

- 3/07- 1000 block 31st – Theft from motor vehicle
- 3/09- 2400 block WildeRock – Theft from motor vehicle
- 3/11- 2100 block Ansbury – Assault/intimidation
- 3/12- 2200 block West 34th – Theft from motor vehicle
- 3/14- 2000 block West 34th – Theft from motor vehicle
- 3/15- 3000 block Ella – Robbery at restaurant
- 3/15- 1100 block West 34th – Purse snatching
- 3/18- 2200 block West 34th – Assault
- 3/18- 2000 block West 34th – Theft from motor vehicle
- 3/18- 2000 block West 34th – Armed robbery/car jacking
- 3/18- 3000 block Ella – Assault at restaurant
- 3/20- 3000 block Ella – Robbery at restaurant
- 3/29- 2000 block Stonecrest – Theft
- 3/30- 4000 block Marlborough – Vandalism
- 3/31- 3000 block Ella – Assault

If something or someone looks suspicious to you, please report it to HPD immediately, regardless of how insignificant it may seem to you at the time.

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. Junk or abandoned vehicles may also be reported to the City by calling 311 or by using the 311 app.

News You Can Use

The new owner of the recently closed **Don Teo's Mexican Restaurant** property spoke with Civic Club officials last week and gave them the latest information



about his plans for a new coffee shop at that location. Plans currently include doing an extensive remodel on the inside of the building, as well as plans to add an outdoor patio and drive thru for the new place soon to be called **CoCo's DoNuts and Coffee Bar**. The coffee shop will feature a variety of specialty and gourmet coffees, an espresso bar, pastries, donuts, and an Executive pastry chef to pull it all together. If all goes well, plans currently call for the coffee bar to open within 3 to 4 months.

Construction has apparently begun on the **Marigny Heights** townhome development which is being built on the south end of Oak Forest at Ansbury. Huge piles of dirt and lots of machinery moving it around was most of the activity last week. Calls to the developer from the civic club have not been returned, but as soon as we have news on the proposed 70 unit development, we will keep you informed.



At last check, construction on **The Rosslyn**, a luxury apartment project on 34th near Alba, is finally coming to a close. The development will have nearly 400 rental units and parking for 560 vehicles. The target date for construction completion and move in is September 2023.

Houston City Council voted last October to approve and adopt a redistricting plan that will establish **new boundaries of single-member City Council districts**



effective January 2024. This will allow prospective City Council candidates to verify residency eligibility to run in a single-member district before the November 2023 General

Election filing period. The new district boundaries will be used for the purpose of electing District Council Members at the City General Election to be held on November 7, 2023, and will go into effect for terms of office beginning on January 2, 2024. Currently, Shepherd Forest residents living in Sections 1 and 2 - east of White Oak Bayou - are in City Council District C (Abbie Kamin). Those residents living in Section 3 - west of White Oak Bayou - are currently in District A (Amy Peck). For more info visit <https://www.letstalkhouston.org/redistricting>



Summer is fast approaching and many families will be looking for fun activities to fill their days. Houston offers countless opportunities.....and many of them are free. The list of museums below offer free Thursdays with varied hours at each museum.

- MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE**
- THE CHILDRENS MUSEUM**
- THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**
- THE HEALTH MUSEUM**
- BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM**
- HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**
- CZECH CENTER MUSEUM**

In addition to the museum district, the Houston Zoo has free admission on the first Tuesday of every month. Be sure to check out the admission details for each museum before you visit, as times and restrictions will vary.

Lucky Winners



Some very lucky Shepherd Forest residents were recent raffle winners and recipients of some great prizes.

At the March Shepherd Forest Civic Club meeting, Wilde Rock's **KATIE HASSETT**, was the winner of a gallon of MicroLife Granular Fertilizer. The speaker and donor of the door prize for the meeting was Betty Hecker from Wabash Feed & Garden Store. She provided very informative and timely lawn and garden care tips, followed by a question and answer session. Our thanks go out to Wabash for their donation.

JAMES AND SUSAN THORNTON on Gardendale also found themselves lucky winners of the recent Shepherd Forest Civic Club Membership Contest. All members paid by April 1st were automatically entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Tony's Mexican Restaurant. Our appreciation to Tony's for the gift card.

EGG HUNT EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

The SFCC April 1st Easter Egg hunt was a beautiful, sunny day, and a huge success with another record breaking attendance. An estimated 75 kids, along with parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors gathered for a festive morning filled with activities, photos with the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt, games, and refreshments. Every child took home a prize, as well as a cute little chicken hot/cold pak from Memorial Hermann Greater Heights. The morning proved to be a great community event with attendees ages from newborn babies to senior citizens, and included four separate sets of twins!



The Egg Hunt was made possible by our **Community Partners** for which we are very grateful. Please patronize these businesses and let them know how much we appreciate their generosity and support of Shepherd Forest.



Helping Here.

