



SF TIMES

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City's Apartment Inspection Program To Be Discussed at SFCC Meeting

Shepherd Forest is surrounded by a variety of apartment complexes, some of which are unsightly and lack proper maintenance and attention. Others lack adequate security and are havens for criminal activity which can have a direct impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood. Moreover, issues stemming from these poorly maintained and/or managed apartment complexes can contribute to a decline in our property values.

Much media attention has been given to problems arising from substandard complexes throughout the City. Mayor Bill White says that the City is improving its methods of identifying and remedying these complexes, with an emphasis on ensuring that apartments comply with the City's safety standards. The Public Works and Engineering Department, which handles the city's building code inspections, has been working with the Houston Police Department to identify complexes that do not have required certifications, and then begin regularly inspecting all complexes throughout the City. Attend the May 18th SFCC meeting and learn more this important neighborhood issue.

Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 18th @ 7:00 pm

Garden Oaks Baptist Church (Library) – 3200 N. Shepherd

Speaker: Officer Doug Anders

Topic: City's Apartment Inspections Program

Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month & all residents are invited to attend!

MEMORIAL DAY TO BE OBSERVED MAY 25TH



Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday that is observed on the last Monday of May to commemorate U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country. It first began to honor soldiers who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, it was expanded to include those who died in any war or military action. In recent years, Memorial Day has been viewed not only as a day to remember our family and friends who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but as the traditional beginning of summer. However you choose to observe the day, don't forget to honor those who gave their lives that we may live in "the land of the free and the home of the brave."



YARD OF THE MONTH CONTEST

The SFCC Yard of the Month Contest is now in its second month for 2009 and judging of yards is being done on the first full weekend of every month. Congratulations go to the following residents with beautiful yards that were our lucky May contest winners:

Section 1 – JUDY GUTIERREZ – 1018 Stonecrest

An attractive sago palm is the focal point of this winning yard. A variety of hibiscus, ferns, geraniums, Knockout roses, caladiums, begonias, and a pom pom juniper paint the stunning color that make this neat yard so beautiful !

Section 2 – DARLA COONS - 2214 Wilde Rock

This eye-catching yard has pecan, banana, and sago palm trees. The yard is highlighted with a spectacular freeform raised bed, edged with Tennessee ledge stone and matching stepping stones, arranged with both planted and uniquely potted liriopse, airplane plants, geraniums, impatiens and many others.

Section 3 – GLORIA & WAYNE MUTZ – 3014 Vollmer

In this unique & well maintained lawn, the day lilies stand out day and night in a beautiful explosion of color. This yard is a dictionary of day lilies with stakes identifying each variety. So much love has been put into this yard and it shows.

All winners will be recognized at the next Shepherd Forest Civic Club meeting to be held on Monday, May 18th at 7:00 pm at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church (in the library).

Party Line

Happy birthday wishes are sent to **MICHAEL MOORE** who will celebrate on June 11th..... Wedding anniversary congratulations are sent to **HENRY & MARGARET DEMUTH** who celebrated on May 8th. Congratulations are also sent to **JOE & CARMEN NIETO** who will celebrate a wedding anniversary on May 20th. Early June wedding anniversary congratulations go to **ROBERT & MARIE HEMPHILL (6TH)**, **LYNETTE & DARRELL TIDWELL (13th)**, and **JOE & JEAN JUNGBAUER (14th)**..... Congratulations are sent to **TRAVIS HOLLAND** who graduated Cum Laude & received a degree in Marketing from Texas A&M University..... Speedy recovery wishes go to **ROSEMARY BARTOS** who is healing from recent knee surgery.....Thinking of you **VIRGINIA HILL**.....Sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of longtime Bron Holly resident, **SARAH BURNHAM**, who passed away in late April.....Condolences are also sent to the family and friends of **GENEVA BRITT** who passed away this week..... It's never *too late* to join the Shepherd Forest Civic Club – just mail your \$20 membership dues to the address on the front of this newsletter and join today.....If you have news for the **SF PartyLine**, please call **713-868-4062**.

2008-2009 SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

Civic Club Officers:

President - Joe Nieto - 713 - 686-1923
Vice-President- Jennifer Woodruff - 713-303-3511
Treasurer - Darrell Tidwell - 713 - 681-0416
Secretary - Cassidy Odom - 713-680-3302
Security/COP - Ruth Lepler - 713 - 681-4143
Newsletter - Delinda Holland - 713- 680-3956

Board of Directors:

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Robert Hammond - 713-680-9007
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BASIC BLUE PRINT - 3500 East T.C. Jester-
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KATY FREEWAY MANAGED LANES NOW OPEN

The Harris County Toll Road Authority reports that the new Katy Managed Lanes are now open for full operation, offering area drivers a new way to get to their destinations quickly and safely. **Starting at 5 a.m.**, Katy Freeway commuters can begin using the lanes as a **tollway 24 hours a day, seven days a week**. The lanes will continue to be free for HOV riders during regular **HOV hours, Monday—Friday from 5 a.m.—11 a.m. and 2 p.m.—8 p.m.**, eastbound and westbound. The first of their kind in the state of Texas, the Katy Managed Lanes merge HOV, mass transit and tollway traffic in a single roadway. Two lanes in each direction replace the single, reversible HOV lane in the center of the newly reconstructed Katy Freeway between State Highway 6 and West Loop 610. The lanes offer more reliable travel times for METRO buses and carpoolers, while making any unused lane capacity available to drivers who pay a toll for the potential travel-time savings. For more information on the new Managed Lanes please visit the Harris County Toll Road Authority web site at www.hctra.org/katymanagedlanes



Shepherd Forest Security Report – Crime Spikes !

