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www.ShepherdForest.org

September 2017

Like The Weather, We Are Making a Change

Due to the strain that has been placed on many of our residents as a result of Hurricane Harvey, we have postponed elections for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club **until the October General Meeting on October 16th**. However, we will be taking nominations at the September meeting. You can nominate yourself, or you can nominate a colleague that you think would make a good leader for our neighborhood. **We will be accepting nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three at-large positions on the Board of Directors.** If you have any questions or are interested in serving our neighborhood, please reach out to us at info@shepherdforest.org. These elections are more important than ever ... Please read the important message from Civic Club President Kurt Schoeffler inside.

NEXT Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, September 18th 2017 @ 7:00 pm
Temple Oaks Baptist Church – 2101 W 34th Street
(parking and entrance behind the church)

TOPIC: Nominations for Civic Club Officers

*SFCC meetings are held on the third Monday of every month
All Shepherd Forest residents are ENCOURAGED to attend.*

Its Almost Here – The SF Annual Picnic happens Sept. 24th



Do you like fun? Do you like free hot dogs and watermelon on a sunny Sunday afternoon? Where can you find this in our own neighborhood? Well, come on over to Stonecrest Park (East T C Jester at Stonecrest) on **Sunday September 24th from 4 to 6 pm** -- Shepherd Forest Civic Club will once again host one of its most popular events, the Annual Fall Picnic. **NEW THIS YEAR: from 4:30 to 4:45 we will have a Kids Parade!** Kids of all ages are encouraged to participate. Decorate your bicycle, ride in strollers, pull a wagon or just walk with your friends. There will be food and fun to young and old. We are bringing back the **petting zoo and bouncy castle**, games for the kids, and plenty of surprises. **There will also be Shepherd Forest T-shirts for sale.** Come out and meet your Civic Club officers and your neighbors at this popular annual event. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please give Delinda Holland a call (713-416-1888)

Citizens Patrol Security Report

Another short list of reported crimes since the last Newsletter ... but activity in nearby subdivisions has picked up with recent reports in Timbergrove, Oak Forest and Garden Oaks of a team of young males who are traveling together, late at night, and checking all driveways for unlocked cars and rifling through the contents. Video from surveillance cameras has been shared on Facebook and NextDoor in the hopes that someone will recognized these youths. Cars and trucks are still a popular target.

Here's what has been reported since the last newsletter:

8/23/17 Sec 1 3000 block Attridge – Burglary
9/2/17 Sec 1 1400 block Ansbury – Theft
9/3/17 Sec 1 1400 block Ansbury – Attempted Theft of Truck
9/12/17 Sec 2 2100 block Bron Holly – Vehicle entered – rifled through

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, there will be any number of strangers passing through our area with the intention of picking through and taking whatever they can scavenge from storm debris. In their search for items to take, they may not restrict themselves to the moldy items left at the curb. It is more important than ever that you keep your homes and cars locked and secure.

Report all crime to HPD. Citizens Patrol reminds us to **call HPD (911 if it is an emergency, or 713-884-3131) if you should see anything or anyone that appears to be “suspicious,”** AFTER you have made the call to HPD, notify our Citizens Patrol by reporting it to our new COP Coordinator Debby Fisher 434-221-6222.

BEWARE OF FRAUD – HURRICANES ALSO BRING STORM CHASERS

Both FEMA and the Texas Attorney General's Office are warning citizens of the risk of fraud and common scams in the wake of severe weather. Common post-disaster fraud practices include phony housing inspectors, fraudulent building contractors, bogus pleas for disaster donations, and false offers of state or federal aid. Texas are urged to ask questions, and to require identification when someone claims to represent a government agency.

Also keep in mind that state and federal workers never ask for or accept money, and always carry identification badges. There is no fee required to apply for or to receive disaster assistance from FEMA, the US Small Business Administration or the state. No state or government disaster assistance agency will call to ask for your financial information. Unless you place a call to these agencies, you should not provide personal information over the phone as it can lead to identity theft.

>>To apply for FEMA disaster assistance, call 1-800-621-3362 or go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov<<

Bring Your Green Recycling Bin Back To Your House!



Recycling, Yard, Junk, And Tree Waste Collection Curbside single stream recycling collection, yard, junk, and tree waste collections **will be suspended until further notice due to the need of extra personnel for debris collection related to disaster recovery.** Customers may bring recyclables to neighborhood depository locations or the Westpark Recycling Center located at 5900 Westpark, Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.HoustonSolidWaste.org or call 3-1-1.

If you have storm debris in front of your house, The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department is asking residents to **remove all parked vehicles from the streets when debris crews are working in your neighborhood.** If heavy trucks are unable to pass safely along the streets, the City will not be able to remove the debris. Storm debris will be collected on an ongoing basis until further notice.

