



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | APRIL 2024

TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 4

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SF "CLEAN UP" DAY

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club Beautification Committee has been busy organizing a "CLEAN UP" day for Saturday, **April 27th** from 9 to 11am and we need volunteers to help. The focus of the work will be picking up trash and litter in designated areas throughout Shepherd Forest. Residents are asked to report to the nearest "meet up" location at **8:30am** and get their specific assignment. "Meet up" locations are as follows:

Section One – Meet on Alba near the Centerpoint Easement north of 31st

Section Two – Meet near the drainage ditch along Oak Forest near Stonecrest

Section Three – Meet near the intersection of Vollmer and West 34th

The Clean Up Day Team has pinpointed several specific areas in the neighborhood that are in need of having trash and debris picked up and they will be the focus of the Clean Up Day. The targeted areas in need of clean up include: the south side of West 34th (just west of the bayou & along the backside of some Section 3 homes), along West TC Jester and East TC Jester as they intersect the Shepherd Forest neighborhood, the City owned drainage ditches that run along Oak Forest between Stonecrest and West 34th, along Alba near the Centerpoint Easement, and along the Loop 610 Feeder Rd as it intersects at Guese and at Alba.



TEAM UP to
CLEAN UP

Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves, rakes, clippers, grabbers.....or whatever equipment they feel would be helpful with this project. Garbage bags will be provided by the civic club. Please remember to wear appropriate clothing, hats, shoes, sunscreen, and bug repellent. For more information about the "Clean Up" Day activities, or to sign up to volunteer to be your Section

Leader, you may contact SFCC Beautification Chairman Amber Oliver at 580-695-7760, go to [FaceBook.com/groups/shepherdforest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/shepherdforest), or visit the SignUp page at <https://bit.ly/SFCleanUP> . Join with your neighbors as they work together to help clean up and beautify our neighborhood on **Saturday, April 27!**

SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB MEETING

Monday, April 15th @ 7pm – Topic: Lawn & Garden

Garden Oaks Baptist Church (3206 N. Shepherd)

Don't miss this informative meeting and your chance to hear the latest news on this topic. A drawing will be held at the meeting for a \$20 gift card to Academy kindly donated by State Rep. Penny Morales Shaw.

TOO MUCH GARBAGE??

Do you often have more trash than one garbage container can hold? If so, this can be a BIG problem for you and your neighbors. Overflowing garbage cans are not only unsightly, but on a windy day, can spread your garbage throughout the neighborhood. If you have too much garbage for one can, it's easy to get another garbage can. Just call 3-1-1, the City's Helpline, to have another container delivered to your address. There is a monthly collection charge of \$20.54 for each can that you order and the fee is added to your monthly water bill. You will receive a sticker for the new can. Simply place the sticker on the front of the new container where it can be easily seen by the garbage collectors and then wheel your new can to the curb. Not only will your garbage can and the area around it look better, but it will be appreciated by the garbage collectors AND your nearby neighbors.



If you don't need another can, but sometimes have extra bags of garbage that don't fit into your black curbside garbage container, you can get "Tags" for your additional bags and/or boxes. The City of Houston has a program called "Tags for Bags" that allows you to have your excess garbage picked up. "Tags" (stickers) can be purchased from participating Randalls, HEB, or Kroger stores and then affixed to your extra bag before placing it curbside. Some stores sell individual tags (\$2.50 ea) and others sell packs of 5 (\$12.50) so be sure to check what's available before you leave home. More information about garbage collection issues is available by calling the City's Helpline at 3-1-1 or at [https:// www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/](https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/)



SECURITY NEWS

Recent crimes in our area reported to HPD include:

- 2/23 – 4300 blk Marlborough – burglary
- 3/06 - 4500 blk Marlborough – attempted theft
- 3/13 – 4200 blk Marlborough – theft of AC unit
- 3/15 – 2100 blk W. 34th – theft of motor vehicle
- 3/21 – 1200 blk W. 34th – assault at a restaurant
- 3/21 – 1200 blk W. 34th – theft from motor vehicle
- 3/29 – 1200 blk W. 34th – theft from motor vehicle

Four SF crimes were recently linked to one suspect due to several residents willing to report crime and get involved. *Please* stay alert and report ALL suspicious activity to HPD immediately.

RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT HEAVY TRASH PICKUP FOR ALL SHEPHERD FOREST



HOMES THAT ARE LOCATED EAST OF TC JESTER BLVD (SECTIONS 1 AND 2) IS ON

THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

HEAVY TRASH PICKUP FOR ALL SHEPHERD FOREST HOMES THAT ARE LOCATED WEST OF TC JESTER BLVD (SECTION 3) IS ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

Don't Miss Out!



