



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 30, ISSUE III



THE EASTER BUNNY IS COMING! THE ANNUAL SFCC EASTER EGG HUNT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 24th at 10:00am - and the Easter Bunny will definitely be in attendance. This year's event will again be held at Stonecrest Park, located on East T.C. Jester at Stonecrest. All Shepherd Forest residents and children are encouraged to attend this special family event. No one is too young or too old to attend the Egg Hunt - and every participant will win a prize! Light refreshments will be served, and feel free to bring your own. Don't forget your Easter basket and a lawn chair or blanket, and get ready for a fun-filled day with your Shepherd Forest neighbors.

Donations and volunteers for this event are always welcome - Contact Delinda Holland 713-416-1888 if you'd like to help.

NEW-LOOK NEWSLETTER

No doubt you've noticed some changes to our monthly newsletter. We are excited to announce that going forward, every issue of the Shepherd Forest newsletter will be printed in full color. This will allow us to really show off all of the interesting and exciting people and events that make Shepherd Forest a great place to live. In addition, Dylan Moore Marketing Design, a full service marketing and design firm located right here in Shepherd Forest, will be designing and publishing the newsletter at no cost to our Civic Club.

Looking ahead, our newsletter content will also be expanding to include profiles of residents and local businesses, as well as more news on community events, new construction, crime and safety and other items of interest to our residents.

If you would like to contribute or have a suggestion for an upcoming issues, please contact Editor Mary Lamb at lambmn1011@aol.com or 281-488-3216.



We **LOVE** this tribute to Texas Music at the corner of 34th and Ella, and can't wait to see what else the owners and new tenants at 33 and 1/3 at 34th have in store for us. Stay tuned...

NAME THE NEWSLETTER!

With its all new look and expanded content, we think our newsletter deserves a new name too - and we want you to help! We've narrowed the choices down to 4 names - e-mail us with your favorite, and watch for the update to the masthead on next month's issue.

1. Shepherd Forest Times
2. Shepherd Forest Ranger
3. Shepherd Forest Neighbor
4. Shepherd Forest Archer

E-mail your vote to Info@ShepherdForest.org

CITIZENS ON PATROL - SECURITY REPORT

The list is short this month, but our most common crime is still at the top of the list – burglary of cars parked on the street or in our driveways. As we always urge our residents – **Lock your car AND take your valuables inside with you.**

RECENT CRIMES REPORTED TO HPD

02/04	1400 Stonecrest (Sec. 1)	Theft from Vehicle
02/24	4300 Marlborough (Sec. 3)	Burglary of Vehicle
03/04	1000 W 31st (Sec. 1)	Burglary of Vehicles

On the morning of Tuesday, February 6th, residents of Section 3 were alerted to the presence of HPD squad cars and K-9 units searching the area for the suspect in an armed robbery case. The man broke into a house in the 4100 block of Marlborough but eventually eluded police. Thanks to Facebook and NextDoor, residents were able to alert each other of the situation and everyone was advised to stay inside until the excitement was over.

CITIZENS ON PATROL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in participating in or learning more about our Citizens On Patrol program, please contact COP Coordinator Debby Fisher at 434-221-6222

MONEY MATTERS

Are you taking full advantage of your 401(k) plan? Here are 4 major benefits to these plans that are worth your attention.

1. Automatic Payroll Deduction. You are much more likely to save money when it's automatically withheld from your paycheck, as opposed to it being up to you.

2. The Match. In 2018, many employers match their employees' 401(k) contributions to some degree. If that's the case for you, try to contribute at least the minimum needed for matching. Otherwise, you're literally leaving free money on the table.

3. Stable Value Funds. These funds are typically only available through special arrangements such as a 401(k), and pay interest comparable to a bond fund – but without fluctuating in value. This can be very beneficial if you're looking for better returns than cash, but with less volatility than bonds.

4. Access to Loans. You may be able to borrow from your account while still working? This ends up being advantageous since you don't have to worry about paying taxes, and you can put the money back in your account.

Contributed by Bryon Townsend, CFP. - W.R. Anderson & Co.

SECURITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

How important is security to the residents of Shepherd Forest? According to the SF Civic Club 2018 survey, 82% marked it "very important," and another 12% checked "important." Based on the survey results, the SF Civic Club board organized a Security Task Force to contact security companies and law enforcement, and we have thus far held meetings with both S.E.A.L. (Strategic Executive & Logistical Security Solutions) and the Precinct One Constable's Office.



HERE ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE PROGRAM:

- Patrol in Marked Constable Cars
- Ability to Write Tickets and Make Arrests
- Deputy Assigned to Area and Attend SF Meetings
- Vacation Watch Program for Residents in Contract Areas
- Constable Signs Placed Throughout Subdivision

During the meeting, the audience also received a Houston Police Department map of Shepherd Forest, as well as maps for Garden Oaks and Shepherd Park Plaza, two subdivisions where the Constable's Office currently has contracts. According to these maps, Garden Oaks had 1 robbery and 2 thefts within the last 30 days, and Shepherd Park had 1 robbery only, while Shepherd Forest has had 2 thefts, 3 burglaries, and 2 robberies during the same period. In addition, West 34th, Ella, West T.C. Jester, and the 610 Frontage Roads that bound our subdivision had 12 robberies, burglaries, and thefts within that same 30 days.