During the month of April, a **dramatic spike in crime** occurred in Shepherd Forest. In Section 1, three homes in the **1100 and 1200 blocks of Stonecrest**, and one home on **Ansbury**, were burglarized by the same group of people. A young girl would knock on the front door and when no one answered, her three male accomplices would break into the home. Fortunately, an **alert neighbor** saw what was happening, called HPD, and three of the four suspects were apprehended. A few days later, a home in the **900 block of West 31st** was burglarized. A suspicious man driving a white van was reported stopping at homes **between Ella and T.C. Jester**, asking for work. A car was broken into in the **2300 block of Bron Holly**. Another car burglary occurred in the **2100 block of Wilde Rock** and a truck tailgate was also stolen from the **2100 block of Wilde Rock**. Three men were caught by HPD in the back of a home on **Oak Forest** and were arrested in connection with a nearby home burglary. Just north of Shepherd Forest on **Oak Forest**, it was reported that an elderly couple was followed by a car with flashing headlights. As soon as the couple pulled to the side of the road to let the car pass, a second vehicle pulled in front of them blocking them in between the two vehicles. When the suspects approached the car, they noticed the couple's grandbaby in the back seat and jumped back into their vehicles and fled. In Section 3 on **Helberg**, an attempted home burglary was foiled by an alert neighbor who saw the burglary in progress and immediately called HPD. The suspects were not caught, but the witness gave HPD the license plate number and a description of the suspects. Alert SF neighbors can make a big difference !!!!!



Our COP Coordinator Ruth Lepler reminds us that the number of **HPD patrol cars** assigned to our neighborhood is *directly* related to the number of **calls** that we make to HPD. So pleeeeeease, **call and report all criminal activity to HPD**. Ruth also reports that our dedicated patrollers volunteered over 100 hours last month, but as you can see, more Citizens on Patrol volunteers are desperately needed to help keep an eye on our neighborhood. If you are willing to donate as little as one hour per month (day or night) to help our patrollers, please consider volunteering. Also, our COP reminds each of us to have a yellow "SF" identification sticker on all of our automobiles. Please call Ruth Lepler @ (713) 681-4143 to report crime *after* it has occurred (not in progress – call HPD) or to volunteer as a Citizen on Patrol member. And most of all, stay alert !!!

FLOODING IN SHEPHERD FOREST

Many times when our homes flood or have been threatened by **flooded streets** and rising waters, the last thing we think to do is report flooding to the City of Houston. If you have *ever* been flooded or have experienced **sewer backup issues** related to street flooding at *any time* in the past, PLEASE take the time to call 311 or email 311@cityofhouston.net and report that your house, garage, or street has flooded. These 311 reports are looked at by city officials for prioritizing areas that need drainage projects. Also, please contact Councilmember Toni Lawrence at 832-393-3010 with the same information. The more reports that are made to the City regarding this issue, the greater chance that our flooding and/or sewer backup problems in our neighborhood will be addressed. Please make your call as soon as possible so that you can be counted in the list of affected residents.



On **May 20th**, a representative from the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will be meeting with City officials & Public Works to discuss the Section 2 flooding and related sewer backup issues. **Written statements and photos** from residents that have experienced flooding or sewer backup problems are desperately needed to be presented at the meeting. If you are willing to take a few minutes to help with this most important issue, please contact Delinda Holland @ 713-680-3956 or Joe Nieto @ 713-686-1923. The SFCC wants to make sure that *everyone ever affected* by street flooding or related sewer backup issues will have their address added to the list presented to City officials. Taking just a few minutes of your time can help make a huge difference!

FREE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY SERVICE

A free telephone information service is available from Google. Just dial from you home or cell phone 1-800-goog411 or (1-800-466-4411) and get directory service at no charge. Check out more info at <http://www.google.com/goog411/>

SEX OFFENDERS LIVING IN AND NEAR SHEPHERD FOREST

On a recent internet check, it was learned that the Department of Public Safety's Sex Offender Database lists a number of **sex offenders** living in the area *in or near* Shepherd Forest, including those on Maple Grove, Gardendale, T.C Jester, Sherwood, West 34th.....). For specific locations and more information about these local sex offenders, you can go to <http://records.txdps.state.tx.us>. At this website, you can check out names, addresses, and even pictures of these

and other sex offenders living in the Shepherd Forest area. This is **public information** and can be obtained by anyone free of charge. Another website where this information can be obtained is www.familywatchdog.com. Check it out.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SET FOR OCTOBER 6TH

Once again, National Night Out will be held in **October** (Texas only) instead of August. Residents are encouraged to mark their calendars now for the annual **National Night Out** which is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6th**. National Night Out is the annual event at which residents, community groups, and local law enforcement join forces in the fight against crime. In Shepherd Forest, National Night Out is a chance for residents to meet and mingle with their neighbors and **promote neighborhood unity** in our own neighborhood, usually done through block parties held throughout the neighborhood. Watch for more National Night Out info to come