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www.ShepherdForest.org

May 2017

April Showers ... May(be) flowers?

Has your green thumb got the blues? Is your yard less than picture perfect? Wondering if your garden will “spring” back from the hard freeze that took a toll last winter? Are you thinking about putting in something new to replace what Mother Nature took away, or perhaps you just want to take a more “organic” approach to garden pest control?



If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, then you must attend the May 15th Shepherd Forest Civic Club meeting! By popular demand, we have invited back Jim Ruzicka of New Roots Landscaping & Antiques as our featured speakers and will discuss ways to “spring” your yard back into shape. Come learn about plants, trees and grasses best suited to our area; organic gardening; attracting wildlife with plants; yard staging for visual appeal; and simple and fun DIY projects to spruce up your yard – just in time for the 2017 “Yard of the Month” season! Reach them at www.newrootslandscapinghouston.com

NEXT Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 15th 2017 @ 7:00 pm
Physicians Building – 1900 N. Loop West
(Entrance from 2nd floor of Parking Garage)

TOPIC: *Safe, Organic Gardening and Landscaping*

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

Beautification “Clean Team” Makes Another Sweep



Our intrepid team of “Beautification Boosters” were out again on Saturday April 29th. Thanks to **Keith and Wendy Burmaster, Kevin and Laura McCauley, Brian Miller** and Beautification Chairman **Lauren Syrinek** for their time, effort and enthusiasm for keeping Oak Forest Drive and the Section 1 610 Feeder trash and weed-free. If you would like to be part of the next cleanup effort, reach out to Lauren (find her phone # on the back page of this newsletter) and tell her how you want to help, and when you’re available.

Citizens Patrol Security Report

Only a handful of reported crime occurred in Shepherd Forest since our last Newsletter, but more serious criminal activity has been happening all around us, of which we should be aware.

4/22/17 – A purse was stolen at gunpoint, and the victim assaulted in the parking lot of Kroger on 43rd Street.

4/24/17 – Denny's in the 2100 block of the North Loop was robbed.

5/6/17 – Two armed men entered Union Kitchen in the 3400 block of Ella and robbed numerous patrons. HPD was alerted and thanks to someone's "Find My Phone" app on their smart phone, the thieves were quickly apprehended and property returned to its owners.

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

4/11/17 Sec 1 1100 block 31st – Theft

5/9/17 Sec 2 2300 block Bron Holly – Car gone through. A neighbor has security video of suspicious activity by several individuals in a car (from the time in question) and reports will be made to HPD.

5/9/17 Sec 1 Several locations. A young very pregnant woman with a clipboard but no discernable purpose was observed walking slowly along the 900 and 1000 blocks of 31st and Stonecrest, stopping at random houses to look around. HPD non-emergency was notified.

5/10/15 Sec 1 1400 block Stonecrest – Break-in

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.

Deed Restrictions and City Ordinances – Working Together for a Better Community

There has been a lot of discussion recently about Deed Restrictions in Shepherd Forest and how they impact the quality of life and the values of our property. Recently the Board of Directors held a brainstorming session and it soon became obvious that many of the Deed Restrictions violations that have been observed are also violations of City Ordinances. While the officers and Board are always interested in knowing (and watching for) these situations, every resident of Shepherd Forest has the power to report these violations to the City of Houston via 311. Here are some examples:

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 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

Katy Cattoni and Bill Williamson will celebrate their 21st anniversary on May 10. Happy May birthday to **Candance Martin** (5/17). Wishing a happy June birthday to **Michael Moore** (6/1). Celebrating wedding anniversaries are **Bob and Mel Sutton** celebrating 13 years on 5/22, **Robert and Marie Hemphill** (6/6) **Lynette and Darrell Tidwell** (6/13), **Joe and Jean Jungbauer** (6/14), and **Richard and Delinda Holland** (6/24).

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 Section 3 resident Jose Colchado, who has offered to help with mowing along 34th Street. He has a lawn cutting business so reach out to him if you need him. His phone number is 713-865-3227.

~~~And~~~

Those who walk for exercise in Section 1 west of Ella would like to thank whoever has been mowing near the Ansbury utility easement, making it easier for them to use the sidewalk there.

### YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS FOR MAY

**Section 1 – 938 W 31<sup>st</sup> – Charlie and Nicole Seymour**  
**Section 2 -- 2306 Wilde Rock – Kelly and Keith Millner**  
**Section 3 – 4315 Marlborough – Eugene B. Marlow**

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. Judging for June will be June 10-11<sup>th</sup>.



### 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](http://www.houstontx.gov)) but here's a simple breakdown for the next 4 months:

| Section | Garbage   | Recycling (no glass) | Tree Waste                                                | Junk Waste/ Heavy Trash                                       |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 & 2   | Tuesdays  | Alternate Tuesdays   | 3rd Thursdays of <b>Odd</b> Months<br>May 18      July 20 | 3rd Thursdays of <b>Even</b> Months<br>June 15      August 17 |
| 3       | Thursdays | Alternate Thursdays  | 4th Tuesday of <b>Odd</b> Months<br>May 23      July 25   | 4th Tuesday of <b>Even</b> Months<br>June 27      August 22   |

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



## Officers and Directors for Shepherd Forest Civic Club

### Officers

President – Kurt Schoeffler (3) 281-217-1122  
 Vice President – Debby Fischer (3) 434-221-6222  
 Secretary – Delinda Holland (temporary)  
 Treasurer – Mark Landress (1) 713-880-4847  
 Newsletter – Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

### Board of Directors

Glenn Cessna (2) 832-659-2069  
 Everett Bradshaw (2) 713-560-6463  
 Bid Nutt (3) 713-681-9367  
 Edward Vargas (1) 713-864-8127  
 Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

Beautification Committee Chairman – Lauren Syrinek (3) 713-309-0395  
 Citizens on Patrol Officer – Debby Fischer (3) 434-221-6222

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



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