



Volume 28, Issue 3

www.ShepherdForest.org

March 2016

Deed Restrictions – An Open Discussion



The character and consistency of our neighborhood are important to those of us who live here, and Deed Restrictions help us keep the quality of that character in place. The Civic Club has been actively pursuing the signing and notarizing of our Deed Restrictions. Are you familiar with the Deed Restrictions for your section? Have you read and signed them? Do you have questions about what they cover and how they protect the value of your property? **Join us Monday night at the Civic Club meeting, where Civic Club President David Hille will review this important document, and explain how it really works.**

Once you know more about it, mark your calendars and join us on Wednesday, March 23rd at the **First Annual Signing Event to be held from 4 to 6 pm at 2411 Wilde Rock Drive.** Civic Club officers and Board members will be available to answer your questions, and copies of the Deed Restrictions for both Sections 1 and 2 will be available for you to read and sign. We will provide a Notary to make it all official, and refreshments will be served. PLEASE plan to attend, meet your neighbors, and make this a positive event.

As an extra incentive, everyone who signs the Deed Restrictions for Section 1 and 2 will have their names entered into a drawing for a 1-night "staycation" at downtown's beautiful Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel

NEXT Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 21st 2016 @ 7:00 pm
The Physicians Center -- 1900 No. Loop West Suite 270
(Parking garage access behind building)

TOPIC: Deed Restrictions – Protecting Your Property's Value

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



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 and at www.shepherdforest.org



Citizens Patrol Security Report

As the weather warms up and summer approaches, thieves in the area have become more brazen. Just last week a home owner in Section 2 was surprised to find a piece of heavy outdoor furniture missing from her front porch – taken in broad daylight while a member of her family was home at the time. Mischief is everywhere, so even if your car is entered but nothing is taken, please take a moment to report this 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.

Here is a summary of other area activity:

2/15/16 Sec. 1 900 block 31st – Theft
2/21/16 Sec. 2 2000 block Stonecrest – Attempted Theft – shed broken into
2/24/16 Sec. 2 2300 Wilde Rock – Truck broken into
2/26/16 Sec. 3 3700 block Gardendale – Burglary
3/2/16 Sec. 3 (block unknown) – Vandalism of a vehicle
3/10/16 Sec. 2 2300 block Wilde Rock – Wrought iron furniture stolen from front porch

Also in the area:

2/26/16 – Sara Rose @ Alba -- A senior citizen was followed home from a bank on 43rd and accosted by two young males in her front yard when she got out of her car. They took her cash and escaped on foot.

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.

Worried About Crime? Take An Active Role In Preventing It !!

After reviewing the Member Surveys we have received so far this year, we discovered that the No. 1 concern from those who responded was CRIME in our area. **YOU CAN BECOME AN ACTIVE PART OF THE PREVENTION PROCESS.** The Houston Police Department is committed to using volunteers to enhance the delivery of police service. The Citizen Patrol is an important part of this initiative. **You can join Citizens Patrol** yourself and spend a few hours each week patrolling your neighborhood. Requirements are:

- You must be 18 years of age or older
- Have a valid Texas driver's license
- Pass the Police Department background check

Training takes place at the North Police Station, 9455 W, Montgomery, on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 pm. You can find application forms and information at www.houstontx.org – follow the links to Crime Prevention.

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.

Have you sent in your **Membership Dues and Survey** yet? Check your November Newsletter for the forms and return envelope. If you need another copy, contact any Civic Club officer or the Newsletter Editor and we will be happy to bring you one. You can also submit your dues via PayPal – a link can be found on our website,



Party Line

Wishing happy March birthdays to **Jonathan Evanicky** (3/18), **Earl Cooke** (3/20), and **Delores Muske** (3/29). Early April birthday wishes go out to **Lisa Talbott** (4/1), **Travis Buttram** (4/3), **Delle Hightower** (4/4), **Allison Buttram** (4/4), and **Lauren Syrinek** (4/20).

Best wishes to **Becky Baumann**, as she recovers from an auto accident last month.

