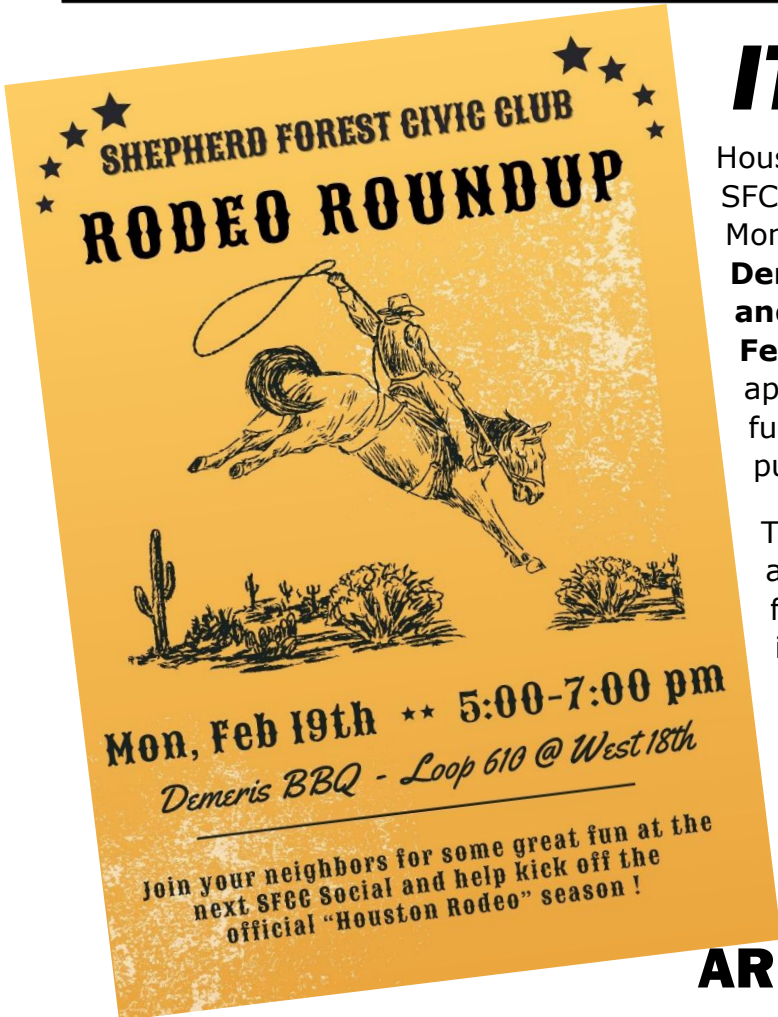




TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 40. ISSUE 2



IT'S RODEO TIME!

Houston's "Rodeo Season" is about to kick off and the SFCC invites you to their Rodeo Roundup Social on Monday, February 19th. Join your neighbors at **Demeris BBQ Restaurant (1702 N. Loop West and 18th - behind Whataburger) on Monday, February 19th from 5:30 to 7:00pm.** Light appetizers will be provided by Demeris BBQ and a full dining menu will be available for you to purchase your favorite food and drinks.

Take the opportunity to meet your new neighbors and mingle with the old ones. Bring the whole family to hear the latest Rodeo tidbits and interesting details about the upcoming Houston Rodeo from the Rodeo Speakers Committee members. Don't forget to put on your favorite hat and boots and make plans to attend this fun Rodeo social as we help kick off the official Houston Rodeo season! See y'all there!

ARE YOU AN SFCC MEMBER ?

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE A MINUTE TO JOIN

Membership dues for 2024 are now due for everyone and are still **only \$25 per household**, one of the *lowest* civic club membership dues across our City. This small fee helps fund this newsletter and upcoming events such as Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny photos, Fall picnic (members receive a \$25 Dr. Gleem Car Wash certificate), Socials, Halloween event, Professional Photos with Santa, Christmas dinner, as well as Beautification projects, Citizens on Patrol, Deed Restriction enforcement, Civic Club website, and much more. **These are just a few of the FREE benefits your Civic Club membership dues provide for you!**



It's very easy for you to join or renew your membership. You can mail your payment and membership dues to SFCC, PO Box 925282, Houston, Texas 77292-5282. Prefer to pay online? Visit <http://www.shepherdforest.org> and click on Join SFCC, or scan the QR code on this page.





