



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | JUNE 2020 TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 4

COVID-19 UPDATES

Due to the current Coronavirus outbreak in our City and to protect the health and safety of our residents, the Shepherd Forest Civic has continued to suspend all scheduled meetings and events until further notice. Please check our website at www.shepherdforest.org, our FaceBook page, and future newsletters for all updates and information related to the resumption of SFCC activities.

For the latest information on COVID 19 cases, risks, symptoms, testing sites, mask distribution, virus prevention, business re-openings, and much more, please check out the City of Houston website at <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19/> or call the COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220.

DO YOUR PART TO KEEP OUR CITY SAFE AND HEALTHY !

CENTERPOINT PROJECT ABRUPTLY HALTED

A plan by CenterPoint Energy that called for the installation of a new above ground electrical line on Ansbury Drive was suddenly halted in late May. Without notification to residents or the civic club, the project had been approved to connect two existing Centerpoint lines and required new poles being placed in the front yards of those residents living along the route. The new line was to run on the south side of Ansbury from an area just east of Topham Circle to Oak Forest Drive, and then south on Oak Forest to the dead end of the street. But thanks to the efforts of SF resident, Laurie Springer, the project was halted.

After flags and wooden stakes were placed in yards along Ansbury, along with a notification that trees along the project route would be trimmed/removed, Ms. Springer jumped into action and spent countless hours and days making phone calls and emailing officials at CenterPoint and the City of Houston. She asked for Centerpoint to reconsider, but was told that the project had been in the works for 1 ½ years and could not be changed. Centerpoint had already marked the spots where the poles were to be located. But diligently, she continued the fight and was able to locate someone with the City of Houston that reached out to Centerpoint on her behalf. Centerpoint then agreed to take another look at the project and see if there were alternatives to placing the electrical poles in resident's front yards. Fortunately, after they did some work at a nearby sub-station, the need for the new line on Ansbury was eliminated and Centerpoint has stopped the project!

When contacted by the Shepherd Forest Civic Club, Centerpoint sent the following statement from Pierce Prater, Service Area Manager for CenterPoint Energy North Region: "CenterPoint Energy is continually upgrading our facilities to improve reliability and handle added load. The project in Shepherd Forest will help increase reliability in the area. We had the opportunity to revisit the originally planned location of poles along Ansbury drive and came up with an alternative near our substation that will minimize customer impact."

Hats off to Laurie Stringer for leading the charge to keep the unsightly poles from being placed in residents front yards and to CenterPoint for working to find an alternative to their long planned project. This is just another example of how positive results for our neighborhood can happen when we work together for the good of Shepherd Forest!



CITIZENS ON PATROL SECURITY REPORT

As summer begins and the Covid-19 continues to leave our world in limbo, crime in Houston continues to rise all around us. In Shepherd Forest specifically, the following were among reported crime:

5/6 – 3000 block of Ella (near 610)– Theft from a restaurant
5/9 – 2100 block of West 34th – Assault at a gas station
5/17 – 1000 block of West 30th - Burglary
5/17 – 3000 block of Ella (near 610) – Robbery
5/21 – 2100 block of WildeRock – Theft from a motor vehicle

Information provided is a good faith effort to reconcile data from various sources and is the best information available at the time of publication. If a crime has occurred near you, please report it to HPD immediately and then to our Security Coordinator, Paul Berry at 915-373-8820. It is extremely important that HPD is made aware of ALL crimes in our neighborhood, regardless of how insignificant it may seem.

Residents are again reminded of these simple safety precautions: Leave nothing of any value visible inside a vehicle, lock your vehicle and if possible park them inside garages or behind fences, do not park vehicles at the curb, and take garage door opening devices from vehicles parked outside. In addition, floodlights and/or area motion-detecting lights can be helpful as a deterrent, and remember to let a trusted neighbor know when you will be absent from home for a period of time and have them pickup up mail, flyers posted on doors, newspapers etc. Keep limbs and shrubbery trimmed near your home, especially those near doors or windows where burglars may enter. And most importantly – stay alert to your surroundings and report ANYTHING that appears suspicious immediately. The trick is to making yourself less likely to become a crime victim is practicing some of these common sense precautions.

Again, our thanks to our Citizen on Patrol members who are so dedicated and continue to spend their time patrolling the streets of Shepherd Forest on YOUR behalf. Their efforts are appreciated by everyone !!

HPD & Life threatening emergencies – 911
HPD – Non-emergency (burglaries, stolen property...) 713-884-3131
SFCC Security Coordinator - Paul Berry 915-373-8820



PARTY LINE

Happy June Birthday wishes are sent to Jamie Farquhar-Rizzo (6/15), Mollie Weber (6/15), Cooper Allen (6/16), John Leader (6/20), Angela Hider (6/20), Kristi Gollwitzer (6/21), and Lynette Tidwell (6/24). Celebrating June wedding anniversaries are Darrell & Lynette Tidwell (6/13), Joe & Jean Jungbauer (6/14), Sean and Jamie Farquhar-Rizzo (6/15), Richard & Delinda Holland (6/24), and Gene & Dell Hightower's 72nd Anniversary on (6/28). Congratulations to everyone !

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to John Carter who is now home and recuperating from a recent surgery. John is a longtime Citizens on Patrol volunteer and collects aluminum cans for recycling with funds going to our COP.

Sincere sympathy is sent to Arlene Moyer in the recent passing of her husband, Carter Moyer. Condolences are also sent to the family of former Ansbury resident, Melina Doig, who passed away recently.

Shepherd Forest recently said goodbye to longtime civic club volunteer and COP Coordinator, Ruth Lepler, who moved from the neighborhood. Also leaving our neighborhood (and Houston) are residents Carla Byrom, Susan Steving, and Darla Coons. We wish them all well as they relocate to their new homes.

If you have news to share with the PartyLine, please email info@shepherdforest.or or call 713-742-2470 and leave a message.



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GRAFFITI DE-FACES SHEPHERD FOREST

As you may have noticed, graffiti in and around Shepherd Forest has been on the rise for a while, especially along West 34th . Officials draw a connection between the occurrence of graffiti and gang activity, decline in property values, increases in area crime, and the perception of diminishing quality of services. Such perceptions have numerous negative consequences on our community.

The City of Houston has a graffiti fighting website to arm the citizens with the tools they need to fight graffiti in their neighborhoods. Graffiti costs the City of Houston valuable tax dollars that could be used for other projects but instead are used to paint over someone's vandalism. Graffiti is illegal and if caught a person can face misdemeanor charges if damage is less than \$500. Committing a graffiti act can also be a felony if damages are more than \$500. Texas Penal Code §28.08 makes it a crime to intentionally or knowingly make markings with aerosol paint, indelible marker or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without consent of the owner. Markings can include inscriptions, slogans, drawings or paintings.



Graffiti is ugly. It comes in all shapes and colors and can be found on buildings, highways, fences and other surfaces. It's done without permission and it's against the law. Graffiti is an eyesore that decreases property values, is a drain on tax dollars, and makes residents feel unsafe. Please help our neighborhood by reporting all graffiti, including buildings, parks, streets, signs and on private and commercial property, to the City by calling 311 (you can make an anonymous call) or visiting <http://www.houstontx.gov/graffiti>. Don't live with graffiti – FIGHT IT!

A FEW MISCELLANEOUS GARDENING TIPS

Gardening is still regarded as the most popular hobby of homeowners. There are endless books sold with advice, but a few simple tips on planting and mulching etc. can go a long way toward helping to avoid the frustrations of buying and planting only to see plants wither away and die. First, choose healthy plants. A sickly plant at a good price may be a bargain, but only if you have ample time to offer it intensive care. If you are not sure what plants will work in the available area check with a knowledgeable garden center or at least do some online research. Conditions to consider might include: How much direct sunlight does the location receive? (In Houston, most plants labeled as needing full sun will generally perform quite well if they receive morning to early afternoon direct sun and then are shielded from late afternoon harsh summer sun). Does the site receive large quantities of rain runoff or none? Is the soil heavy, retaining moisture or light/raised and quick draining? How big will the mature plant naturally be? A plant which matures beyond the available space and requires continual pruning can take some joy out of gardening. Do you desire a plant which will live year around (a perennial) or do you want to plan to replant an area with fresh colors each season – annuals probably being the best choice for the latter.

When planting, if you simply dig a hole in the hard existing turf and plop in a plant, it might survive with generous care. But taking time to work up an area and adding a good quality compost to effectively add organic matter to the soil and to raise the planting area will go a long way toward the plant surviving. Use of a root stimulator is generally helpful at the time of planting, but most common commercial so-called stimulators are little more than dilute liquid fertilizer. So, using a decent water soluble fertilizer at half-strength can generally serve fairly effectively and reduces some of the storage clutter associated with gardening by not stocking yet another container. For several days – length of time determined by weather – water well and regularly just as if the plant was still in the original container. For all intents the new plant is still is being nourished from that same small bit of dirt from the container. Give the roots a chance to spread into the surrounding soil. Organic fertilizers can be helpful as they generally tend to not have a burning impact on tender plant roots, are naturally slow release and help boost microbial soil activity. But for general landscape plants fertilizers are to a large degree, just fertilizers. Those to be dissolved in water being most rapidly available to the plant – and of shortest acting duration. Granular fertilizers act more slowly as they have to break down to become available – but in all cases follow the dilution/application instructions carefully. Using twice as much is definitely not twice as good.



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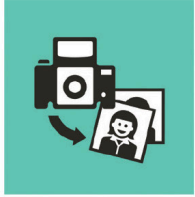
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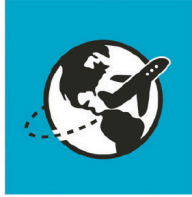
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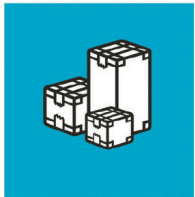
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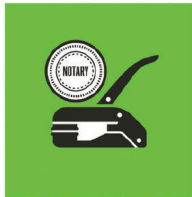
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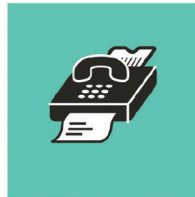
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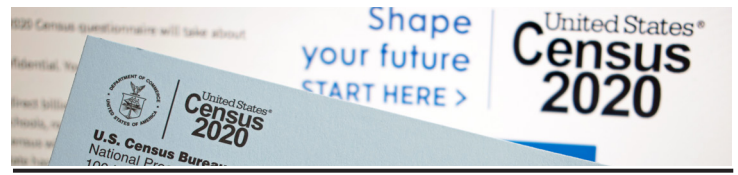
The Shepherd Forest Civic Club recently recognized our Community Partner, Sarah Mustafa, owner of the UPS Store at 1717 West 34th @ Ella. The UPS Store has generously supported our organization in the past and continues to print our monthly newsletter. Sarah was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the civic club. Thank you Sarah and UPS!

Please patronize this wonderful SFCC Community Partner that offers a wide variety of services!



2020 CENSUS – IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

The US Census is mandated by the Constitution and counts the population of our country every ten years. The results determine how many seats in Congress each State gets as well as how billions of dollars are sent to local communities for schools, Health Departments, Police and Fire Departments, roads and much more. Houston risks losing \$10,000 for every person who does not respond to the 2020 Census. Filling out the Census only takes a few minutes and it's not too late! Go to 2020Census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020.





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