



# THE SHEPHERD FOREST | DEC. 2019

# TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

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## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER & PHOTOS WITH SANTA



As in past years, the SFCC will not have a regular monthly civic club meeting in December. Instead, the Shepherd Forest Civic Club Annual Christmas Dinner and Photos with Santa will be held on Monday, December 9th at Lazybrook Baptist Church, 1822 West 18th (off Ella Blvd) and all residents and their families are invited to attend. Social time with neighbors starts at 6:00 pm and Santa will be on hand to greet everyone and available for photos from 6-6:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by a short program and heartwarming Christmas music by SaxWorx, perfect for getting you into that “holiday spirit.”



This will be a “covered dish” dinner and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite covered dish, salad, dessert or any food item that they would like to share with their neighbors. This is a great time to show off a festive holiday recipe or bring your treasured family dish for others to enjoy.

Please join your neighbors for a wonderful evening with great food, special Christmas music, and a visit and pictures with Santa Claus. This is a great time to invite your new neighbors or those who live alone or can’t drive at night - and volunteer to pick them up. Both of you will enjoy the event AND be glad you came! Admission is free to everyone. For more info, contact Delinda Holland at 713-680-3956.

## SHEPHERD FOREST SALUTES OUR VETERANS

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club recently saluted our Veterans with a program at the November civic club meeting. The very moving, patriotic program was presented by Nell Baham and included the history of Veterans Day, singing, poetry, and a beautiful candle lighting ceremony. All Veterans present were honored as well as those that were mentioned by family members.



## CITIZENS ON PATROL - SECURITY REPORT

As Christmas approaches, most of our city will see an increase in crime. The SFCC strongly encourages everyone to be on alert and asks residents to REPORT ALL CRIME to HPD, regardless of how insignificant it seems. A small crime may be just be a part of a larger crime that has happened or even a recurring crime in the neighborhood. After you have reported the crime to HPD, please contact the SFCC Security Coordinator, Paul Berry, at (915) 373-8820 and let him know what has happened. The civic club would like to compile this data so that we might alert our residents that a crime has occurred and what to be on the lookout for. We are only able to do this if the homeowner/renter/victim has contacted us with the information. This information helps our Citizens on Patrol and HPD know what areas of our neighborhood need to be "targeted" for patrollers. So, PLEASE call our Security Coordinator and let our Citizens on Patrol know what is going on in your area.

**Residents are reminded to call HPD at 911 for a life-threatening or "in progress" emergency or 713-844-3131 for all other crimes including anything or anyone that appears suspicious. Then, please also report it to SFCC Security Coordinator Paul Berry, at (915) 373-8820**

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### SFCC CHRISTMAS DINNER & PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Monday, December 9th, 6pm  
Lazybrook Baptist Church, 1822 West 18th, near Ella

### CITY OF HOUSTON RUN OFF ELECTIONS

Saturday, December 14th

### LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS

Saturday, December 14th - Throughout The Heights

### SFCC CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS CONTEST JUDGING

Weekend of December 21st & 22nd

## CITIZENS ON PATROL TRAINING

The SF Citizens on Patrol team is making the rounds to keep our neighborhood safer. We are also continuing to recruit Shepherd Forest residents to participate in the COP program. You can download the application and criminal background check form from the SFCC website, where you'll find directions on how to submit your form <http://www.shepherdforest.org/citizens-on-patrol.html> Or use the HPD link to download it here:

[https://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/images/vip\\_app.pdf](https://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/images/vip_app.pdf)

All COP participants make their own schedule and turn in hours twice a month to the SFCC Security Coordinator.

The next COP class will be Tuesday, January 7th, at 6pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Security Coordinator Paul Berry at (915)373-8820. For more information you may also contact Officer Jacques Bland at 832-394-3884.



## PARTY LINE

### HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Celebrating birthdays during the holidays will be Edna Carter (12/13), Clint Holland (12/29), and Torry Hill (12/29).

*Belated wedding anniversary wishes to Paige & Eric Allen, who celebrated on November 28th.*

Best wishes to everyone for a very safe, healthy, and happy Christmas and New Year from the Shepherd Forest Civic Club.

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# SFCC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

January is Membership Drive Month for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club and all membership dues are due on January 1st. We encourage all homeowners *and* renters to join today. 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. A self-addressed envelope, membership form, and survey were attached to the November newsletter for your convenience. You may return it in the envelope provided, bring it to the next civic club meeting or event, or complete the form and pay by visiting [www.shepherdforest.org](http://www.shepherdforest.org) and make your dues payment via PayPal. Every household that has joined the civic club and paid their membership dues by the January 20th civic club meeting will AUTOMATICALLY be entered into a DRAWING to be held that night.

**Don't miss your chance to win while supporting a civic club that works every day on your behalf. Please join the SFCC today!**

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## 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 will be TC Jester Park, 4200 West TC Jester. Trees will be accepted daily beginning on December 26th thru January 31st from 9am to 6pm. Please remove all decorations, tinsel, plastic bags, tree stands and water bowls. A list of Christmas tree recycling drop-off centers is available at <http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste/tree2019.html> or by calling the City of Houston Helpline at 311.

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## 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. The 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 to 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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## SFCC CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club will again hold their annual Christmas Decorating Contest in December. The judging of Christmas yard decorations will be done on the weekend of December 21st and 22nd. A team of judges selects the best decorated yards in each of the three sections of Shepherd Forest and signs are placed in the yards. Everyone is encouraged to decorate for the holidays, regardless of how simple or elaborate your decorations are. For a fun and "free" holiday evening out, put your family or neighbors in the car and drive through our subdivision. You will be amazed at the beautiful decorations right here in Shepherd Forest!



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### HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

The City of Houston's regular weekly garbage collection schedule will be altered from December 25, 2019 through the first week of January, 2020. You can check the holiday garbage collection schedule to see when your garbage will be collected by calling the City's Solid Waste Department at 3-1-1 or visit the City of Houston Garbage website at [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html)

### CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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