



THE SHEPHERD FOREST TIMES

Volume 40, Issue 12

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

DECEMBER 2024

SANTA TO VISIT RESIDENTS DECEMBER 14TH

Santa is heading to our neighborhood in a just a few days, so be sure and mark your calendars for this fun filled event. Light snacks and drinks, along with some fun activities, will be provided, and Santa will be onsite to visit. Professional Santa portraits by PortraitEFX will be taken **free** of charge for civic club members, non-members will be charged \$25, so pay or renew your dues before or on the day of the event. The Santa visit will be held on **Saturday, Dec 14th** at the New Day School located at 3615 Mangum near West 34th from 10am-12pm. Please **RSVP** so we can have an accurate count and reserve room for you. You can sign up for this event directly by visiting : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-52762410-photos>. Sponsors for the event include PortraitEFX, Jason's Deli, Shipley's DoNuts, HEB, & Memorial Hermann Heights Hospital. For more info about this morning of fun and professional portraits with Santa, visit www.shepherdforest.org, [FaceBook.com/group/shepherdforest](https://www.facebook.com/group/shepherdforest), or contact Kim Syrinek at 713-412-1471.



The Shepherd Forest Civic Club **Annual Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Tuesday, December 10th** at Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 N. Shepherd (across from Gabby's) and all residents and their families are invited to attend. Social time with neighbors starts at 5:30 pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

The meal will be a "potluck" dinner and the SFCC will provide turkey and ham. If you are able, residents are asked to bring a side dish or appetizer to share. Following the dinner will be a short program and heartwarming Christmas music by SaxWorx, perfect for getting you into that "holiday spirit". This is a great time to invite your new neighbors or someone who may need a ride. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we will have enough food for everyone. Click on <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABA62FAAF4CE9-53427274-christmas> to RSVP. For more info about this event, call Delinda Holland at 713-416-1888. Join with your neighbors on December 10th and don't miss this delicious Christmas dinner and festive musical performance. We hope to see you there!

It's almost time for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club's annual **Christmas Decorating Contest** which will be held on the weekend of **December 14th-15th**. For the decorating contest, a team of judges selects the best decorated yards in each of the three sections of Shepherd Forest and recognition is given to the winners. A sign will be placed in each of the winning yards and will remain there throughout the Christmas holidays. It's not too late to get started on your decorations – YOU may be the luck winner this year!



COMMON SENSE HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

It may seem like common sense, but when the busy times of the holiday season capture your attention, you can easily overlook the practical steps you can take to help avoid accidental fires. These six reminders will help keep your holiday free from fire mishaps:

1. Turn off or unplug all electrical holiday lights before leaving your home or office, or before going to bed at night
2. Never leave food cooking on your stovetop or in the oven unattended
3. Keep candles away from combustible materials, and extinguish all candles or other open flames before leaving the room or going to bed
4. Do not overload electrical outlets, and keep all electrical cords out of the reach of children, and away from standing water
5. Use non-combustible decorations where possible. Keep Christmas trees and combustible decorations away from your fireplace, space heaters and open flames
6. Do not block doorways; keeping paths to exits in the house clear can help you and your family get out safely in case of a fire



HOLIDAY GARBAGE SCHEDULE CHANGES

Regular garbage pickup scheduled for **Christmas and New Years** holidays will be delayed. At the time of printing, the City had not released the new pickup schedule. For more information about your holiday collection schedule, log on to the City of Houston's Solid Waste website at <https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html> or call Solid Waste at 3-1-1.



**FROM THE SHEPHERD
FOREST CIVIC CLUB**



Happy Holidays

We Offer

Certificates, Booklets, Invitations, Brochures, Flyers, Postcards, Forms/NCR, Vinyl Banner, Letterheads, Programs, Posters, Buttons - 2 1/4" & 3", Laminating, Custom T- Shirts, and Mugs/Tumblers

signs.com

*18" x 24" sign for \$10.00
24" x 36" sign for \$18.00*

We will be closed for the holiday break

*Thanksgiving Break Christmas Break
Nov 23rd - Dec 1st Dec 21st - Jan 3rd*

For a quote to order
Email: PSquotes@AlDineISD.org
2520 W.W. Thome Blvd., Houston, TX 77073

Print SERVICES
Professional Printing & Digital Imaging

Keep Your Curb Clean – Leaves are beginning to fall and will soon cover our lawns and streets. Don't forget to keep your curb free of leaves, trash, newspapers, and other debris as it will end up stopping up our drains and backing water up to flood our streets and yards. Eventually, all the debris will flow into our waterways. We have a limited number of storm drains in Shepherd Forest, so let's keep them clean and prevent unnecessary flooding issues. *Every home* should help with this issue, not just those near drains. Take a look in front of your home and make sure your curb is clean.

CITIZENS ON PATROL SECURITY REPORT

As Christmas approaches, most of our City will see a continued increase in crime. The SFCC strongly encourages everyone to be on extra alert and asks that residents REPORT ALL CRIME to HPD, regardless of how insignificant it seems. Your small crime may just be a part of a larger crime that has happened or even a recurring crime in the neighborhood. You know your home, your street, your neighbors – so if you see something that isn't right, please report it to HPD immediately – you may be witnessing a crime taking place. We all play a role in keeping Shepherd Forest safe – so make that call to HPD.

Listed below are the HPD reported incidents in and around our neighborhood that the SFCC has been made aware of. In addition, there have again been reports of increased crime at apartments in the 4000 block of West 34th and also in the area of West 34th near Mangum. Also, there have been increased reports of thefts from vehicles along the Loop 610 businesses that are located between Ella Blvd and East TC Jester. Remember to stay alert when you are driving and/or doing business in these areas.

