



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | DEC. 2018

TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 12

WHAT A YEAR WE HAD!

LOOKING BACK AT THE BEST OF 2018



As another year comes to a close, we look back fondly at some of the great memories we made with our neighbors in Shepherd Forest. As the weather grew fairer, neighbors in all 3 sections spruced up their homes to compete for Yard of the Month awards. The Easter Bunny made his annual appearance and children of all ages enjoyed the egg hunt. The spring picnic featured a bounce house, petting zoo, food and fun for all. In the fall we gathered with our neighbors to celebrate National Night Out, and got into the spooky spirit of things with our Halloween decorating contest. Most recently, Santa dropped by the annual Christmas Potluck & Party to spread cheer among the residents and hear the children's Christmas wishes. We wish a hearty welcome to all of our new neighbors, and a sad farewell to those who have left us. We can't wait to see what the new year has in store for us all, and to share it with our wonderful neighbors in Shepherd Forest!



CITIZENS ON PATROL - SECURITY REPORT

Criminal activity continues to be light in Shepherd Forest, at least from the reports provided by HPD. Let's not let our guard down, however, as many folks in neighboring areas have reported a steady stream of suspicious car entries and stolen packages.

RECENT CRIMES REPORTED TO HPD

11/27	2300 Block Bron Holly (Sec. 2)	Suspicious Activity
11/30	1000 Block 31st (Sec. 1)	Theft from Vehicle
12/10	3000 Block Maple Grove (Sec. 3)	Wheels & Tires Stolen

As the holidays approach, please be conscious of thieves who steal packages from front doors. Consider having your orders shipped to a secure location like your office or to a neighbor willing to accept them. There have also been reports of holiday decorations taken from people's homes and lawns. Secure them with wire or install motion-sensing lights to deter thieves.

Citizens on Patrol reminds us to call HPD (911 *only if it is an emergency*, or 713-884-3131 if you should see anything or anyone that appears to be "suspicious"). Then, please notify Mary Lamb - lambmn1011@aol.com.

CITIZENS ON PATROL COORDINATOR NEEDED!

We are currently seeking a new COP coordinator to devote 1-2 hours a week coordinating and collecting patrol reports and completing a few forms. If you would like to help us revive this important program, please contact any Civic Club Board Member (back page), e-mail Info@ShepherdForest.org or attend our next General Meeting & Social to learn more.



PARTY LINE

Happy December Birthdays to Edna Carter (12/13), Clint Holland (12/29), and Torry Hill (12/29).

Congratulations to Sec. 3 residents Kurt & Krista Schoeffler on their wedding November 18.

Condolences to long-time Section 1 resident Dorothy Kuzniarek and her family on the loss of her husband Ed Kuzniarek on November 19.

SFCC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND RESIDENT SURVEY

Did you see the annual Survey and Membership form in last month's newsletter? If you missed it, there's still plenty of time to express your views and pay your dues for 2019. It's a bargain at only \$20, and these funds go towards all of the functions the Civic Club performs. All residents are encouraged to join - the more people we can count as members, the more resources we have to make our community a better place to live.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO PAY YOUR CIVIC CLUB DUES:

- On Line – visit ShepherdForest.org and click "Become a Member"
- Mail a check to P.O. Box 925282, Houston TX 77292-5282
- Pay by cash or check to the Treasurer at any Civic Club Meeting
- Contact any Civic Club member and we will pick it up from you

On the other side of the form is our Annual Survey. This is your opportunity to tell us how we're doing - we welcome and encourage your input. There's also a spot where you can vote to approve the updated Bylaws. Of course you can always submit your opinions, thoughts and questions to us on line at info@shepherdforest.org or by attending any of our monthly meetings.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP "RAFFLE"



EVERY MEMBER WHO SUBMITS THEIR DUES BY DECEMBER 31 WILL HAVE THEIR NAME ENTERED INTO A POOL TO WIN A BEAUTIFUL, 54" X 70" HAND-CRAFTED QUILT, GENEROUSLY DONATED BY OUR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, CARLA BYROM.



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SECTION 3 RESIDENTS JORDAN AND ASHLEY WEST ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON WILLIAM MICHAEL WEST.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have an item you would like to see included in an upcoming issue of The Shepherd Forest Times, please contact our editor Mary Lamb at 281-488-3216 or lambmn1011@aol.com.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season brings us so much to enjoy and be thankful for. These tips can help us avoid unfortunate situations which might put a damper on our holiday spirit.

