



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

APRIL 2021

IT'S PROPERTY TAX PROTEST TIME

This is the time of year when most Shepherd Forest homeowners have received their property tax evaluations and are considering whether or not to officially protest their appraisals. The Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) is responsible for all appraisals and the appeals process, and on **Monday, April 19th at 7:00pm**, the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will host Jason Cunningham, HCAD's Deputy Chief Appraiser, to discuss property tax protests and answer your questions. At this time, SFCC meetings are still being held virtually and instructions on how to participate in this meeting are below.

Most property owners in Harris County have until May 15 to protest the values assigned by the Harris County Appraisal District, which is encouraging homeowners to file online protests instead of "in-person" protests during the COVID-19 pandemic. HCAD said in a recent news release that some property owners still have not yet received their property value notices and will have 30 days to file protests once their value notice is received. "HCAD must operate under the guidelines and deadlines set out in the state Tax Code, so we do not have the flexibility to change the protest deadline despite the closures and social distancing caused by the pandemic," chief appraiser Roland Altinger said.

SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB VIRTUAL MEETING Monday, April 19th at 7:00 pm Topic: Property Tax Evaluations and Protests

A Notice of Protest form for you to complete should have been included in your value notice from HCAD or they can be downloaded at www.hcad.org. Protests may be brought in person to HCAD's office at 13013 Northwest Fwy. or mailed to P.O. Box 922004, Houston, TX 77292-2004. Mailed protests must be postmarked by May 15. Property owners also can protest their appraised values electronically by using HCAD's iFile and iSettle programs. Unique iFile numbers needed to file a protest can be found near the property account number in the upper-right corner of your value notice or retrieved from HCAD's mobile app by scanning the property owner's Texas driver's license (assuming the name and address on the ID match the information in HCAD's system.) Within five days of filing a protest through iFile, those who choose to use iSettle can upload supporting documents such as deeds, photos, closing statements, repair estimates or comparable sales information. If a settlement through the online system isn't possible once HCAD makes an offer, the property owner will be scheduled for a hearing with the Appraisal Review Board. A video explaining how to file an online protest and use the residential iSettle system is available at www.hcad.org under the "help" heading.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRTUAL TAX PROTEST MEETING: On April 19th at 7:00 pm, you can join your neighbors in the virtual civic club meeting from your computer, tablet, or smart phone by entering <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88934037098> in your browser and following the prompts. To join using a regular telephone (this will be audio only), please dial 346-248-7799. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID number 889 3403 7098 followed by the # key. You should now be connected with your neighbors and able to participate in the meeting. For any questions regarding property accounts or HCAD protest procedures, residents may also call the Harris County Appraisal District at 713-957-7800 or send email to help@hcad.org.

It's not too late to join the Shepherd Forest Civic Club and become an active member. You can mail your \$20 per household membership dues to SFCC, P.O. Box 925282, Houston, Texas 77292-5282 or visit www.shepherdforest.org and make your dues payment via PayPal. We need your support today!

CITIZENS ON PATROL NEWS

Many thanks go to our Citizens on Patrol volunteers who, despite have several patrollers out with health issues, again managed to put in many hours to keep a safe eye on our neighborhood. According to Spot Crime and HPD reports, this is what happened recently in and around Shepherd Forest:

02/28 – 4000 block of Marlborough – vandalism
03/01 – 3400 block of Ella – theft of vehicle parts
03/01 – 1500 block of Wilde Rock - theft
03/02 – 3300 block of Ella – theft from vehicle
03/05 – 3500 block of Marlborough – vandalism
03/06 – 1600 block of Wilde Rock – theft
03/09 – 3000 block of Ella – assault
03/12 - 2300 block of Wilde Rock – theft (vehicle parts)
03/14 – 1700 block of West 34th – swindle & forgery