- 10/17 – 1200 block of W. 31st – Attempted theft of a motor vehicle
- 10/31 – 3400 block of W. 34th - Theft from a motor vehicle
- 11/08 – 2100 block of W. 34th – Assault
- 11/08 – 1400 block of Stonecrest – Theft
- 11/13 – 3400 block of W. 34th – Prostitution arrest
- 11/15 – 3000 block of Ella – Assault at gas station
- 11/12 – 2100 block of W. 34th – Theft from a motor vehicle



After you have contacted HPD, please contact our Security Coordinator, Paul Berry, at 915-373-8820. The number of calls and reports that are made to HPD directly impacts the number of patrol units that will be assigned to our neighborhood on a daily basis. The more reports we make, the more patrol cars that HPD will send our way. So please report ALL criminal activity that you are aware of to HPD.



Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors who will be celebrating their birthdays in the month of December. They are: **EDNA CARTER (12/13), ELLIE KOWNSLAR (12/19), HADLY D'BLANCA (12/21), GRACE KOWNSAR (12/24), GRAHAM AND HARPER ALLEN (12/25), and TORRY HILL (12/29).** Early January birthday wishes are sent to

CAROLYN BROCK who celebrates her big day on January 3rd and to **JAX JAVIER FUENTES** who celebrates his FIRST big birthday on January 7th! Happy Birthday to each one of you!

Many thanks to our neighbor **NELL BAHAM** who organized a very beautiful and touching candlelight Salute to Veterans ceremony last month. The flag ceremony was done by Boy Scout Pack 648 and the national anthem was sung by Greg Railsback. Veterans were given a commemorative gift from the SFCC.

A big Shepherd Forest welcome goes to newly appointed Civic Club Board Member **JP CAMPIONE**. JP and his family live in Section 2 and have been SFCC newsletter volunteers for some time. Welcome JP!

Congratulations are sent to our neighbors **JOEY & CHELSEA MUNOZ** on the October 23rd birth of their precious daughter, **ESTELLA SAGE MUNOZ**, who weighed in at 4 lbs 9 oz. 

Deepest sympathy is sent to the family and friends of **ANN PATRONELLA BONEFAS** who passed away recently. Ann was a former Ansbury resident and longtime supporter of the Shepherd Forest Civic Club.

REMODELING OR UPDATING YOUR HOME? Shepherd Forest Deed Restrictions require residents to submit all building plans to the Architectural Committee for approval BEFORE any work begins. For more info or a Building Application, visit www.shepherdforest.org and look under "Quick Links."

If you have news to share with your neighbors & would like it in the Party Line, contact the Shepherd Forest Civic Club at info@shepherdforest.org and give us your information



RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

This year, instead of tossing your live Christmas tree in the garbage, help the City preserve the environment by dropping off your tree at any of the drop-off locations provided by The City of Houston Solid Waste Management. The drop-off location nearest Shepherd Forest is usually **TC JESTER PARK, 4200 West TC Jester**. At the time of printing this newsletter, the City still could not verify this location as a drop off point, so be sure to check before you head out to recycle your tree. Make sure to remove all decorations, tinsel, plastic bags, tree stands and water bowls before dropping off your tree. A complete list of Christmas tree recycling drop-off centers should be available later in December at <http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste> or by calling the City of Houston Helpline at 311.

Join or Renew your membership

January 1st is the due date for **2025 Membership Dues** for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club and we encourage all homeowners and renters to join the SFCC. Dues cover the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Picnic, Socials, Photos with Santa, Citizens on Patrol, Beautification, Yard Decoration Contests, SF Entry signs, Deed Restriction



Pay dues here

Enforcement, Newsletter printing, Website maintenance, and much more. Civic club dues are **only \$25 per household** and are a vital part of the continuing programs and projects of the Shepherd Forest Civic Club. Membership forms were included in the November newsletter or you can join at the SFCC website: www.shepherdforest.org or by credit card using the QR code above.

Every household that pays their dues before **January 1st** will automatically be entered into a **DRAWING for our Lottery Tree (20 Scratch Off tickets)** or some great gift cards from



Academy, Amazon & Target. Will you make an investment in your home and your neighborhood and support a civic club that works every day on your behalf? Please do

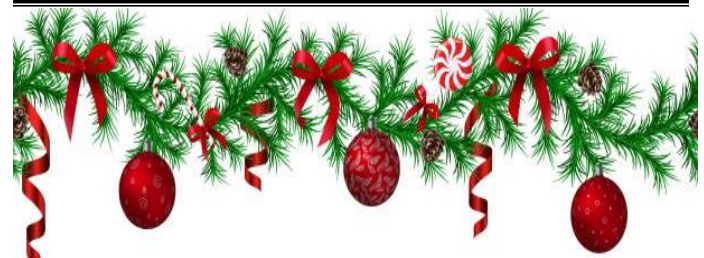
your part and join the Shepherd Forest Civic Club today – you may be a lucky winner!

HEAVY TRASH

Shepherd Forest is currently overflowing with heavy trash as a result of no City pick up in over two months. At the time of printing this newsletter, Solid Waste states that they are still not able to give estimated pick up dates due to debris being so heavy Citywide. We encourage all residents to **continue calling 311** and making a request for heavy trash pickup in our neighborhood.



Don't forget to save your aluminum cans this holiday season for the Citizens on Patrol "Cash for Cans" program. All proceeds will benefit the Shepherd Forest Civic Club Security program (COP). A can "drop off" is being planned for after the holidays so you can easily dispose of your aluminum products. Please support our Citizens on Patrol program and Save Your Aluminum Cans this holiday season!



DON'T MISS THE SFCC CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MUSICAL PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 10TH