CLEAN UP DAY

9:00 AM START TIME

YARD OF THE MONTH CONTEST

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club Yard of the Month Contest will begin this month, with judging of yards being done on the **last full weekend of each month**. Yards are judged on best “overall appearance” and a variety of beautiful yards have won the award. Past award winners included lawns with beautiful shrubs and greenery and other yards were filled with flowers of beautiful spring colors. Both homeowners **and** renters are eligible to win the Yard of the Month Contest, so there are no excuses for not getting your yard into shape. If you see a potential Yard of the Month winner, feel free to nominate them.



Additional volunteers are needed to serve as judges for this contest. What a great volunteer job - it takes less than an hour a month (April through September) and your help would be greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved with your civic club, especially if *your time is very limited*. Contact Beautification Chairman Amber Oliver at (580) 695-7760 to volunteer or to nominate a yard for consideration as a Yard of the Month winner.



Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors celebrating their birthdays soon: **MARTI NELSON** (4/11), **PHIL KOWNSLAR** (4/13), **RUBEN ALVAREZ** (4/23), and **PAYTON ARENS** (4/27). A huge Happy First Birthday wish is sent to **MAYA OLLIE DAVIS** who celebrates her big First Birthday on May 1st.



Also being sent wishes for a very special Happy Birthday are our other neighbors celebrating in early May. They include: **DYLAN MOORE** (5/3), **JENNIFER WOODRUFF** (5/4), **RYLAND CAIRE** (5/4), and **MARY WISNIEWSKI** (5/4). Hope each one of you have a fantastic birthday!

Happy Anniversary wishes are sent to **BRANDON & CLAUDIA TRISTAN** who celebrate their wedding anniversary on May 6th. Congratulations!!

Deepest sympathy is sent to the family and friends of **ALICE SPARACINO** who passed away recently. Alice was a longtime Shepherd Forest resident and lived in Section One, along with many other family members.

Its great to hear the news that **PAUL BERRY** is finally back at home after months of hospitalizations and rehab. We hope his health continues to improve. Welcome Home!

If you are new to the neighborhood or have news of births, illnesses, congratulations.....you would like to share with your neighbors in the next issue of the SF Times, please send your name, news to share, and contact information to info@shepherdforest.org.



If you haven't yet paid your **2024 Shepherd Forest Civic Club Membership Dues**, there is still time. Household memberships are only \$25 annually. Don't miss out on the numerous benefits you will receive including the SF Times, special family events, dinners, beautification projects, socials, deed restriction enforcement, Citizens on Patrol, and much more. Without YOUR membership dues, none of this would be possible. Scan the QR code and join the Shepherd Forest Civic Club today!



CIVIC CLUB EGG HUNT A SUCCESS

The recent SFCC Easter Egg hunt was a huge success. The beautiful morning was decorated with blue skies and sunshine and an Easter Bunny ready for fun. Excited children, along with parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors gathered for a festive morning filled with activities, photos with the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt, and refreshments. The crowd was estimated between 125-150 people and a great time was had by all. Every child took home a prize.....and great memories of the day as well. Our deepest appreciation is sent to each of our Community Partners who made this event possible. They are: Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital, HEB (Heights) Grocery, Portrait EFX, and Fifth Corner.



Please patronize these businesses and let them know you appreciate their support of the SFCC.

WATER BILLS INCREASE

There's been a lot of grumbling among Houstonians regarding the increase in water bills that were effective April 1st. Houston Public Works recently notified customers that as part of a water rate hike plan approved in 2021 under then-Mayor Sylvester Turner, water and



wastewater rates will be automatically raised **every April** through 2026. The increased funds are earmarked to cover infrastructure upgrades that prevent big breaks and boost system resiliency to hurricanes and freezes. More information about the increase and new rate tables can be found at www.HoustonWater.org



The SF Civic Club salutes our dedicated Civic Club Volunteers and Citizens on Patrol members April 22-27th. Hats off to each one of you !!!



MAY 4TH

Harris County will be holding the Primary Run-Off Election on **Saturday, May 4th**. Early voting will be held April 22nd to 27th at polling locations throughout Harris County. A very light turnout is expected for this election, so let your voice be heard and vote in this important election. Polling locations for Election Day and Early Voting, sample ballots, and other important election related information can be found by visiting www.harrisvotes.com or by calling the Harris County Clerk's Election office at 713-755-6965.

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