HOLIDAY THEFT: Theft overall tends to rise in the months of November and December. Best thing to do is to make sure you secure everything that you can. Lock up cars, trucks, and homes.

LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON: Thieves usually don't approach homes that appear to be occupied. Leave on outside lights at night (or set them with a timer). When you leave the house during the day, leave on some of the lights inside the home.

DECORATION HAZARDS: Christmas tree fires can be devastating for what is normally such a beacon of happiness. If you have a live tree, make sure that it has water every day, and ensure that any lights you use are checked for breaks or exposed wires. Also, make sure not to run extension cords through windows or garage doors. Just the littlest crack can expose a home to thieves.

PACKAGE DELIVERY: More and more people are purchasing gifts online and having them shipped to their home. With this trend, people are having packages stolen right off their front porch. If you're expecting packages, request signature confirmation or have a trusted neighbor hold on to it for you.

POST HOLIDAY DISPOSAL: Placing that 60" TV box outside on trash day is just asking for trouble. Try and break down boxes and other packaging as to not give away the wonderful gifts your family received.

SOCIAL MEDIA: It's important to be careful about what you share on social media. If you decide to share about your gifts you've received, please make sure you don't have your location tagged in the post.

TRAVEL: If you're traveling to visit family or going on a holiday vacation, wait until after your trip to post about it. Consider asking a friend or neighbor check on your house every couple of days.

WHO'S AT THE DOOR: Criminals may try and scope out your home, often posing as a delivery person or someone looking for donations. Be cautious when talking to people you're unfamiliar with, and don't let them in your home.



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HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

There is still time to compete in the annual Holiday Decorating Contest. Judging will be done in all 3 sections the weekend of December 22-23.



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If you would like to contribute to an upcoming issue of the SFCC newsletter, please contact our Editor, Mary Lamb via e-mail at Lambmn1011@aol.com or call 281-488-3216.



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Dylan Moore Marketing Design is proud to support our community by publishing *The Shepherd Forest Times* at no cost to the Shepherd Forest Civic Club.

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS!

CITY TREE WASTE & JUNK WASTE COLLECTION

Section 1 & 2 Pickup - 3rd Thursdays

December 20th, January 17th and February 21st

Section 3 Pickup - 4th Tuesdays

December 26th, January 22nd and February 25th



SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS!

Got Cans? Call Section 3 Resident John Carter at 713-682-5111. He will pick up to recycle - and contributes the proceeds to SFCC!

NEWSLETTER ISSUES

If you haven't received your newsletter, it was damaged, or you simply want new/additional copies of the newsletter... Please contact Mary Lamb - 281-488-3216.

FROM THE EDITOR

LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE.

When I assumed responsibility for this Newsletter back in 2013, the job came with a team of intrepid volunteers who took time out of their weekends to make sure that everyone on their route got the news and information that Shepherd Forest had to offer. This year, a few of those carriers have retired from their routes, and I want to take a moment to recognize them for their efforts. Big thanks to Gene and Dell Hightower, Debra Buttram, David Hille, Mary Wisniewski, Gerry Barbeau and Keith Tompkins.

I'd also like to recognize our own "Hall of Famers" - those who have been delivering for many years and whose help and support is greatly appreciated. Number 1 on that list is Delinda Holland, who wrote, edited and published the newsletter for its first 25 years; Darrell & Lynette Tidwell, Allison McKoy, Mary Ellen Restivo, Delores Muske, Lisa Kaminski, Jason Syrinek, Virginia Dietrich, and Gloria Zwahr.

Finally, thanks to my "rookies" who came on this year to take over routes that some of our original carriers were giving up; others who were always available as subs, and some who are new to Shepherd Forest, and happy to meet their new neighbors this way: Chantelle Vilaverde, Katy Cattoni & Bob Williamson, Tasha and Colton Leverton (their route is 100+ stops!) Cliff Maness, Melissa Trevno, Peggy Dillon, Hillary Campbell, Angela Hider, Jordan West, Vanessa Estrada and Jamie Farquhar-Rizzo.

Special mention goes to two of our All Stars - Dylan Moore, who makes this newsletter look so fantastic every month, and Bid Nutt, our all around get-it-done guy, who delivers carrier bundles in Section 3 every month, and has even been known to walk someone's route if he knows they're not up to it.

CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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