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

Being A Good Neighbor - Barking Dogs

Do you let your dog spend time alone in your yard? Without adequate stimulation, toys or companions, Fido can get bored and bark endlessly without your knowledge. Do you have a neighbor whose dog(s) bark at every moving thing?

The city of Houston has an ordinance against barking dogs that disturb the peace. As stated in Sec. 30-5 of the Houston code of ordinances "The keeping of any animal ...which causes or makes frequent or long and continued sound which unreasonably disturbs... reasonable persons of normal sensibilities...who reside in the vicinity thereof is hereby prohibited and declared to be unlawful." Houston has several avenues for making a barking dog complaint. You may choose to use one or all of the methods depending on the severity of your situation.



Call 311. This is the city's non-emergency helpline where you can request various city services, including nuisance control for barking dogs.

Call the Houston Police Department's non-emergency helpline 713-894-3131. The city's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) recommends this route for reporting barking dogs.

Fill out a service request form online at webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller. Choose the general "311" for service type. Then click the "Request this Service" link to make your complaint, where you will be directed to fill in information such as the address of the dog's owner.

AND ... April showers bring ... flooding to our neighborhoods if storm drains are clogged with leaves and grass cuttings. Take a moment to check the curbs near your home and sweep up anything that might block the flow of water.

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
Jennifer Green (3) 936-647-5100

Security Coordinator – POSITION OPEN
Beautification Committee – POSITION OPEN

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

Steering Through the Storm



Lately it seems that every time I turn around there is another article or news spot with a sensationalistic title indicating doom and gloom for the Houston real estate market. Or, I get a phone call from a client who hears chatter among friends and co-workers about how quickly prices are sliding. While it is true that the market has slowed down a bit, and many new housing and apartment starts have been put on hold...we are still in a healthy market. It would be unrealistic to speculate that the record breaking market we saw in 2014 could continue. The tide rises and falls here, but we're still at a volume and healthy, slow growth comparable to years past.

Here in Shepherd Forest, comparing 2014 to 2015, while last year saw a 15% decline in total houses sold, we had a price increase of nearly 12%. In 2014, the average sales price was \$251,000, and in 2015 it was just shy of \$280,000. Homes are on the market longer...in 2014 the average sold house was on the market for 25 days, but in 2015 we were waiting for a buyer an average of 62 days. Perhaps the biggest indicator for an improving climate is the fact that in 2014 we had 9 sales under \$200,000, and in 2015 that number dropped all the way down to 1 sale.

~~ David Hille, Realtor and President,
Shepherd Forest Civic Club

Senior Expo coming up March 30

The Leader's annual Senior Expo will be making its return to SPJST Lodge 88 on March 30, with plenty of activities, educational information, expert advice and new this year – \$500 of gift card giveaways. This year's expo runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the lodge, located at West 15th and Beall Street. Seniors are once again invited to enjoy free food and beverages, games, activities, information regarding health, finance and legal issues and opportunities to meet with experts who will offer free advice on a variety of other concerns. Admission to the event is also completely free. To attend, please call The Leader at 713-686-8494 to register, or you can register online at www.theleadernews.com and click on The Senior Expo 2016 to fill out your information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best
Blue Print
FULL COLOR
BANNERS
FOR YOUR
SPORTS TEAM
Like us on **713-957-3333**
www.best-blueprint.com

Right Plan
for you
Joe Tamborella
Independent Agent
1900 North Loop West, #270
Houston, TX 77018
Cell 713-854-9323
joeinsurance72@aol.com
Healthcare Solutions For You



Hallie Ray Moore, DVM
Jenna Maddox, DVM
Beverley Crocker, DVM
Lisa Box, DVM
Veterinarian's

713.682.6351 tel.
713.682.0933 fax
OakForestVet.com

2120 West 34th Street
Houston, Texas 77018

1000

The number of households that receive this newsletter, hand delivered, every month. If you or someone you know has a business that wants to reach every home in Shepherd Forest, consider placing your ad here in the newsletter. Rates are very affordable. Contact the editor for more details.