Party Line

Wishing a happy October birthday to **Scott Rohr (10/3)** and **Jan Hughes (10/23)**. Happy November birthdays for **Gerry Barbeau (11/1)**, **Ricardo Tristan (11/4)**, **Lisa Nieto (11/5)**, **Justin Alvarez (11/6)**, **Travis Holland (11/7)**, and **Eva Kirten (11/15)**

Condolences to the family of long-time Section 3 resident **Martha Davis**, who passed away August 31st.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SHEPHERD FOREST VOLUNTEERS: The 3700-3900 blocks of Gardendale in Section 3 were significantly damaged by the overflow of White Oak Bayou during Hurricane Harvey. But within days, residents of all 3 sections came with trucks, tools and energy to help with the cleanup efforts as they cleared the water-soaked homes of damaged furniture, sheetrock, and personal items. Several smaller teams have returned to tear out more sheetrock and prepare homes for professional repairs.

If you have news of birthdays, new neighbors, illnesses, anniversaries, or any other news to share, please contact the editor at 281-488-3216 or by e-mail Lambmn1011@aol.com

An Important Message from Kurt Schoeffler, President, Shepherd Forest Civic Club

In the past two weeks, I've seen countless people stepping up to help their neighbors however they can, from clearing out flooded homes and lending tools or equipment, to running errands and cooking out for fellow volunteers. A couple families even commented that they have met more neighbors in the last week than they did in the last 5+ years of living here. The way people have come together and the difference it has made in our neighbors' lives is palpable. Thank you to all who have contributed so much.

If the recent events surrounding Hurricane Harvey have taught me anything, it is that a strong sense of community can truly transform a neighborhood. Getting to know your neighbors makes everything about our community better. Knowing your neighbors makes it easier to offer help. It makes it easier to ask for help. It makes our neighborhood safer. It gives peace of mind. And it makes a simple walk around the block that much more enjoyable when you know the people along the way.

Let's not let the sense of community that has developed over the last couple of weeks fade. Reach out to your neighbors. Exchange contact information. Invite them over for dinner. Check in periodically to see if they need help with anything. Talk to the individuals you see walking by after work. Attend a neighborhood event. And get involved. National Night Out is a nationwide community-building initiative focused on making our neighborhoods safer and more pleasant places to live. On Tuesday, October 3rd, neighborhoods around Houston will host block parties to become better acquainted and show solidarity with their neighbors. It is a great opportunity to continue the camaraderie. If you would like more information, or are interested in hosting an event for your block, please email us at info@shepherdforest.org

National Night Out – A Nation-wide Effort to Reduce Crime

As crime in Shepherd Forest seems to have increased recently, neighbors are joining together in an effort to stop it. The first step in crime prevention is meeting and getting to know your neighbors. **Tuesday, October 3rd is National Night Out, so turn on your porch light, lock your doors, and bring your lawn chair** as we enjoy some snacks and hopefully, meet and mingle with our neighbors!



Block parties will be held in all 3 sections – **1710 Stonecrest in Section 1** (Clyde & Delores Muske), **2218 Bron Holly in Section 2** (Delinda & Richard Holland) and **3010 Vollmer in Section 3** (Virginia & Raymond Dietrich). If you have never attended a National Night Out party, come on out and see what you've been missing. Join us for snacks and some great fun visiting with old neighbors and meeting the new ones. Hot dogs and lemonade will be provided (in Section 2), but if you have a favorite snack, feel free to bring it. Please join us anytime between **6:00 & 8:00 pm** and join the fight against crime in our area.

News from the Beautification Committee

The Civic Club would like to graciously acknowledge the many efforts of **Lauren Syrinek** in her role as Beautification Chairman. As her life is about to see some big changes (she will become an aunt AND a new bride this fall!) she is ready to hand the rake over to someone else. So if you are interested in coordinating this committee, organizing cleanups, awarding Yard of the Month and other decorating contests, or you just have some great ideas of your own for how to make Shepherd Forest beautiful, please reach out to any Civic Club officer for more details.

Officers and Directors for Shepherd Forest Civic Club

Officers

President – Kurt Schoeffler (3) 281-217-1122
Vice President – Debby Fischer (3) 434-221-6222
Secretary – Delinda Holland (temporary)
Treasurer – Mark Landress (1) 713-880-4847
Newsletter – Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

Board of Directors

Glenn Cessna (2) 832-659-2069
Bid Nutt (3) 713-681-9367
Edward Vargas (1) 713-864-8127
Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216
POSITION OPEN

Beautification Committee Chairman – POSITION OPEN

Citizens on Patrol Officer – Debby Fischer (3) 434-221-6222

Shepherd Forest Civic Club P.O. Box 925282, Houston TX 77292-5292



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