



THE SHEPHERD FOREST TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

DECEMBER 2023

SANTA TO VISIT SHEPHERD FOREST ON DEC 9TH

Santa is heading to Shepherd Forest 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 portraits by PortraitEFX will be taken free of charge for civic club members. (If you haven't paid your \$25 annual dues yet, you may do so at the event.) The event will be held next **Saturday, Dec 9th** at the Children's Lighthouse of Oak Forest (2109 West 34th @ Oak Forest) 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/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-45810616-photos#/> Sponsors for the event include Children's Lighthouse, PortraitEFX, Jason's Deli, and Shipley's DoNuts. For more info about this morning of fun and professional portraits with Santa, check out the SFCC website at 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 5th** 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 a delicious **BBQ dinner** (compliments of SF resident

Greg Restivo) will be served at 6:00 pm. Following the dinner will be a short program and heartwarming Christmas music by SaxWorx, perfect for getting you into that "holiday spirit". Residents are encouraged to bring a canned good to be donated to our local food pantry. If you have a favorite appetizer or dessert, feel free to bring it. 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/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-46314210-sfcc> to RSVP. For more info about this event, call Delinda Holland at 713-416-1888. Don't miss this festive Christmas dinner with your neighbors!



It's almost time for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club's annual **Christmas Decorating Contest** which will be held on the weekend of **December 9th-10th**. 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.

- * **CHRISTMAS DINNER – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH SOCIAL 5:30 – DINNER 6PM**
- * **SANTA VISITS SHEPHERD FOREST – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th - 10am-2pm**
- * **DECORATING CONTEST JUDGING – WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 9-10TH**

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
Texas
Printers 
marketing you can feel

Proudly Prints
**The Shepherd
Forest Times**
Local Printing. Done Right. On Time.

- Business Cards • Post Cards • Flyers • Brochures
- Promotional Items • Data Merge
- Mail-outs • Catalogs
- Calendars • Customized Coloring Books • Fast Turn Around

Order your printing
for the holidays!
713-371-3768
www.texasprinters.com

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 been reports of increased crime at apartments in the 4000 block of West 34th and also in the area of West 34th near Mangum. Stay alert when in these areas.

- 11/01 - 2300 block of Stonecrest – theft
- 11/01 - 1500 block of W. 34th – Theft from a motor vehicle
- 11/02 - 3900 block of Gardendale – theft
- 11/10 - 3900 block of Gardendale – assault
- 11/12 - 2100 block of W. 34th – theft from a motor vehicle
- 11/15 - 3000 block of Ella – theft of motor vehicle parts
- 11/17 - 2000 block of Wilde Rock – theft of motor vehicle parts
- 11/17 - 3100 block of Ella – assault at gas station



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 be sure and 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 KOWNSLAR (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. Happy Birthday to each one of you!

Sincere sympathy is sent to the family and neighbors of **DWAYNE ALAN MOCEK** who passed away at his home on Stonecrest recently. He is survived by his mother, brother, niece, and nephew.

Many thanks to our neighbors **JEANNE GEBO** and **RHONDA WILSON** who recently found the Shepherd Forest entry sign on Oak Forest vandalized and torn down. They not only recovered and repaired the sign, but reinstalled it as well. Hats off to these two for their time and hard work on behalf of our neighborhood!

Thanks to the Section 2 resident that was seen mowing along the Oak Forest sidewalk crossing the Centerpoint easement and to the Bron Holly resident that cut his next door neighbors yard. We are so fortunate to have great neighbors that are willing to help out their neighbors. Thanks guys!

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."



Have you recently moved to Shepherd Forest? New baby? Birthday? Illness? School news? Whatever news you have 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!



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 kickoff of the **2024 Membership Drive** Month for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club and we encourage all homeowners and renters to join the SFCC. Membership dues cover a calendar year starting on January 1st and end on December 31st of the same year. 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 will be included in the January newsletter, or you can get a jump on the Membership Drive by joining at the civic club website: www.shepherdforest.org or by using the QR code provided below.

SF CIVIC CLUB 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Brandon Caire
VICE-PRESIDENT – Paul Berry
TREASURER – Jeanne Berry
SECRETARY – Phil Kownslar

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Shirley Evanicky
Katie Hassett
Tasha Leverton
Bid Nutt
Eric Oliver



Pay dues here



Emergency Roadside Assistance

Just above the barcode on your **drivers license** is a telephone number in very

small print. This number can be called for **emergency assistance** on the highway or wherever you might have trouble **in your car**. Just dial **1-800-525-5555** and help will be sent to you. This service is State operated and paid for with your tax dollars. Please pass on this number to your family & friends.



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 or if you can't wait, please contact Security Chairman Paul Berry at (915) 373-8820 to arrange for pickup of your cans. 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
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH !**