

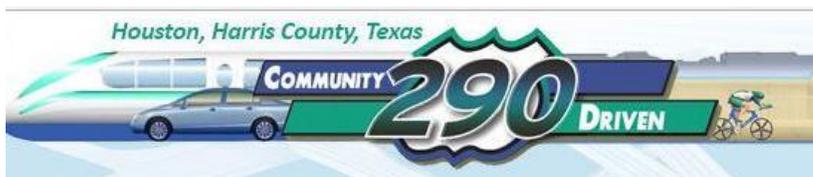


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## The 290 Project – Connecting The Pieces



If you've traveled the Loop 610/Highway 290 "maze" in recent months, or just sat in the crawling traffic as you wait your turn to enter the freeway on a ramp that is no longer there, your patience should soon be rewarded. There are actually 3 separate projects impacting us

right now, and on Monday night we will get an update from **TxDOT project superintendent Mike Zientek** as he returns to our general meeting to give us a status report and some new estimates on the time line.

Zientek, an Oak Forest resident for over 10 years, feels your pain. He also travels through the area on a daily basis, so he fully understands where the street-level frustrations lie. "We understand the profess is frustrating" he told The Leader Newspaper, "but once its completed it will be so much better with all the pieces that will be opened up." Don't miss this important meeting, and a chance to discuss your questions and concerns with someone who has his hands on all the resources.

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

**Monday, January 15th 2018 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Temple Oaks Baptist Church – 2101 W 34<sup>th</sup> Street**  
(parking and entrance behind the church)

**TOPIC: The 290 Project – The End Is In Sight**

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

### **Civic Club Membership Drive continues ...**

Back in the November newsletter you should have received a pink Membership Dues and Survey form for you to return to the Civic Club with your dues. **Membership dues for the year are now due**, and its a chance for you to tell us how you feel about the neighborhood, the Civic Club and its committees. You can also find out how to get involved in addition to your **\$20** dues contribution. *We want to hear from you whether you own or rent your home.* If you did not receive this form, or have misplaced it, let us know and we will bring one to you, along with an envelope to mail your dues. You can always submit your dues via PayPal (find a link on the ShepherdForest.org website. Surveys are also available and dues accepted at any General Meeting (the next one is noted above). Your dues and your input are BOTH important to us, and we will be publishing results of your survey answers in an upcoming edition of the Newsletter. **We are VERY interested in hearing what you think about how we can improve our neighborhood!**



# Citizens Patrol Security Report

Thefts and burglaries continue to be part of our report this month. The all-too-common disappearance of packages from porches and front doors appears prominently in recent crime reports from HPD and SpotCrime. Our parked vehicles were also vulnerable to break-ins, although theft from unlocked vehicles was more common. Several instances of “suspicious activities by non-residents” in the area have been reported directly to the Civic Club. If you do not have a garage to lock your car in, PLEASE LOCK YOUR VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES. Don't leave temptation (ladders or tools) in the bed of your pickups. HPD recommends ALWAYS locking your car, and never leave valuables in the car.

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

11/17/17	Sec 2	2300 block Bron Holly – Theft
11/18/17	Sec 1	1000 block 31st – Theft
11/19/17	Sec 1	900 block 31st – Persons looking into/attempting to enter parked cars
12/5/17	Sec 1	1500 block Wilde Rock – Theft
12/8/17	Sec 1	1100 blocks 31 <sup>st</sup> -- Burglary
12/11/17	Sec 1	3000 block Oak Forest -- Theft
12/13/17	Sec 1	1100 block Wilde Rock – Persons looking into/attempting to enter parked cars
12/18/17	Sec 1	1200 block Ansbury – Theft
12/21/17	Sec 2	2000 block Ansbury – Robbery
12/25/17	Sec 2	Valero on 34 <sup>th</sup> and Oak Forest robbed
12/26/17	Sec 2	2400 block Wilde Rock – Burglary
1/1/18	Sec 3	3000 block Helberg – Theft
1/2/18	Sec 3	4100 block Gardendale – packages taken from front porch

**Report all crime to HPD.** 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.

## ~~~ ***Security In Shepherd Forest – Another Look At Our Needs And Options*** ~~~

During the December Civic Club Board of Directors meeting, it was discussed and decided that security in all three sections of Shepherd Forest merited closer scrutiny. Vice President Patricia Williams volunteered to organize a meeting of all interested residents for the purpose of organizing a “Security Team”.

The Security Task Force will be making recommendations to the board and officers concerning specific ways security should be enhanced in Shepherd Forest. If you are interested in being on the Security Task Force and/or attending the meeting, please contact Patricia at [paw@earthlink.net](mailto:paw@earthlink.net). The first meeting will cover the basic goals: developing recommendations to make to the Civic Club; brainstorm some possible solutions; and set a time/date for future meetings. Also at this meeting, James Alexander, Director of Operations at S.E.A.L., will give us a 20 minute presentation on what they offer and the cost.

The first meeting will be held on **Monday, January 22, at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.** St. Stephen's is located at 2003 West 43rd. Exact location of the meeting will be determined based on the number of participants who express and interest in attending.

