



# THE SHEPHERD FOREST | JULY 2022

# TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

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Due to record breaking high temperatures, the National Weather Service has recently issued excessive heat advisories on a number of days. The City of Houston urges everyone to take precautions to protect themselves from heat-related illness and death. High-risk groups such as the elderly, children under the age of four, and people with chronic illness are urged to stay inside air-conditioned buildings between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Anyone without access to air-conditioning can seek shelter at City libraries, multi-service centers or recreation centers. (Call 311 and ask for the nearest open city facility).

- Increase water consumption. Avoid liquids with caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar because these can actually result in the loss of body fluid.
- Conduct outdoor work or exercise in the early morning or evening when it is cooler. Take frequent breaks in the shade or in an air-conditioned facility.
- Wear light-colored, loose fitting clothing that permits the evaporation of perspiration and keeps body temperatures cooler.
- Never leave children, senior citizens or pets unattended in a parked car.
- A wide-brimmed hat helps prevent sunburn as well as heat-related illness. Sunscreen also protects from the sun's harmful rays and prevents sunburn.
- If your house is not air-conditioned, seek accommodations in nearby air-conditioned facilities or take frequent cool baths or showers.
- Stay alert to heat advisories from the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service declares a Heat Emergency when the heat index, a computation of the air temperature and humidity, reaches 108 degrees on two or more consecutive days. A heat index of 108 is a potential health threat for everyone.



## OAK FOREST DEVELOPMENT NEWS



On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, SFCC representatives and concerned residents testified at the City Planning Commission meeting in an effort to prevent Oak Forest from being cut through to Loop 610.

After months of protests, emails, calls, letters, meetings, and testimony from Shepherd Forest, the Commission reluctantly voted to grant the variance as requested by the applicant, and allow a cul-de-sac to be added to the south end of Oak Forest. This would be the only entrance and exit for the planned duplex rental project of 60-70 units. Planning Commissioners acknowledged that the cul-de-sac would create immense problems and be dangerous for our residents, but were bound by law to consider only the plans that were presented to them. They also questioned why the developer had abruptly changed the plans from a pedestrian gate to a cul-de-sac on Oak Forest. While the decision of the Planning

Commission was not the most desirable for our neighborhood, it was deemed to be least invasive of the options that were presented by the City Planning Department and the developer. Although the decision to allow a cul-de-sac was a "final vote" by the Commission, the SFCC is still urging the developer to consider other options and file a new plan. At the time of printing, chances of the developer filing a new plan seem an unlikely scenario, but the SFCC continues to work to protect our residents. Potential future problems created by the project facing our neighborhood include project design, drainage, lack of parking, fencing, noise during construction, and more. Deep appreciation is sent to every resident that has taken the time to attend a meeting, make a call, write letters, send emails, contact their neighbors, or testify at a hearing. Your comments were heard and appreciated by the Planning Commission members, and were a vital part of this fight. Please check out the SFCC website and future newsletters for the latest updates and action alerts or attend the next SF Civic Club meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**ALL THE LATEST UPDATES AT THE NEXT SF CIVIC CLUB MEETING ON JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> ..... DETAILS INSIDE !**

# YARD OF THE MONTH

After record heat in recent weeks, it's amazing that our Yard of the Month judges have anything to judge. But fortunately, a few lawns have survived, and they are this month's winners! Congratulations go to:

## Section 1 – The Mallamohamad Family



1307 West 31<sup>st</sup>

## Section 2 – JC and Becky Mosier



2218 Wilde Rock

## Section 3 – Mona Barbeau



4106 Marlborough

Street light blinking? High grass? Tree limb down? Missed garbage pickup? The City of Houston has a dedicated phone line and app for these types of City services and/or to report non-emergency issues. Just call 311 or log on to [www.houston311.org](http://www.houston311.org) (Agents available 24/7)



Happy Birthday to our neighbors celebrating this month including **PAIGE ALLEN (7/13)**, **BECKY MOSIER (7/17)**, **ERIC ALLEN (7/22)** and **MIKE DONOVAN (7/31)**. Early August birthday wishes are sent to **JC MOSIER (8/07)** and **ESMERALDA SUAREZ (8/11)**. Happy Birthday to each one of you!

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes are sent to **LARRY and DEBBIE BUTTRAM** who will celebrate their special day on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

A big "Congratulations" is sent to **BRET & BRYANNA VARNADO** on the June 15<sup>th</sup> birth of their son, **BRAXTON STUART**. Braxton was also welcomed by his furry big brother, **BRODIE!**

If you are new to the neighborhood, have news of births, illnesses, celebrations, or anything that you would like to share, please send it to [info@shepherdforest.org](mailto:info@shepherdforest.org) so we can be sure to include it in the next issue of the Times.

## Make A Difference



September signals the election of new Officers and Directors for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club. It's not

too early for you to start thinking about volunteering to help this organization stay strong and continue to represent and protect our residents. For more information or to volunteer to help make a difference in our neighborhood, please send your name and contact information to [info@shepherdforest.org](mailto:info@shepherdforest.org).

All Shepherd Forest residents are again reminded that they are **bound by the current**



**Deed Restrictions for each Section of Shepherd Forest.** Current Deed Restrictions require that residents that are planning construction, remodeling, or major repairs to first submit their plans to the SFCC Architectural Committee for approval. Copies of your Shepherd Forest Deed Restrictions can be found at the Civic Club website at [www.shepherdforest.org](http://www.shepherdforest.org).



