



THE SHEPHERD FOREST TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

DECEMBER 2020

SANTA VISITS SHEPHERD FOREST

Although without his sleigh or reindeer, Santa Claus recently took a day off from work and spent a Sunday afternoon riding through Shepherd Forest, accompanied by a talented quartet playing some beautiful Christmas music. Neighbors greeted Santa with cheers, waving, applause, and lots of smiles as he passed by, while Santa's helpers handed out candy canes to those along the route.

SaxWorx, who has provided musical entertainment at past civic club events, treated residents to a variety of Christmas music as they rode along, and a great time was had by everyone along the route. A huge thank you goes to the SF Civic Club and Kevin Taylor for organizing the event and getting Santa to take time out of his very busy schedule to visit with our Shepherd Forest neighbors. Check out the SFCC website (www.shepherdforest.org) for some great photos of Santa's recent visit to Shepherd Forest.



Christmas DECORATING CONTEST

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club's annual **Christmas Decorating Contest** will be held on the weekend of **December 12th**.

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. With more residents at home due to Covid this year, our neighborhood has seen a surge in holiday decorating and much earlier as well. Thank you to everyone who is decorating for Christmas as your efforts are enjoyed by all of your neighbors! Just a few more days before the 2020 Decorating Contest winners are selected!

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, the City could not verify this location, so be sure to check before you drop off 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 will be available at <http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste> or by calling the City of Houston Helpline at 311.

SFCC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TO START

January 1st is the kickoff of the 2021 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 **\$20 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**

Have you recently moved to Shepherd Forest? New baby? Birthday? 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!

NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club recently welcomed **JEANNE GEBO** as a new member of the Board of Directors. Jeanne is a longtime resident of Section 2 and will fill one of two vacancies on the Board. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors, please contact the civic club at info@shepherdforest.org.

CALL 311 FOR HELP

The City of Houston's 3-1-1 Helpline serves as a link between residents and the City of Houston, providing citizens with a telephone number to call for information on the City's services and to report non-emergency concerns. Among the many services provided by calling 311, is an easy way to report neighborhood problems. These may include flooded streets, water leaks, high weeds, nuisances on a property such as garbage buildup, sewer or wastewater problems, garbage or recycle container issues, broken traffic signals, street hazards, and dead animal pickup. The 311 website offers an easy way to report issues, check on past reports, and an interactive map to view current active 311 complaints. You can visit <https://www.houstontx.gov/311/> or just dial 3-1-1 to make a report. The City continues to increase its 311 functionality by adding new Service Request types on the website and more channels of communication such as chat and texting, which are expected to come online in the near future.

SECTION 2 FLOODING

Civic Club officials recently facilitated a meeting with City Councilmember Abbie Kamin to address the ongoing flooding concerns in Section 2 between Oak Forest and East TC Jester. Several residents described how the flooding issues have recently increased and their concerns that the new developments on West 34th may have on flooding. Councilmember Kamin agreed to work on the issue, including an "in person" visit to the neighborhood. She also mentioned that the City's response to residents flooding complaints is driven by the number of 311 reports they receive. Upon checking, it was revealed that only one or two residents have actually taken the time to call 311 when the streets flooded, so the City is "not actually aware of the flooding issues." Please remember to call 311 **anytime** your street is flooded so that an official complaint is recorded with the City.

CITIZENS ON PATROL SECURITY REPORT

Once again, crimes taking place on Ella and along West 34th seem to be happening frequently and the SFCC urges our residents to be extra alert when in these areas. Listed below are the HPD reported incidents in and around our neighborhood that the SFCC has been made aware of:

- 11/08 - 1900 block of Ansbury - theft
- 11/09 - 3000 block of Ella - theft at Exxon
- 11/14 - 1100 block of Stonecrest - theft from vehicle
- 11/14 - 1700 block of West 34th - assault
- 11/19 - 1600 block of Wilde Rock - assault
- 11/21 - 2200 block of West 34th - vandalism
- 11/25 - 1200 block of West 30th - vandalism
- 11/26 - 1700 block of West 34th - assault
- 11/28 - 2000 block of West 34th - theft from vehicle
- 11/29 - 1200 block of West 30th - theft
- 11/30 - 1000 block of West 30th - theft
- 11/30 - 1700 block of West 34th - motor vehicle theft



We all play a role in keeping Shepherd Forest safe. 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. It is better to be safe and let the 9-1-1 operator determine if you need emergency assistance. Always err on the side of caution.

After you have contacted HPD, please contact 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. 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.



PARTY LINE

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)**, and **TORRY HILL (12/29)**. Happy Birthday!

Condolences are sent to the family of longtime resident, **PEGGY DILLON**, who passed away November 4th. Peggy helped distribute the SF Times for a number of years & will be missed.

Sincere sympathy is also sent to **PATRICIA WILLIAMS** and family on the recent loss of her sister.

A great big Shepherd Forest "Welcome to the Neighborhood" goes to new SF neighbors **JONATHAN (JON)** and **ALANA MEYER** and their furbabies, **HAZEL, PAUL** and **GARTH**. The Meyers recently moved into the neighborhood and live on Groven in Section 3. Welcome !!!

A huge THANK YOU go to the "anonymous" residents living on Topham that continuously take the time and effort to mow the grass along the sidewalk of the Centerpoint easement near them. Their efforts allow residents to continue to walk along the sidewalk and not in the street along this part of Ansbury. Your neighbors greatly appreciate what you have been doing for them!!!

Another resident, Charlie Aguilar, of Section 1 also deserves recognition for the great job that he does mowing the Centerpoint easement behind the homes on West 31st. Your efforts not only make the area look better, but help to improve neighbors safety. Many thank to you Charlie!!!

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 Day and New Years Day** will be delayed until Friday - the day immediately following the holiday. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve will have regularly scheduled garbage pickup. 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**



After the holidays, our recycle bins are usually filled with paper and other holiday remnants. But are you sure what can be tossed in the green bins before you sit it out for collection? On January 18th, 2021 the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will host a virtual meeting with

The UPS Store



PRINTING SERVICES



MAILBOX SERVICES



PACKING SERVICES



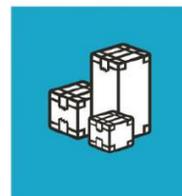
PASSPORT/ID PHOTOS



INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING



COPY SERVICES



MOVING SUPPLIES



NOTARY SERVICES



FAX SERVICES

1717W 34th St - Ste 600, Houston, TX 77018
(346) 701-7195 Store6929@theUPSstore.com

representatives from the City's Solid Waste/Recycling Department to learn more about the basics of recycling. Be on the lookout for items that you are not sure can be placed in the recycle bins and have them at the meeting. Recycle representatives can give you the answer as well as any other questions you may have.