



THE SHEPHERD FOREST | APRIL 2018

TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS ARE IN FULL BLOOM!

We are pleased to announce that Section 2 resident Susan Steving has stepped up to assume the position of Beautification Chairman. She is asking for volunteers to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm for what the committee can and should do to keep our neighborhood, well, beautiful! The committee is launching a renewed effort to Adopt-A-Sign. Individuals or groups can take responsibility for keeping our Identity Signs (those oval "Shepherd Forest" signs you see at the entrances to the subdivision) neat and attractive. Planting flowers or low-maintenance greenery around the base, or just keeping the trash picked up (a common problem along the 610 feeder) would be part of this effort. Please reach out to Susan at missysteving@gmail.com or 713-299-9489 to welcome her aboard, offer your help or make suggestions on how we can make Shepherd Forest more beautiful!

IT'S TIME TO GET READY FOR YARD-OF-THE-MONTH

Yard-Of-The-Month judging will begin again soon! April judging will be conducted April 28-29, so get your lawn mowed, your hedges trimmed and your flowers planted. We will be announcing the winners in the May newsletter. For the rest of the summer, judging will be done during the last weekend of each month, and winners announced in the next month's newsletter.



APRIL SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 16TH 6:00 PM - UNION KITCHEN - 3452 ELLA BLVD

Our friends at Union Kitchen will once again host this month's General Meeting & Social. Meet and mingle with your neighbors and SFCC Board members over Happy Hour and Light Bites. There will also be a brief discussion of current efforts to update and approve the SFCC By-Laws. Other topics of interest and upcoming events are also open to discussion. We hope to see you there!

SFCC MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ALL SHEPHERD FOREST RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

THE RESIDENTS HAVE SPOKEN

Last month, after publishing the first edition of the redesigned Shepherd Forest newsletter, we put out a call to residents to help us decide on a name for the publication. In a landslide response to our online poll, 57% of all votes were cast to return to the original name. Welcome to The Shepherd Forest Times! Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond - this is YOUR newsletter, and we always appreciate your input.

If you would like to contribute or have a suggestion for an upcoming issues, please contact Editor Mary Lamb at Lambmn1011@aol.com or 281-488-3216.

UPDATES TO THE SFCC BY-LAWS

The SFCC Board recently approved updates to the current Shepherd Forest Civic Club By-Laws, as submitted by the By-Laws Committee. The revisions were minimal, with most being typographic or grammatical corrections. The proposed By-Laws updates will be discussed and Civic Club members will be asked to approve the updates at the May civic club meeting.

Copies of the proposed By-Laws updates are available now on the SFCC website at www.shepherdforest.org or can be obtained by contacting any Officer or Director of the SFCC.

CITIZENS ON PATROL - SECURITY REPORT

This month (and going forward) we are expanding our report to include incidents that have occurred near, but not necessarily within the boundaries of Shepherd Forest. As our Security Task Force has noted, we are not an isolated "territory" and what happens nearby can, and often does, migrate into our neighborhood.

In response to recent requests to more clearly define the terms we use in our report:

THEFT: A person commits theft if they appropriate property with intent to deprive the owner without the owner's consent. *e.g. Someone steals your car.*

BURGLARY: Entry into a building illegally with the intent to commit a crime, especially theft. *e.g. Someone breaks into your home.*

ROBBERY: A person commits robbery if in the course of committing theft they cause bodily injury to another or threatens or place fear of imminent bodily injury or death. *e.g. Someone robs you with a knife or gun.*

RECENT CRIMES REPORTED TO HPD

3/1	4100 W. 34th (Sec. 3)	Burglary of Vehicle
3/4	4200 W. 34th (Sec. 3)	Burglary of Vehicle
3/5	4100 Marlborough (Sec. 3)	Burglary of Home
3/5	4200 Marlborough (Sec. 3)	Burglary of Vehicle
3/6	4000 W. 34th (Sec. 3)	Aggravated Robbery
3/8	4000 W. 34th (Sec. 3)	Burglary
3/9	4000 W. 34th (Sec. 3)	Assault
3/9	4000 34th (Sec. 3)	Theft
3/10	2500 W. 34th (Sec. 3)	Theft
3/14	2400 Ansbury (Sec. 2)	Package Theft
3/21	3300 TC Jester (Sec. 3)	Burglary
3/21	3300 TC Jester (Sec. 3)	Robbery
3/27	3000 Groven (Sec. 3)	Theft from Vehicle

Citizens Patrol reminds us to call HPD (911 if it is an emergency, or call 713-884-3131 if you should see anything or anyone that appears to be "suspicious"). AFTER you have made the call to HPD, please notify our Citizens Patrol Coordinator, Debby Fisher, 434-221-6222.

