



Volume 28, Issue 6

[www.ShepherdForest.org](http://www.ShepherdForest.org)

June 2016

## Its not too late – T-shirts are still available!



Last month The SFCC launched an online t-shirt fundraiser to support our community projects and events. Over 50 shirts were sold, and \$400 raised for the Civic Club. (If you ordered yours to be delivered to Amy Derr, you can pick it up at Cottonwood Sunday June 19 between 11am-2 pm. or at the Monday Civic Club meeting)

If you missed the last deadline, YOU CAN STILL ORDER a T-shirt, Amy has reopened the account at the website below, DEADLINE IS 6/25. The back of each t-shirt features the graphic you see here, and the front pocket has our neighborhood sign oval that you see at the entrances to the subdivision. There are men's, women's, and children's styles available in

grey and lime green. Just go to <https://booster.com/sfcc> to select and pay for your items. Contact Amy Derr at [AmyBDerr@gmail.com](mailto:AmyBDerr@gmail.com) with questions.

## ***NEXT Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting***

**Monday, June 20th 2016 @ 7:00 pm**  
**The Physicians Center -- 1900 No. Loop West Suite 270**  
(Parking garage access behind building)

### **TOPIC: To Be Announced**

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

## If you see something, say something!

The City of Houston maintains strictly enforced requirements for its residents concerning the maintenance of their property. For example, grass taller than 9 inches high, and the "accumulation of weeds, brush, rubbish or other objectionable unsightly and insanitary matter" are violations of Sec. 10-451 and can earn the property owner a citation from the city and possibly a fine. If you observe this type of situation, you can file an anonymous complaint : Go to [www.houstontx.gov/311](http://www.houstontx.gov/311) and follow the directions there. You can also call 3-1-1 (or 713-837-0311) and you'll receive a case number that you can follow up with later. The City of Houston also has an app for cell phone users that enables you to contact the 311 system to report issues in the neighborhood.



# Citizens Patrol Security Report

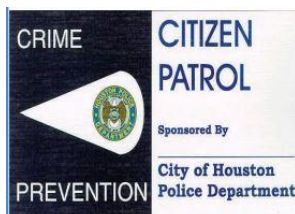
Setting records, but not in a good way – May 2016 reported incidents strictly in Shepherd Forest are the highest ever for any month since this editor has been keeping records. There were 13 incidents for the month of May alone – an average of 1 every 2.38 days (last May the average was one every 6.2 days)

5/2/16	Sec. 1	1000 block 31 <sup>st</sup> – Theft from truck
5/12/16	Sec. 2	2400 block Stonecrest -- Burglary
5/14/16	Sec. 1	1100 block 30 <sup>th</sup> – Auto Theft
5/15/16	Sec. 3	4500 block Marlborough – Burglary
5/18/16	Sec. 1	1000 block W. 31 <sup>st</sup> – Attempted theft from vehicle
5/18/16	Sec. 1	1000 block Stonecrest – Theft
5/19/16	Sec. 1	1600 block Stonecrest – Tailgate, rim and tire stolen from truck
5/19/16	Sec. 1	1000 block Stonecrest – Theft
5/19/16	Sec. 2	2400 block Wilde Rock – Burglary
5/20/16	Sec. 1	1300 block 31 <sup>st</sup> -- Theft
5/23/16	Sec. 3	3000 block Greenhaven – Unlocked truck entered – laptop case stolen
5/26/16	Sec. 1	1700 block Ansbury – Burglary
5/31/16	Sec. 1	1700 block Ansbury – Theft
6/2/16	Sec. 1	1500 block Wilde Rock – Tailgate stolen
6/5/16	Sec. 2	2400 block Ansbury – Theft
6/11/16	Sec. 1	1700 block Wilde Rock – Theft

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](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](http://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 David Hille 713-551-1350 so that our patrollers will also be advised of “hot spot” areas or descriptions of people/vehicles.

## COP Training and Re-Certification Coming Soon!



**Attention Shepherd Forest Citizens on Patrol members** – we are currently in the process of working with HPD on setting a date and time when we can recertify current patrollers and train all new, interested participants. If you have ever been a COP patroller and want to continue, or you are interested in being trained and joining the team that makes Shepherd Forest a little safer, please call or email Mary Lamb (Newsletter Editor) so that we can get an accurate head-count. HPD requires at least

8 people participate in the training class at a time. Thanks to all those who came out for the COP dinner on May 24<sup>th</sup>. It was good to see so many tenured members, but we also want to add to our fleet more eyes and ears in all sections of Shepherd Forest.

**AND ... We still need a COP Security Coordinator.** Would you be willing to serve for just one year? A single 12-month commitment would help this program get back on its feet. Contact any Civic Club officer or board member for details.

**June is Heavy Trash month** for Houston Solid Waste pickup. You may place your tree waste/junk waste at the curb after 6:00 p.m. the Friday before your Tree Waste / Junk Waste collection day.

Sections 1 & 2 – Thursday June 16

Section 3 – Tuesday June 28

And don't forget – *when placing your carts at the curb, always leave at least 3 feet between each carts so that the SWMD trucks can pick them up quickly and easily.*



# Party Line

Wishing a happy June birthday to **Mollie Weber** (6/15), **Kristi Grizzle** (6/21) and **Lynette Tidwell** (6/24). Celebrating in July: **Martha Stoerner** (7/7), **Joshua Kopp** (7/8) and **Rebecca Bauman** (7/22). These Shepherd Forest residents are celebrating anniversaries in June: **Richard and Delinda Holland** (6/24), **Gene and Dell Hightower** (6/26), and **John and Helen Jenkins** (6/29).

Congratulations to **Judy & Ben Gutierrez**, long-time residents of Section 1, who celebrated 45 years of marriage on May 26.

*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](mailto:Lambmn1011@aol.com)*

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## 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 Mary Lamb at [lambmn1011@aol.com](mailto:lambmn1011@aol.com) and she will forward your questions for consideration.**

I am often contacted for legal advice concerning trees and neighbors. First, as with any dispute, **if one has an issue with a neighbor and his or her tree**, the best course of action is to have a discussion with the neighbor to see if you can resolve the issue on a friendly basis. This approach not only makes for good neighbor relationships, but it is typically the least expensive alternative for homeowners.

Generally, under Texas law, your neighbors are entitled to trim branches or any other part of your tree that extends over their property line. One who trims branches of a tree that crosses a boundary line is responsible for performing that task without causing harm to the tree. It is best if to hire a professional tree service to perform this job so that the trimming does not cause injury or death of the tree. Unhealthy trees have potential to cause harm to people or their property. Make sure that your trees are not a danger to others; keep your trees well-trimmed and free of disease and your legal liability, if any, will be limited.

Homeowners are generally not responsible for damage caused by acts of God, such as lightning strikes, rain or hurricanes which may cause otherwise healthy trees or branches to fall.

*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 of experience practicing law.*

## News from the Beautification Committee

If anyone is interested in taking on the title and duties of Beautification Coordinator, Jan Hughes would be happy to hear from you! The Beautification Committee is always in need of extra hands and coordinating skills to organize cleanups, take on the City and TXDOT as we get them to clean up their part of Shepherd Forest, and just in general organize and maintain the beauty of our subdivision. Reach out to Jan at 713-594-3543 and tell her how you can help.



## Yard of the Month Winners for June

**Section 1 – 1034 W. 31<sup>th</sup>** – This recently constructed home displayed lots of color details with coleus and caladiums along the front edges as a nice contrast to the slate gray exterior of the house.

**Section 2 – 3034 Oak Forest** -- Roses, roses, roses dominate the front beds here, with neatly trimmed bushes and smaller flowering plants along the lower edges.

**Section 3 – 4414 Gardendale** -- Two types of palms and several lush ferns are buffered by gravel providing a mulch-like earth cover. The red front door provides a pop of color.

# A Neighbor-ly Observation

(Alison Groth, resident Section 1)

On a recent night-time drive through the three sections of Shepherd Forest, I was struck by the lack of light in our neighborhood. If not for the street lights, much of Shepherd Forest would be in the dark. Since moving to our neighborhood in January of this year, I've been concerned about the crime reports my neighbors have posted on social media sites such as Facebook and Nextdoor, primarily crimes that have taken place at night. So I went for the drive to see how many of us had exterior lights on our houses and properties. To my surprise, I found that there aren't that many.

Lights can be an effective way to deter crime in or around your home. In fact, statistics show that while a well-lit property does not prevent malicious activity or guarantee personal safety, it does deter crimes. By nature to burglaries, light is counterintuitive. Burglars do not want to work in well-lit areas because it increases the chance of being caught. So where are the lights?

With so many types of lighting available, from electric to solar and fixed to motion activated, getting good lighting for your house is easy and affordable. Let's light up for a safe, crime-free Shepherd Forest.

## 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  
Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

Shepherd Forest Civic Club P.O. Box 925282, Houston TX 77292-5282



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Using social media? Want to keep in touch with what's happening in your neighborhood? Find us on Facebook "Shepherd Forest" on [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) and at [www.shepherdforest.org](http://www.shepherdforest.org)