03/16 – 3300 block of Ella - theft of motor vehicle parts
03/17 - 3000 block of Ella – theft from motor vehicle
03/18 – 1100 block of West 34th – assault
03/23 – 2200 block of West 34th – assault
03/26 – 1600 block of Ansbury – identity theft
03/26 – 1600 block of Ansbury - theft
03/28 - 3700 block of Gardendale – theft
04/07 – 3100 block of Ella – theft from motor vehicle
04/09 – 3000 block of Ella - theft at restaurant

As you can see, the area along Ella from Loop 610 to 34th continues to have a high occurrence of crime. In addition, there was a DWI arrest (Ella), a drug arrest (34th), and 2 assault arrests (34th) nearby. You are again reminded to be alert when at nearby gas stations and restaurant parking lots, as they have been “hot spots” for crime recently. Please report all suspicious people/activity and crime to **HPD (non-emergency 832-884-3131 or emergency 911)** and then to our Security Coordinator Paul Berry at 915-373-8820. Volunteer patrollers are always needed and appreciated to help in this effort.



PARTY LINE

Special Happy Birthday wishes are sent to our neighbors celebrating April birthdays: **MARTI NELSON** (4/11), **RUBEN ALVAREZ** (4/23), and **PAYTON ARENS** (4/27).

Also being sent wishes for a very special Happy Birthday are our neighbors celebrating in early May. They include: **DYLAN MOORE** (5/3), **JENNIFER WOODRUFF** (5/4), **STELLA CASTRO** (5/5), **CLYDE MJSKE** (5/13) and **JANELLE DANIELS** (5/15). Hope each of you have a great birthday!

Happy Anniversary wishes are sent to **BRANDON & CLAUDIA TRISTAN** who celebrate on May 6th and to **BOB WILLIAMSON** and **KATY CATTONI** who will celebrate on May 10th. Congratulations !!

A huge congratulations is sent to **JOSH & KATE LIGHT** who recently welcomed the arrival of their beautiful daughter, **CARTER**. The Light family currently resides on Stonecrest in Section 2. Congratulations to all of you !!

A very belated Happy Anniversary wish goes to **SHARON & IAN KINLOCH** who celebrated their 25th Wedding anniversary on March 6th. Belated March 4th birthday wishes are also sent to **COOKIE DAVENPORT**. Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of longtime resident, **JAMES HANEY**, on his recent passing.

YARD OF THE MONTH CONTEST

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club Yard of the Month Contest begins each year in the month of **April**, with judging of yards being done on the **second full weekend of each month**. Yards are judged on best “overall appearance” and a variety of beautiful yards have won the award. All residents living in Shepherd Forest are eligible to win the Yard of the Month Contest, so there are no excuses for not getting your yard into shape! If you would like to volunteer to help judge the Yard of the Month award, please contact our **Yard of the Month Chairman, Amanda Schnell** at 810-656-5201.

SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

2021 Officers:

President - Patricia Williams
Vice-President– Bid Nutt
Treasurer – Michael Moore
Secretary – Kevin Taylor
Security/COP – Paul Berry

2021 Board of Directors:

Paul Berry
Jeanne Gebo
Delinda Holland
Amanda Schnell



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SFCC NEIGHBORHOOD WORKDAY GREAT SUCCESS

Many thanks to the following volunteers who recently spent their Saturday participating in the SFCC CleanUp Event: Kevin Taylor, Michael Moore, Patricia Williams, Kalie Brown, Bryan Schaper, Leslie Sparacino, Natalie Dunn, Mike Donovan, Delinda Holland, Richard Holland, Bid Nutt, Paul Berry, Jeanne Berry, Nelson and Emily.

Trash was picked up, limbs were trimmed, grass was cut, esplanade sign areas were cleaned, and much more. Our neighborhood was truly given a "face lift" and the efforts were appreciated by all. Another big Thank You also goes to Beautification Chairman Amanda Schnell for organizing the event and volunteers. Thanks Amanda!

