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June 2017

Get to know your neighbors – a social approach

This month's Civic Club meeting will be held at **Liberty Kitchen Garden Oaks**, a family-friendly restaurant and bar on Alba Road in nearby Garden Oaks. If you have not yet been there, this is a great chance to experience its airy décor, tasty craft cocktails and delicious food.



Since previously "Social" meetings have been well attended, we are expecting a good turnout for this event.

Getting to know your neighbors can be a truly rewarding experience on so many levels. Of course it enables "social networking" (parents meet other parents of kids the same age, business people can make valuable contacts, maybe you'll find that babysitter, dog-walker or workout buddy you need right there on your own block). But another important

aspect of knowing your neighbors and helping them know you is that as good neighbors, we can watch out for each other. In many instances (some recounted here in the Newsletter), an observant neighbor was able to foil a burglary attempt, another helped someone who had fallen in their home and could not reach the phone, and one who just helped a senior on her street with some much needed yard work.

And if you are new to Shepherd Forest, this is a wonderful opportunity to see how welcoming we are!

NEXT Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 19th 2017 @ 6:00 pm
Liberty Kitchen Garden Oaks – 3715 Alba Road

TOPIC: Good Neighbors = a Safer Neighborhood

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

The Annual Shepherd Forest Picnic is in the works!

The date is set -- Mark your calendars on **Sunday September 24 for the Annual Shepherd Forest Picnic**. We are still in the planning stages, but it is not too early for you to volunteer to help. We are always needing sponsors for this event, and we hope to add some new features – so if you know a business that would like some exposure, or have an organization that wants to participate, please step up and let us know. Of course we always need extra hands to set up, clean up, cook the hot dogs, bring coolers of ice, and run those last minute errands. Contact Delinda Holland for more details (713-416-1888)



Citizens Patrol Security Report

Our annual uptick in crime has arrived ... Last June we reported here a record number of crimes – mostly thefts of tailgates and the contents of cars. Not quite as many incidents as last June's report, but more than an acceptable number.

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

5/20/17 Sec 1 900 block W. 31st – Theft
5/21/17 Sec 1 900 & 1000 blocks W. 31st – Several cars broken into or tampered with.
5/26/17 Sec 3 3900 block Gardendale – Theft
5/31/17 Sec 1 900 block 30th – Burglary
6/5/17 Sec 1 1000-1200 blocks 31st – Cars broken into, small items taken
6/5/17 Sec 1 1700 block Stonecrest – Truck window broken
6/5/17 Sec 1 1500 block Stonecrest – cars entered and small items taken
6/7/17 Sec 1 1400 block Stonecrest – cars broken into – HPD arrested 2 perpetrators
6/7/17 Sec 1 1600 block Ansbury – Assault
6/8/17 Sec 1 1400 block Stonecrest – Theft
6/11/17 Sec 1 900 block 31st – A/C condenser unit stolen from house

Report all crime to HPD. Online: 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,"** AFTER you have made the call to HPD, notify our Citizens Patrol by reporting it to our new COP Coordinator Debby Fisher 434-221-6222.

Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen suggests ...

It is a fact that law enforcement sees an uptick in property crimes when the weather gets warmer. Crooks can move around more comfortably after the cold season recedes. Youthful lawbreakers have more time on their hands when school is on a break. And in the summer, residents are less suspicious when they see a teen around during weekday hours. The neighborhood crime that our patrol deputies come across most frequently is the nighttime burglary of parked cars and trucks. In the dark, when they are less likely to be seen, thieves pull on door handles to see which ones are unlocked. Or they bash through vehicle windows using a heavy tool such as a tire iron. Once inside they grab cash, coins and wallets, or anything re-sellable such as computers, cell phones, jewelry, athletic equipment, etc.

But there are ways to drastically reduce the chance that your vehicle is the next target. Some of the actions are so simple that you might think every vehicle owner does them. But if that were true, the thieves would have moved on to another urban area long ago.

Lock your vehicle doors, You'd be surprised how many people don't. Locking your doors may cause a criminal to sneak to the next car or truck in the search for something to steal.

Park in a well-lit area, preferably your driveway. Crooks would rather work in the shadows, away from people who might hear them.

When you are not in your vehicle, **hide valuables in the trunk or remove them.** A purse, phone, coat, briefcase or even loose change left in plain sight makes your car or truck a lure to the bad guys. They want to commit a crime of opportunity – you want to remove the opportunity.

These steps cost nothing. But you can also invest in prevention. Vehicle alarm systems, driveway gates and easily-noticed residential security cameras can all reduce these common crimes. Also there are kits that truck owners can buy to make their vehicle tailgates harder to remove. Many rims and hubcaps can be locked too.

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). Celebrating wedding anniversaries in June: **Richard and Delinda Holland** (6/24), **Gene and Dell Hightower** (6/26), and **John and Helen Jenkins** (6/29).

(Correction): **Katy Cattoni** and **BOB Williamson** celebrated their 21st anniversary on May 10. (Katy is married to Bob, not "Bill" as previously reported). The Newsletter would also like to thank Katy and Bob for delivering the Newsletter on 2 streets in Section 2 in April, when regular carriers were unavailable.

Condolences to the family and friends of long-time Section 3 resident **Herbert Zwahr**, who passed away suddenly on May 31st. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 60 years, **Gloria**, sister-in-law **Martha Stoerner** (resident of Section 1) 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

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

News from the Beautification Committee

SPECIAL THANKS and a tip o' the hat to the anonymous Section 3 resident who recently mowed the long grass along 34th street near her neighborhood. These "random acts of maintenance" are always appreciated by the residents and the Beautification Committee.

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS FOR JUNE

- Section 1 – 930 W 30th – Aaron Smith**
- Section 2 -- 2010 Bron Holly – Eagan Family**
- Section 3 – 4106 Marlborough – Barbeau Family**



Each monthly winner of Yard of the Month receives a \$35 gift certificate from Wabash Feed. (Visit them at their new location on North Shepherd) We also plan to begin adding photos of these yards to our website. **Judging for July will be July 15-16th.**

When is garbage day? Will they take my heavy trash this month?

Wondering about the services the city provides? Don't know who to call? There is a LOT of information at the City of Houston website (www.houstontx.gov)

JUNE is HEAVY TRASH MONTH.

Pick up in Section 1&2 is Thurs June 15

Pick up in Section 3 is Tues June 27

The Architectural Committee Is Interested In Your Plans

If you are planning to make a change to your house -- add on, renovate, or even tear down and build new, the Architectural Committee needs to review any plans you have so that your home will not be out of compliance with the Shepherd Forest Deed Restrictions. (If you're not familiar with the current Deed Restrictions, visit our website – www.shepherdforest.org.) Please submit your inquiries to info@shepherdforest.org or by mail at P.O. Box 925282, Houston TX 77292-5282. You can also contact any Civic Club officer or member of the Board of Directors.

Officers and Directors for Shepherd Forest Civic Club

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Shepherd Forest Civic Club P.O. Box 925282, Houston TX 77292-5292



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