PARTY LINE

Warm Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors **ANGIE JOE** who celebrates on 2/16 and **JESSICA CABALLERO** who celebrates on 2/22. Special Happy Birthday wishes also go to **NORA BERRY** on 2/23 and to **JUSTIN BERRY** on 2/28. Several neighbors will be celebrating their birthdays in early March, including **COOKIE DAVENPORT** on 3/04 and

BID NUTT on 3/10. Hope each one of you have a wonderful birthday!

Thoughts and prayers are sent to SFCC Vice-President **PAUL BERRY** as he continues his medical recovery and rehab. Keep working hard Paul – we hope to see you back home real soon!

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes are sent to **SHARON & IAN KINLOCH** who will celebrate March 6th.

A huge “Congratulations!” is sent to Marlborough residents **JESSICA and JAVIER FUENTES** on the January 7th arrival of their precious baby, **JAX JAVIER FUENTES**.

The SFCC extends a warm “Welcome to the neighborhood!” to our new Stonecrest neighbor, **DON MASSEY**.

Congratulations are sent to **RALPH IMRECKE** on winning the 2024 Membership Drive Lottery Ticket Tree.

Many thanks to **AMBER OLIVER & RACHEL RIEBELING** for their hard work cleaning the SF Entrance area on Guese!

If you are a new neighbor, have birthdays, anniversaries, new baby, or other news you would like to share, please send the information to info@shepherdforest.org and we'll include it in the Times.



March 2nd – Texas Independence Day

Texas Independence Day is a state holiday that commemorates the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. On that date, delegates met at the small riverside village of Washington-on-the-Brazos, and overnight wrote, and then adopted (without debate), the **Texas Declaration of Independence** which declared their independence from Mexico and created the Republic of Texas. Today, the only remaining (of the original five) copy of this document can be seen at the Texas State Archives in Austin, Texas. Show your Texas Pride and celebrate this important Texas holiday!



RESIDENTS MEET WITH



At the January 29th Civic Club meeting, SF residents met with representatives to express their concerns and frustrations regarding the removal of numerous trees from the CenterPoint easement east and west of Ella Blvd. The massive removal of trees recently took place without notice to residents or the Civic Club. Concerns included the displacement of wildlife and birds, bright lights from the warehouses along the easements, loss of a natural sound barrier, devaluation of properties along the easement, traffic in the easement, drainage, the general environmental impact of the trees, and the loss of some very old, beautiful trees that Shepherd Forest residents claimed were not a threat to fences or electrical towers.



Centerpoint admitted that it had done no impact study nor sought community input prior to beginning to remove the trees, but said that the property belongs to Centerpoint and it can remove the trees regardless of the opinion of neighboring residents. After a lengthy and heated discussion, Centerpoint agreed to temporarily halt the removal of trees until they could study all the issues and concerns brought forth by residents at the meeting.

Since the meeting, Centerpoint has notified the Civic Club that after further consideration of residents’ concerns and assessment of the remaining trees, **they will remove all trees left on the easement starting the week of February 12th**. Centerpoint stated that issues including drainage, easement access, trash, and lighting are still being worked on. If you have additional concerns not being addressed, please contact the Shepherd Forest Civic Club at info@shepherdforest.org. The Civic Club continues to oppose the removal of the trees by Centerpoint and advocates the concerns of our residents. Residents will be updated with the latest information from Centerpoint as it becomes available.

SECURITY NEWS

The last several weeks have seen an **alarming uptick in crime in Shepherd Forest**, especially in Section 2 between Oak Forest and East TC Jester. This included two vacant homes burglarized and their appliances and AC units stolen, building materials stolen, tools stolen from workers, an attempted theft of a truck, suspicious people, and a teenager looking into parked cars.

Some of this took place in the middle of the day and some in the wee hours of the night. Several recent Shepherd Forest victims of crime have chosen to not report the crime to HPD. Numerous other crimes that were reported occurred on the borders of Shepherd Forest along West 34th (between Shepherd & Mangum) as well as along Ella Blvd.



