



# THE SHEPHERD FOREST | MAY 2023 TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

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Most Shepherd Forest homeowners have received their property tax evaluations by now and are considering whether or not to officially protest their appraisals. The Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) is responsible for all appraisals and the appeals process. **Property owners in Harris County have until May 15th to protest** the values assigned by the Harris County Appraisal District, which is encouraging homeowners to file online protests instead of “in-person” protests. HCAD says that some property owners still have not yet received their property value notices and will have 30 days to file protests once their value notice is received.

A Notice of Protest form for you to complete should have been included in your value notice from HCAD or they



can be downloaded at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org). Protests may be brought in person to HCAD’s office at 13013 Northwest Freeway or mailed to P.O. Box 922004, Houston, TX 77292-2004. **Mailed protests**

**must be postmarked by May 15.**

Property owners also can protest their appraised values electronically by using HCAD’s iFile and iSettle programs.

Unique iFile numbers needed to file a protest can be found near the property account number in the upper-right corner of your value notice or retrieved from HCAD’s mobile app by scanning the property owner’s Texas driver’s license (assuming the name and address on the ID match the information in HCAD’s system.) Within five days of filing a protest through iFile, those who choose to use iSettle can upload supporting documents such as deeds, photos, closing statements, repair estimates or comparable sales information. If a settlement through the online system isn’t possible once HCAD makes an offer, the property owner will be scheduled for a hearing with the Appraisal Review Board. A video explaining how to file an online protest and use the residential iSettle system is available at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org) under the “help” heading.

**On Monday, May 15th at 7:00pm**, the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will host Roland Altinger, HCAD’s Chief Appraiser, to discuss property tax appraisals, the protest process, and answer any questions you may have. **Don’t miss this most informative meeting that could possibly save you money on your property taxes!**



**SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB MEETING**  
**Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm**  
**Garden Oaks Baptist Church (3406 N. Shepherd)**  
**Topic: Property Tax Evaluations and Protests**



# PARTY LINE

Special Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors celebrating birthdays in May. They are **EVELYN JOAN & ELIZA JUNE MILSAPS (5/11)** and **JANELLE DANIELS (5/15)**. Early June birthday celebrations include **ERNESTO CABALLERO (6/1)**, **BRANDON CAIRE (6/2)**, and **MARY LAMB (6/5)**. Hope each of you have a great birthday celebration!

Happy Anniversary wishes are sent to **BOB WILLIAMSON & KATIE CATTONI (5/10)** and to **SHIRLEY & JOHNNY EVANICKY (6/1)**. Best wishes for a wonderful anniversary to all of you!!

Don't forget to send your **Class of 2023** graduate's information to [info@shepherdforest.org](mailto:info@shepherdforest.org) so they can be recognized in the next issue of the Shepherd Forest Times. Include name and any school related information, awards, future plans.....

Deepest sympathy is sent to longtime Stonecrest resident, **DELORES MUSKE** and family, on the recent passing of her husband, **CLYDE MUSKE**. Clyde was a proud veteran and an unmatched volunteer in our community. Clyde & Delores were original members of the SFCC, and our Citizens on Patrol as well, and they have delivered monthly newsletters for the civic club for over 35 years. Clyde served in many capacities of the SFCC including President, Treasurer, Board member, Auditor, Picnic cook, Yard judging, Set up/Clean up Committees, and too many other things to list. Clyde will be sorely missed, and his many years of dedication to the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will never be forgotten.

Sympathy is also sent to the family and friends of another longtime resident, **DOROTHY MAHLMANN**. Dorothy lived in Section 1 and was preceded in death by her husband Rueben.

Condolences are sent to the family of former Bron Holly resident, **SCOTT CHALMERS**, who passed away recently.

If you are new to the neighborhood or have news you want to share with neighbors in the next issue of the SF Times, please send it to [info@shepherdforest.org](mailto:info@shepherdforest.org) so we can include next month.



Don't forget the Shepherd Forest Civic Club is once again **collecting aluminum cans** to raise cash for our Citizens on Patrol (Security) program. All you need to do is recycle your aluminum cans (pie pans and foil can also be recycled) and save them for our Citizens on Patrol fundraising efforts.

Collection dates will be **June 5th through June 8th**. Large containers will be provided at **1403 Stonecrest, 3007 Topham Circle, and 4206 Marlborough** so that you can drop off your cans at any of those locations. Make sure they are in a closed plastic bag for easy transport and less mess. The cans will be recycled for cash and all proceeds will benefit our Shepherd Forest Citizens on Patrol and Security Committee. If you have cans and are not able to drop them off, please contact our Security Coordinator Paul Berry at (915) 373-8820.

Donating your cans is an easy way to support our Shepherd Forest Citizens on Patrol, so **start saving** them now and mark your calendars for collection days.

**JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**



May signals the start of the annual Shepherd Forest Civic Club Yard of the Month program for 2023. Judging of yards is done on the *first full weekend* of every month through

September. Volunteers are needed to serve as judges for this contest. Judging takes less than an hour a month (May through September) and it's an easy and fun way to get involved in your community. To volunteer or for more information about the contest, please contact Jeanne Berry at (915) 269-1770.



**MAY 14TH**



April saw no relief for crime near West 34<sup>th</sup> and Ella. Residents are again reminded to be aware of their surroundings, especially when in this area. HPD records (as reported by SpotCrime) for the SF area are as follows:

- 4/03 – 3000 block of Ella - Theft from motor vehicle
- 4/04 – 3000 block of Ella – Assault at restaurant
- 4/08 – 2200 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – Assault
- 4/09 – 2200 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – Assault
- 4/12 – 2200 block Ansbury – Assault & vandalism
- 4/13 – 1700 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – Theft from motor vehicle
- 4/16 – 900 block W. 30<sup>th</sup> - Assault
- 4/17 – 2200 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – Arson at storage facility
- 4/19 – 1900 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – Theft of motor vehicle parts
- 4/22 – 1900 block W. 34<sup>th</sup> – Theft of motor vehicle

Thanks and appreciation are again sent to our Citizens on Patrol volunteers who continue to dedicate their time and efforts keeping a watchful eye on Shepherd Forest each month. If you would like more information or to become a patroller, please call our Security Coordinator, Paul Berry, at 915-373-8820.



Memorial Day is often associated with the start of summer, discount sales, and cookouts with family and friends. Celebrated on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day honors service members who have died in military service to the nation. **This year, Memorial Day is Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.**

The holiday has roots dating back to the post-Civil War era, when citizens would informally place spring flower memorials on the graves of fallen soldiers. By the late 1800s, cities and communities across the United States began to observe the day and several states declared it a legal holiday. Over the next few decades, the day transitioned from being called Decoration Day to its current name of Memorial Day.

The new name became more common after World War II, and in 1967 was declared the official name by Federal Law. Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30 until 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, moving 4 holidays – Columbus Day, Presidents’ Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day—to designated Mondays in order to create the ever-popular three-day weekends. (Veterans Day eventually reverted to its traditional November 11 date).

On **MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**, while still enjoying the sunshine and outdoors, please remember to fly your flag and take a few moments to pause and pay tribute to the fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice for every one of us.



Have you joined or renewed your 2023 Civic Club Membership yet? If not, visit <http://www.shepherdforest.org> and click on “Join SFCC”, or you can scan this QR code. Complete the online membership form and make your payment via PayPal. You may also mail a check to SFCC, P.O. Box 925282, Houston, Texas 77018. Dues are only \$25 per household annually, so please join and support your SF Civic Club today!



# MARIGNY HEIGHTS/OAK FOREST DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

As many Shepherd Forest residents have noticed, there has been much activity on the Marigny Heights townhome development which is being built at the south end of Oak Forest at Ansbury. Huge piles of dirt on the property have residents worried about potential flooding issues in the area.



The Civic Club has reached out to the developer to advise him about the activity and problems going on at the construction site. He stated that they do not have any permits yet and are waiting on the engineer to submit a drainage plan for approval.

Once again, the Civic Club asked the developer to reconsider making the entrance to the development come off of Loop 610 versus having the entrance being on Oak Forest at Ansbury and he responded that they were "too far into the project" to reconsider the entrance. Be sure to watch future issues of this newsletter and check out the SFCC website for more updates on this ongoing project.



The most common types of scams will target you through fake emails, text messages, voice calls, letters or

even someone who shows up at your front door unexpectedly. No matter which technique the scammer uses, you may be:

- Contacted unexpectedly by phone, email, text, direct message or pop-up with a **request for personal information or money**. Never click a link or download an attachment from someone you don't know. Banks and credible businesses will never text, email or call you asking for personal or account information.
- Pressured to **act immediately** with an alarming phone call, email or text that plays with your emotions. Scammers may pose as an employee from a familiar organization, such as a bank or credit card company and say there's a problem that needs immediate attention. They may say a family member is in a crisis and needs your help. Do not act unless you have verified the person who has contacted you and the story is legitimate.
- Asked to **pay in an unusual way**, like gift cards, bitcoin, prepaid debit cards or digital currency, including Zelle® to

resolve fraud. Credible banks and businesses will never ask you to transfer money to anyone, including yourself and will never ask you to transfer money because they have detected fraud on your account.

- Asked to **provide personal or account information**, such as an account verification code, bank account number or PIN number, mother's maiden name..... When in doubt, don't give it out.
- Offered a **free product** or 'get rich quick' opportunity that seems too good to be true? If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Never cash a check for someone you don't know.



## THREE RED FLAGS THAT YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED

- \* You are told to **ACT IMMEDIATELY** before you have time to think
- \* You are asked to share **CODES** or give **PERSONAL INFORMATION**
- \* You are asked to **PAY** or transfer money in an unusual way

For more info, check out:

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/common-scams>