



Volume 28, Issue 8

www.ShepherdForest.org

August 2016

Constable Patrol & Crime Prevention



Continuing our discussion concerning crime prevention in Shepherd Forest, Captain Nancy Hennessey from Constable Precinct 1 will be speaking about the Constable Patrol Program. This program is already serving parts of Garden Oaks, and Captain Hennessey will be outlining available options and answering your questions to explain how this might work for our area as well. As we did last month, details and costs for each option will be presented, and pros/cons will be discussed. Please join us for this month's meeting, as we move forward towards making our neighborhood safer for everyone.

NEXT Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, August 15th 2016 @ 7:00 pm
The Physicians Center -- 1900 No. Loop West Suite 270
(Parking garage access behind building)

TOPIC: Constable Patrol – Benefits and Costs

*SFCC meetings are held on the third Monday of every month
All Shepherd Forest residents are ENCOURAGED to attend.*

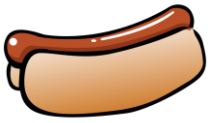
Get Involved – The Future of Shepherd Forest Depends on it

Fall is the time of new beginnings – a new season, a new school year, a renewed feeling of commitment to your neighborhood. NOW is the time to turn your good intentions into actions. **September's Civic Club meeting** is the annual ***Election of Officers and Board Members***. This is your best opportunity to join the dynamic team that represents all of us in Shepherd Forest. **Invest some time and energy into the value of your neighborhood and your home.** The time commitment is minimal (meeting once a month for 60-90 minutes and attending as many Civic Club meetings as you can manage) but the rewards are tremendous. We will be electing:



President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
2 Board Members (2 year terms)

Only 6 weeks until the Annual Picnic Sept 25th



On Sunday September 25th from 3 to 5 pm, Shepherd Forest Civic Club will once again host one of its most popular events, the **Annual Fall Picnic** at Stonecrest Park (East T C Jester at Stonecrest). Bring the kids, meet your neighbors and the Civic Club officers, and make some new friends. There will be hot dogs and soda, a petting zoo, a bouncy castle, games for young and old, and plenty of surprises. There will also be Shepherd Forest T-shirts for sale. Come out and meet your Civic Club officers and your neighbors at this popular annual event.

We still need volunteers to coordinate this event, and sponsors to help us defray some of the costs. If you are interested in helping in any way, please give David Hille (Civic Club President) or Bid Nutt (Picnic Coordinator) a call. You'll find their numbers on the back of this newsletter.

Citizens Patrol Security Report

Reported crimes in Shepherd Forest were down again since last month, but alert neighbors have been reporting any and all kinds of suspicious activity on social media. Thanks to Facebook, Twitter and NextDoor, we can all be aware and prepared when something out of the ordinary is happening on our streets.

Here's what has been reported since the last newsletter:

7/19/16 Sec. 1 900 block 31st – Vagrant observed walking slowly through the neighborhood
7/20/16 Sec. 3 4300 block Marlborough -- Tailgates stolen from two different trucks
8/1/16 Sec. 2 2000 block Stonecrest – Packages stolen from front porch
8/8/16 Sec. 1 1500 block Ansbury -- Robbery

No matter how minor something might seem, please take a moment to report it to HPD. You can do this easily on line at http://www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm. Then go to the Shepherd Forest Facebook page and share the information there, and/or www.Nextdoor.com to let your neighbors know that this is happening on your street or in your section.

Citizens Patrol reminds us to **call HPD (911 if it is an emergency, or 713-884-3131) if you should see anything or anyone that appears to be “suspicious,”** regardless of how insignificant it may seem. Then, *AFTER* you have made the call to HPD, notify our Citizens Patrol by reporting it to our new COP Coordinator Debby Fisher 281-221-6222.

It's the Law – City Ordinances You Should Know ...

Sec. 6-3 -- Permitting a domestic animal (dog or cat) to run at large

Sec. 10-341(c) -- Failing to **remove a vehicle or boat** from a property this is **inoperable**

Sec. 10-344(a) -- Failure to keep premises free of **garbage**

Sec. 10-213(a) – Failure to **post address** of residence within 18 inches of front door

Sec 39-77 (d) -- Placing **heavy trash** curbside prior to the Friday preceding collection

Sec. 10-452(b) (10) – Permitting grass and weeds to grow in **excess of 9 inches**

If you observe any of these violations, you can report them (anonymously, if you prefer) by calling **311** (the city of Houston's Non-Emergency City Service source). You can also file a report on their website for more information (www.houstontx.gov/311) to read about the many different ways the City is prepared to help. If you use a smart phone, there is also a 311 app that allows you to upload pictures of the violations you take with your phone.

Party Line

Wishing a happy August birthday to **Mary Ellen Restivo** (8/15), **Nell Baham** (8/20), **Zack Yanez** (8/21), **Robert Hammond** (8/24), **Scott MacKinnon** (8/27), **Greg Restivo** (8/29), and **Brandon**

Tristan (8/30). Celebrating in September: **Ken Mingus** (9/7), **Joe Jungbauer** (9/9), **Kenneth Battarbee** (9/10), and **Elsie Haley** (9/12).

Sending healing thoughts to Sec. 1 resident **Judy Gutierrez**, recovering from foot surgery.

Special birthday wishes are extended to **Raymond Kopycinski**, who celebrated his 90th birthday on Sunday August 7. Mr. Kopycinski is the original owner of his home in Section 1, and has lived here over 60 years. He retired in the late 1990s after working for Continental Can for 40 years. Raymond and his wife Janie are a great source of information about Shepherd Forest's history and development, and we are lucky to still have them around



If you have news of birthdays, new neighbors, illnesses, anniversaries, or any other news to share, please contact the editor at 281-488-3216 or by e-mail Lambmn1011@aol.com

Ask An Attorney ...

Note: This is a new column that will appear in the monthly newsletter. If you have a question for the attorney, contact Newsletter Editor at lambmn1011@aol.com and she will forward your questions for consideration.

Motor vehicles and parking issues can lead to disputes between neighbors, so this month's column is a general review of the City of Houston's parking ordinances.

Use your common sense - even if there is no well-defined curb on a street, one is not allowed to park on or block a sidewalk. Drivers are not allowed to block private driveways, park in school zones, bus zones or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. One must park his or her vehicle within 18 inches of the right-hand curb; do not park on the "wrong" side of the street.

The City of Houston mandates that no car should be parked on a street more than 24 hours at a time. Trailers or semi-trailers may not park on the street for more than two hours. Commercial vehicles may not park on the street between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Do not obstruct the street or park within 20 feet of a cross-walk intersection. If you get a ticket, you may pay or contest the citation at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/resolve.html>. However, simplest way to prevent a parking citation and be a good neighbor is to follow these basic rules.

Information in this article is not intended as legal advice. Homeowners with specific legal problems should consult an attorney of their choice.

Christine L. Cordell, of the Cordell Law Firm, PLLC, is a local general civil litigation attorney with over 23 years experience practicing law.

Yard of the Month Winners for August

Section 1 – 1018 Stonecrest – The Gutierrez family. This eye-catching yard is almost a landmark in Section 1. Lots of everything here – caladiums, ferns, knockout roses, and yard art everywhere you look.

Section 2 – 2214 Wilde Rock – Darla Coons A large oak tree dominates this front yard, while sago palms, yuccas and potted plants accent the beds near the house, edged with stacked flagstones.

Section 3 – 4110 Gardendale – Brian Miller and Lauren Syrinek -- This yard also features one of the many mature oaks that our neighborhood is known for. Beds near the house have shrubs of many different sizes, and a potted hibiscus adds a pop of color.

Glass Recycling – New Options

Recycling options are coming closer to Shepherd Forest. To recycle your glass (which is no longer accepted in the green bins the City of Houston picks up) you can dispose of it at two recycling centers:

- behind the Salvation Army (2208 Washington Ave)
- in the parking lot at T. C. Jester Park along west T.C. Jester Blvd.

Sign of the Month

Last month we honored several section 1 residents for their efforts in maintained our signs near them, but we want to make a special mention of the sign along E. TC Jester Blvd. Section 3 resident **Virginia Dietrich** has been tending that spot for many years and the beautiful oleander bushes are well established and flowering. Thanks, Virginia, for keeping Shepherd Forest beautiful!



Officers and Directors for Shepherd Forest Civic Club

Officers

President – David Hille (1) 713-551-1350
Vice President – Amy Derr (3) 610-762-0380
Secretary – Everett Bradshaw (2) 713-560-6463
Treasurer – Kurt Schoeffler (3) 281-217-1122
Newsletter – Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

Board of Directors

Glenn Cessna (2) 832-659-2069
Martha Stoerner (2) 832-831-7316
Bid Nutt (3) 713-681-9367
Edward Vargas (1) 713-864-8127
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