Please pay attention to what you see around you and don't hesitate to contact HPD if something doesn't look right. You never know how your information could be related to another crime or how the picture you just snapped could help solve a crime ring in the neighborhood. We must all get involved, talk to our neighbors, and **report all crime**, regardless of how insignificant it may seem at the time.

After you have made an HPD report, please notify the civic club at info@shepherdforest.org that a crime has occurred in your area. The number of HPD units assigned to our area is directly linked to the number of calls for service that HPD receives from our residents. So be sure that you report *everything* to HPD when it occurs!

According to SpotCrime, the following crimes near the Shepherd Forest area were reported to HPD recently:

- 01/02 - 3000 block of Larknolls – vandalism
- 01/06 - 2000 block of West 34th – robbery at gas station
- 01/09 – 2000 block of West 34th – assault at gas station
- 01/14 – 2100 block of Stonecrest – attempted theft of pickup
- 01/15 – 2100 block of Stonecrest – theft of building materials
- 01/15 – 3000 block of Oak Forest – tools stolen from workers truck
- 01/17 – 3300 block of Ella – theft from motor vehicle in parking lot
- 01/18 – 3400 block of Ella -theft from motor vehicle
- 01/27 – 2000 block of Stonecrest – burglary of home
- 01/29 – 2200 block of Bron Holly – burglary of home
- 02/01 – 4300 block of Marlborough – theft
- 02/03 – 2100 block of WildeRock – suspicious person



Once again, we send our thanks and appreciation to our very dedicated Citizens on Patrol members who patrol our neighborhood to keep a watchful eye on what is going on. If you would like to join this dedicated group or get more info about the SF Citizen on Patrol Program, please send your name and contact information to info@shepherdforest.org.

OAK FOREST DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The City reported to the SFCC that owner of Marigny Heights, the housing project currently being built on the south end of Oak Forest at Ansbury, failed to attend a recent Municipal Court hearing on the citations he has received for doing work on the property without permits. This is the third time the owner has failed to show up for court, and he continues to refuse to be stopped by the City issuing citations to him. Recently, the owner was issued his 17th Citation for doing work without City permits. Residents continue to be frustrated and concerned about this development causing severe

flooding and other issues in Shepherd Forest. Councilmember Abbie Kamin has stated that she is “monitoring the situation” and “advocating on behalf of Shepherd Forest residents.” The Civic Club has been in recent contact with Channel 13 regarding this issue and continues to pressure the City to take action to stop this developer. If you see work being done on this project, please make a 311 report for “building without a permit at 2002 ½ Oak Forest.” The Civic Club will continue to monitor this situation and keep residents informed of the latest developments as they happen.



PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 5th

Primary Elections for both political parties in Harris County will be held on **Tuesday, March 5th, 2024**. Voters are allowed to vote at **any** voting location across Harris County for Early Voting and on Election Day. Early voting for the Primaries will be held **from February 20th through March 1st** at multiple locations, and just like on Election Day, voters are allowed to choose which location they want to vote at.

Voters of any age who are physically unable to enter the polling place may ask the presiding election official to allow them to vote outside the polling place or "curbside". Just pull into the designated "Curbside Voting" spot near the entrance to the polling place and push the button for assistance.

For more information about the upcoming election, polling locations near you for early voting or election day, or any other voting information, please call the Harris County Clerk's Election Division at 713-755-6965 or visit www.harrisvotes.com. By using the link, you will be able to see which locations have the shortest wait times. Don't miss the opportunity to let your voice be heard!

Black Middle School - 1575 Chantilly 77018

Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel - 3000 N Loop W 77092

SPJST Lodge 88 - 1435 Beall Street 77008

At the time of printing, voting locations were current. We encourage you to verify this information before you leave home.



SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

Mark your calendars now for the SFCC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Photos with the Easter Bunny. The event will take place on **SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD**, at 10:00 am at Stonecrest Park on East TC Jester. Everyone is welcome to attend and children of all ages are encouraged to participate. Be sure to watch for more details about this "Egg-citing" Civic Club event in the next issue of the SF Times.

Happy February

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