CITIZENS ON PATROL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in participating in or learning more about our Citizens On Patrol program, contact COP Coordinator Debby Fisher at 434-221-6222

SECURITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

The next meeting of the Security Task Force will be held on Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m., in the library of Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet School, located at 901 Sue Barnett.

During the meeting we will discuss next steps, including who else to invite for presentations, cost of programs, and how to get feedback from residents/owners about whether or not they would be willing to pay for a security service. We will also brainstorm fundraising ideas/activities. Previous suggestions have included partnering with other subdivisions, partnering with local businesses, wine walk, casino trip, silent auction, lawn signs for SF contributors, community garage sales, and applying for available grants. If we decide to proceed with any of these ideas, we would need to determine who would be responsible for organizing them. Preliminary recommendations from this meeting will be presented to the SFCC board in April. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Security Task Force, please email Patricia Williams at paw@earthlink.net.

Contributed by Patricia Williams, Security Task Force Chairman



PARTY LINE

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Roger Kopp (4/16) and Lauren Syrinek Miller (4/20).

Condolences to the family and friends of long-time Section 3 resident Craig Farquhar, who passed away March 26.



This little cutie made quite a haul at the SFCC Easter Egg Hunt, held on Saturday, March 24th at Stonecrest Park. More than 50 infants, toddlers, children and their families joined members of the SFCC Board to collect over 1,200 candy-filled eggs and toys - everyone got something. Got more pics? Share 'em on our Facebook page for all to enjoy!

MONEY MATTERS - SOCIAL SECURITY

SHOULD YOU START COLLECTING SOCIAL SECURITY EARLY?

It's not for everyone. But, if it's possible for you, there are a few great reasons to start collecting Social Security once you hit the age of 62. Check out the reasons below and see if it seems right for you.

REASON #1: YOU MAY HAVE TO BEGIN COLLECTING AT 62.

Did you know that nearly half of current retirees said they left the workforce earlier than planned due to health problems or work-place downsizing? Even if you plan to work until you're 70, that may not end up being the case. It's nice to know you'll be okay if you retire earlier than planned.

REASON #2: PLAY THE LAW OF AVERAGES.

One main argument to wait longer until you begin collecting checks is that the payouts will be larger. However, if you live close to the average life expectancy for your age, you end up receiving about the same amount in lifetime benefits, according to the Social Security Administration. In other words, the system is designed for those that live an average-length life, meaning it will even out in terms of total benefits.

REASON #3: YOU COULD POSSIBLY RETIRE EARLY.

Claiming your benefits early can be a good move if your family tree has relatives who lived shorter-than-average lives. If you beat the odds and end up living a longer life, that's great! You'll continue to collect your benefits. Remember, early retirees usually enjoy the added benefits of being more active - so you can retire while still enjoying your favorite hobbies and activities.

Contributed by Bryon Townsend, CFP. - W.R. Anderson & Co.

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CLOSE TO HOME

HOME SALES ARE HEATING UP IN SHEPHERD FOREST THIS YEAR

Spring is here, and summer right around the corner, but the real estate market has already heated up. Here in Shepherd Forest, we've started the year off by selling 28% more homes in the first quarter than we did in Q1 2017, and more than twice what we sold in Q1 of 2016.



And although the bulk of the homes in the neighborhood are still selling in the \$200,000s, we had one house this quarter that sold for \$699,000 – the second highest sale in Shepherd Forest history! Also in the first three months of 2018, we averaged one sale per month at \$300,000 or above, compared to our average over the last 2 years of one sale per month and a half over \$300,000. So, just like our neighbors in Oak Forest and Garden Oaks, we are gaining equity while living in the very best corner of our fair city!

If you have real estate or home improvement topics you'd like to see discussed here, drop me a line at david@habitationrealty.com. See you next month!

Contributed by David Hille, Senior Realtor, Habitation Realty



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Section 1 & 2 Pickup - 3rd Thursdays

(4/19) (5/17) (6/21)

Section 3 Pickup - 4th Tuesdays

(4/23) (5/22) (6/26)



SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS!

Got Cans? Call Section 3 Resident John Carter at 713-682-5111.
He will pick up to recycle - and contributes the proceeds to SFCC!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

We are always in need of additional newsletter carriers -
if you are interested in volunteering, please contact
Mary Lamb at Lambm1011@aol.com or text 281-488-3216.



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