If you are interested in attending the meetings or volunteering for the Security Task Force, please email Patricia Williams at paw@earthlink.net.

Contributed by Patricia Williams, Security Task Force Chairman

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ALBA SIDEWALK PROJECT HITS A SPEED BUMP

Thank you to the many Section 1 residents who offered support for the Alba Sidewalk Project. As you may recall from one of the previous Newsletter editions, the best option to move ahead with a sidewalk installation project on Alba is to come together as a community and self-fund the project.

Past Presidents, David Hille and Jennifer Woodruff met in January to measure the length of phase one – a sidewalk on Alba from West 31st Street to connect with the current sidewalk that ends just north of Gardendale. That section measures approximately 423 linear feet, and according to city regulations all new sidewalks have to measure 5 feet in width. We shared the project measurements with two contractors and received two bids; one came in at \$36,000 and the other came in at \$16,500. Breaking the lowest bid down, that would require 66 households to contribute \$250 each. Is that feasible? Our residents would have to be the deciding factor.

Another option we may be able to take advantage of was offered by Stomping Ground, a restaurant/entertainment venue breaking ground on 34th street, just west of Alba. They have offered to allow us use of their land - before any improvements begin - to host a fundraiser. Some suggestions included a pop up crawfish boil, BBQ or other food type fundraiser. This option will require upfront expenses like equipment, tables/chairs, tents, food, beverages, utensils, etc.

As you can see there is no quick and easy solution. Our next step is to survey our community to find out which option a majority of residents would support, then form a committee to make this project happen. If you are interested in being involved with this effort, please contact Jennifer Woodruff via e-mail at jwoodrufftx@yahoo.com.
Contributed by Jennifer Woodruff, Past President of the SFCC



THE PARTY LINE

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS! to Kelly Bena Moore (3/17), Jonathan Evanicky (3/18) and Delores Muske (3/29).

THANKS! to the anonymous neighbor who has picked up the trash and swept up the dirt near the Shepherd Forest sign at Attridge and the feeder near Section 1.

BIG THANKS! to Jennifer Woodruff, Melina Doig, Sharon Lout and Bob Williamson for subbing as newsletter carriers in Sections 1 & 2 last month, and to Tasha Laverton for extending her walk to cover an extension of her regular route.

We are still seeking newsletter carriers for the 1100 & 1200 blocks of W. 31st Street and 4 blocks of 30th Street in Section 1. If you can take even part of one of these routes, please contact Mary Lamb at Lambmn1011@aol.com or text 281-488-3216.

CLOSE TO HOME

DO RISING INTEREST RATES = LOWER INTEREST IN BUYING?

After an extended period of record low interest mortgages, we are at last facing the reality of rising interest rates. But, there is no need to panic. Although we are now around 1/2% percent higher than we were on January 1, most experts agree that the interest



rate won't surpass 5% by the end of the year. And while 5% is still historically a good rate, it is motivating many home buyers who have been on the fence to act now. This is reflected in the amount of pending contracts in Shepherd Forest. Currently, we have 15 homes for sale, 7 of which are already under contract. So far this year we have had 4 sales close, which is fairly average for the first two months of the year. One of the sold homes is ready for renovations and another was the first new construction sale in the neighborhood in 2 1/2 years. Next month we'll see the full first quarter 2018 sales and be able to compare those to the same quarter, previous years' sales.

Contributed by David Hille, Senior Realtor, Habitation Realty



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(4/19) (5/17) (6/21)

Section 3 Pickup - 4th Tuesdays

(4/23) (5/22) (6/26)



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MARCH SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 19TH 7:00 PM - HARRIET & JOE FOSTER YMCA - 1234 W. 34TH

Bryon Townsend, Principal at W.R. Anderson & Co. will deliver a brief presentation on Property Taxes.
He will discuss how to dispute a raise in your property taxes, and share useful resources to that end.

SFCC MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ALL SHEPHERD FOREST RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT - Bid Nutt (Sec. 3) - 713-681-9367

VICE PRESIDENT - Patricia Williams (Sec. 1)

SECRETARY - Payton Arens (Sec. 1) - 713-569-2750

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Mary Lamb (Sec. 1) 281-488-3216

Krista Ripper (Sec. 3) 979-739-9299

Delinda Holland (Sec. 2) 713-416-1888

Kelly Bena Moore (Sec. 3)



JOIN YOUR CIVIC CLUB TODAY!

Now is a great time become an official member of the Shepherd Forest Civic Club. Homeowners and renters alike are encouraged to participate in the Civic Club, and there are opportunities to with help with Beautification, Deed Restrictions, Security, Social Events and much more - anything of interest to our residents is important to the SFCC!

Membership Dues for the SFCC are only \$20 annually, and the help fund community efforts that benefit us all. Dues can be paid online anytime through our website - www.ShepherdForest.org.

We are very interested in hearing what you think about how we can improve our neighborhood. Contact the SFCC via e-mail at info@shepherdforest.org or LIKE and Follow or Facebook page.

LET US KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND!

SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB P.O. BOX 925282 HOUSTON, TX 77292-5282

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