# SAVING ENERGY EQUALS SAVING MONEY

Energy experts tell us that by following just a few simple suggestions, you can make your home more comfortable and easier to heat and cool—while you save money and protect the environment at the same time. Some common energy tips for Shepherd Forest homeowners to consider include:

**Windows** - The placement, quantity and type of windows you have will significantly affect energy usage in your home. Easy window additions, such as shades or solar screens, can go a long way toward saving you energy & making your home feel more comfortable.

**Insulation** - Make your home more comfortable year round by adding attic insulation. The project can pay for itself in as little as two years in reduced energy costs. While older homes typically have less insulation, adding insulation to a newer home may also pay off.

**Landscaping** – Solar heat absorbed through windows and roofs can increase air conditioner use and energy costs. Incorporating shading concepts into your landscape design can help reduce solar heat gain — reducing your cooling costs, while also adding beauty to your home. Planting shade trees and shrubs on the west side of your home can help block the hot, setting sun and is the single most effective landscaping strategy. Small trees or shrubs used to shade air conditioning equipment should help improve the equipment’s performance and can increase its efficiency by as much as 10%.

**Caulk** - Caulk forms a flexible seal around cracks, gaps or joints less than one-quarter-inch wide. You can use a caulking compound to seal air leaks in a variety of places throughout your home, especially around windows. In addition to sealing air leaks, caulking can also prevent water damage inside and outside of the home when applied around faucets, ceiling fixtures, water pipes, drains, bathtubs and other plumbing fixtures.

## SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> – 7:00 PM

**SPEAKER: HPD to discuss SF neighborhood crime**

**Also, the latest updates on the Oak Forest development**

***Garden Oaks Baptist Church – 3202 N. Shepherd @ 34th***

In response to record breaking heat and lower-than-normal rainfall amounts, most of the City is still experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, and the City has recently called for **voluntary water**



**conservation** measures, such as limited outdoor watering. Despite a few “slight chances of rain” in this week’s forecast, the City’s suggested schedule is to

continue to limit watering to twice per week between 7pm and 5am following this schedule:

**Sundays & Thursdays for even numbered addresses**

**Saturdays & Wednesdays for odd numbered addresses**

**Tuesdays & Fridays for all non-residential customers**

Residents are also encouraged to check for water leaks or sprinkler heads that are spraying water into the street. Both of these measures could help reduce water usage by 5% and save you money on your next water bill.

# SECURITY REPORT

According to recent HPD reports on SpotCrime, Ella and West 34<sup>th</sup> continues to be the “hot spot” for crime in our area. Recently reported crimes include the following:  
6/10- 1800 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – theft of a motor vehicle  
6/15- 900 block W. 30<sup>th</sup> – theft of a motor vehicle  
6/17-3000 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – theft at gas station  
6/21- 2000 block Ansbury – stolen air conditioner unit  
6/22 -3000 block Ella – theft  
6/23- 3000 block Ella – shoplifting  
6/23- 2300 block Stonecrest –theft from a motor vehicle  
6/23- 3300 block Ella – assault at a restaurant  
6/26- 2300 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – arson of building  
6/27- 1400 block Ansbury – theft of motor vehicle

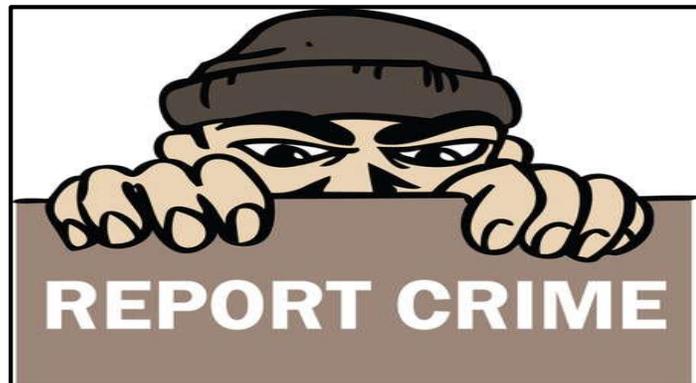


HPD says it is extremely important that residents report **ALL CRIME** to HPD, regardless of how insignificant it may seem. **AFTER** you have contacted HPD, please call our SFCC Security Coordinator Paul Berry (915) 373-8820 and report what has happened. HPD stresses

that the number of police units assigned to our neighborhood is based on the number of calls we make to HPD. So PLEASE..... call and report EVERYTHING !

Once again, our deep thanks and appreciation to our dedicated group of Citizens on Patrol volunteers. You are doing a fantastic job keep an eye on our neighborhood!

At the next civic club meeting on **July 18<sup>th</sup>**, representatives from the Houston Police Department will be on hand to discuss the **continued crime taking place along Ella and West 34<sup>th</sup>**, and other Shepherd Forest crime related topics. Residents may bring forth any specific crime related problems in Shepherd Forest, as well as ask questions of the HPD representatives. Don't miss this informative meeting!



# MISSED GARBAGE DAY?

Is this the right week putting out the recycle can? When can I set out my heavy trash or tree limbs? Are you tired of wondering what week you are you're supposed to put out specific trash, garbage, and recycling? No more waiting to see what your neighbor does first because the City of Houston has a handy mobile app, HTX Collects, that includes collection reminders for garbage, recycling, yard waste, and tree/junk waste specific to your service address.

Residents can receive notifications on their phone alerting them the day before a collection day. The City has also provided the option of adding the dates to your personal calendar or printing a personalized collection calendar for the next 12 months. Never miss a collection day again!

The HTX Collects app is available for download for both Apple and Android devices and can also be accessed via [houstonrecycles.org](http://houstonrecycles.org) or at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/>. No more guessing what & when garbage should be curbside!

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