According to Ms. Williams, “Right now, we have Citizens on Patrol (COP), and we deeply appreciate what they have done over the years to help Shepherd Forest. But questions remain: Should we beef up security, and if so, how much would the endeavor cost? Should we hire a company or the Constable's office? What would we receive for our money? How should we fund any initiative? Hope to see you there!”

# Party Line

Wishing happy January and early February birthdays to **Pauine Taylor** (1/24), **Jean Jungbauer** (1/31), **Joe Nieto** (2/1), **Carmon Nieto** (2/2), **Shirley Evanicky** (2/9) and **Ruth Lepler** (2/11). Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes to **Mary &**

**Johnny Farmer**, who celebrate on 1/21.

Condolences to the family of former Board member and long-time Civic Club volunteer **Rosemary Bartos**, who passed away January 8.

Condolences to **Greg and Mary Ellen Restivo** on the death of Greg's father, **Sam Restivo**, on December 29.

Speedy recovery wishes to **Darrell Tidwell**, as he recuperates from recent surgery.

*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)*

## People and Events around Shepherd Forest ...

The November General Meeting featured a moving and memorable Tribute to Veterans, led again this year by **Nell Baham**. Among those who attended were Shepherd Forest veterans **Clyde Muske**, **Joe Nieto** and **Torry Hill**.



Section 2 residents **Cooper Allen, 9**, and **Hank LeMaster, 8** were among the many kids who had a chance to visit with Santa Claus at our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. It was a well-attended event and thanks especially to **Kevin Taylor** and **SaxWorx** for their always festive holiday carols.

## Safe Passage for Pedestrians on Alba

*(from Jennifer Woodruff, past President of the SF Civic Club)* If you live in section 1, east of Ella, you have likely driven down Alba. But have you tried to walk it? Many of us on foot in section 1 put our lives at risk as we try to dodge cars and reckless drivers who cut through on Alba to avoid the traffic light at 34th and Ella.

I personally have almost been hit (on more than one occasion) by Alba drivers as I jog with my dog - on the street - because there is no sidewalk for safe pedestrian access. Most recently i witnessed a couple with their baby in a stroller almost get hit by a driver on Alba as they walked from the Slowpokes parking lot back into the neighborhood. That was the "enough is enough" moment. The next day I called Ellen Cohen's office to find out what action could be taken. Here's what I learned:

The city has a Safe Sidewalk Program, however, the waiting list is 3-5 years with no guarantees of project acceptance and frankly our odds sounded bleak. So, after discussing it further with Cohen's office, who worked with Centerpoint on our behalf, it appears our best option is to self-fund the sidewalk (starting at 31st and connecting with the Gardendale sidewalk) as a community.

The path forward includes meeting with paving contractors, getting estimates and conducting a fundraising campaign to pull permits and implement the sidewalk plan. It's an ambitious project, but with your support and the support of our local business partners, we can make this happen and provide safe access to schools and all the new pedestrian-friendly developments coming to 34th street.

If you'd like to help with the project, make a donation, or have questions, email Jennifer Woodruff at [jwoodrufftx@yahoo.com](mailto:jwoodrufftx@yahoo.com).

SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS! Call Section 3 resident John Carter, (713-682-5111) who will pick up and recycle them, with the proceeds donated to the Civic Club COP fund.

### *Christmas Decorating Contest Results*

Section 1 – 1102 W 30<sup>st</sup> – Rau Palomo

Section 2 – 2322 Bron Holly – The Guillory Family

Section 3 – 3003 Greenhaven -- The Yanez Family

### **Texas Primary is March 6 – Remember These Dates**

The Texas State Primary Elections will be held on March 6, 2018. Whether you plan to vote in person or by mail-in ballot, here are some key dates to remember:

**February 5** – Last day to register to vote for the primary

**February 20** – Early voting begins

**March 2** – Last day of early voting

**March 6** – Primary Election Day

**May 22** – Primary run-off elections

**Planning to make renovations or additions to your home?** The Shepherd Forest Deed Restrictions require you to submit your plans for approval with the Architectural Committee before going forward with your construction. (City Ordinances require that these Deed Restrictions be met before any permitting can be issued.) For more information, or to submit your plans, contact the Architectural Committee by mail at P.O. Box 925282, Houston TX 77292-5282 or by email: [info@shepherdforest.org](mailto:info@shepherdforest.org).



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## **Officers and Directors for Shepherd Forest Civic Club**

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Vice President – Patricia Williams (1)

Secretary – Payton Arens (1) 713-569-2750

Treasurer – Mark Landress (1) 713-880-4847

Newsletter – Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

### Board of Directors

Glenn Cessna (2) 832-659-2069

Mary Lamb (1) 281-488-3216

Krista Ripper (3) 979-739-9299

Kelly Bena Moore (3)

Delinda Holland (2) 713-416-1888

Beautification Committee Chairman – POSITION OPEN

Citizens on Patrol Officer – Debby Fischer (3) 434-221-6222

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