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON 34TH STREET APARTMENTS

Construction recently began on a four-story, 70-unit apartment complex at the site of the former Doyle's



Restaurant at 2136 West 34th Street. Avenue, a Houston nonprofit that develops low-cost/affordable housing announced that construction should be completed by mid-2022.

GOODBYE TO LUBY'S

According to SEC filings earlier this year, Luby's Cafeteria is expected to cease restaurant operations by the end of their fiscal year in August, 2021. The West 34th location manager said the fate of the



beloved cafeteria is "still uncertain," but according to the SEC filing, "liquidation is imminent." Barring a last minute sale, it appears that the iconic Luby's may only be around for a short while.

EASTER BUNNY PHOTO SHOOT ATTRACTS RESIDENTS

Although skies appeared a bit threatening in the early morning hours, the recent Easter Bunny Photo Event turned out to be quite an exciting photo shoot for those residents that chose to attend. To ensure Covid safety measures, reservations were required and slots were filled. Each participant had their professional photo taken with the Easter Bunny and were then given an Easter Basket full of eggs, candy, coloring book and colors. Thanks to Paul and Jeanne Berry, Patricia Williams, and Jeanne Gebo for their assistance with stuffing eggs and photo shoot help. We especially want to thank Lily Eichenlaub for making sure the Easter Bunny was in attendance – you were great!



The Shepherd Forest Civic Club sends our deepest thanks and appreciation to Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital for making this fun morning possible with their generous underwriting of the event. The hospital happily donated the photographer, Easter baskets, candy, and goodies that made this community event such a success. Attendees expressed their appreciation to the SFCC & Memorial Hermann for organizing the special Easter event.



MEMORIAL HERMANN GREATER HEIGHTS HOSPITAL

SFCC MEMBERS WIN PRIZES

Several lucky Shepherd Forest Civic Club members were again reminded that “it pays” to be a civic club member. Congratulations go to the following civic club members who were recently chosen as lucky winners in the 2021 Membership Drawing :

**\$25 gift card to CAVATORRES RESTAURANT
PAYTON ARENS**

**\$25 gift card to GATLINS BBQ
JOE STANLEY**

It's not too late for you to join the SFCC. Check out www.shepherdforest.org for info on how to become a member of this important neighborhood organization.

Rules & Regulations

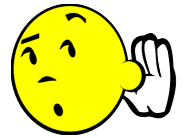
When placing your black garbage can and/or green recycle carts at the curb, remember to leave 3 feet between each cart and other objects such as cars, trees, and mailboxes so the Solid Waste garbage and recycle trucks can pick them up quickly and easily.



New to the neighborhood, about to have a baby or celebrate an upcoming birthday? If you have any news that you would like to share with your neighbors, please contact the Shepherd Forest Civic Club at info@shepherdforest.org and give us your information so that we can share it in the next issue of the SF Times!

WE HEAR YOU!

In addition to the recent surveys collected from residents, the Shepherd Forest Civic Club receives a number of calls and emails regarding neighborhood issues. These include crime, high weeds, abandoned vehicles, parking in yards, garbage and debris, possible deed restriction violations, and much more. Although it sometimes appears that “nothing has happened” to your concern, the SFCC is working hard on every complaint and we will continue to give updates on the huge amount of work that is being done behind the scenes on these issues. Covid has made the City's response time extremely slow to Neighborhood Protection issues including Deed Restriction violations. To contact the Shepherd Forest Civic Club with your questions or concerns, email us at info@shepherdforest.org or call 713-742-2470 and leave a detailed message. We are definitely hearing your concerns and addressing them as they are received.



COVID-19 RESOURCES

As of Monday, March 29, 2021, **everyone age 16 and older is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas.**

All vaccines are authorized for people age 18 and older. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for people 16 and older.

Vaccine appointment opportunities can be found at <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-vaccines/>.

If you need assistance with registration, call the COVID-19 Call Center at **832-393-4220**. For people 60 and older, call 832-393-4301. For people with disabilities, call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 832-393-5500.