



SF TIMES

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“DOG WHISPERER” TO SPEAK AT MEETING

Has your beloved dog got you “at the end of your leash” or have doggie “issues” that are driving you crazy? Are you troubled by your dog jumping on everyone, barking incessantly at everything that moves, dragging you around the neighborhood on a leash, running out the door, or not coming back after being called? Don't worry – there is help on the way! Micahla Vaccaro, a local **Dog Whisperer**, will be the **guest speaker** at the next Shepherd Forest Civic Club meeting to be held on **Monday, August 17th at 7:00 pm** at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church Library, 3200 North Shepherd.

If the term “Dog Whisperer” is new to you, don't feel alone. A Dog Whisperer is a Canine Behaviorist that specializes in eliminating troublesome, stressful behaviors without ever hitting, yelling, or using painful devices such as shock collars, on your dog. Dog Whispering is *not* “training” and Dog Whisperers are *not* “pet psychics”. Dog Whispering works where “training” fails – through the use of modification using the “Four Essentials to a Stable Dog: Leadership, Walks, Rules and Good Nutrition.” As many of us have found through the years, a stable dog can enrich your life and become a loving, cherished companion and member of your family. Don't miss the opportunity to hear this unusual topic discussed by a local professional !!



Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, August 17th @ 7:00 pm

Garden Oaks Baptist Church (Library)

3200 N. Shepherd – Across from Gabby's BBQ

Speaker/Topic: Ms. Micahla Vaccaro, Dog Whisperer

SFCC meetings are held on the third Monday of every month and YOU are invited to attend.

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

According to Councilmember Toni Lawrence, the Houston Fire Department and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Care Van have teamed up again in 2009 to offer free Back-To-School immunizations at neighborhood fire stations. This is the perfect time to get your child up-to-date on their immunizations for school and avoid the rush before school resumes after the summer. The immunizations are **FREE**. All you need to bring is your children, your identification, and your children's immunization records. Immunization times are 4:00 pm -7:00 pm on the dates and at the locations listed below:

Thursday, August 20th Fire Station 11 - 460 T. C. Jester (just north of I-10)
Thursday, November 19th Fire Station 32 - 8614 Tidwell (east of Settegast Rd)

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Houston Fire Department's Public Affairs Office at 713-495-7900 or call Councilmember Toni Lawrence at 832-393-3010.

Printing of this newsletter was generously donated by **BUILDERS BLUE PRINT**

SFCC YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS

Many residents are wisely doing their yard work during the early morning or late evening hours to avoid overexposure to heat and sun, and their hard work has paid off with some gorgeous yards. Congratulations to the contest winners for this month. They are:

Section 1 – ED & FLORENCE KUBECZKA – 1031 West 30th

An always “perfectly manicured” lawn made this yard an easy choice as an August Yard of the Month winner. Beautiful shrubbery, azaleas, ginger, caladiums, begonias, moss rose and a variety of hanging baskets are all evidence of the hard work put into this lovely yard.

Section 2 - WALTER & ANN GOREE – 1943 Ansbury

Two varieties and sizes of azaleas provide a simple border for this impeccably manicured lawn. Beautiful caladiums add a fresh touch of color and a variety of large potted ferns add a decorative touch to the front porch of this sure contest winner.

Section 3 – RUTH LEPLER – 3002 Havel

This neat and trim yard features a central garden with brick border that is filled with beautiful vincas and other bright purple flowers in the background. Despite the heat and nearby construction, this pretty yard, nestled in a cul-de-sac, caught the eye of our judges.

Congratulations to each of the SFCC Yard of the Month Contest winners. Each winner will be recognized at the next SF Civic Club meeting, which will be held on Monday, August 17th at 7 pm.

Shepherd Forest News You Can Use

* City Ordinance Section 6-24 states that **pet owners must remove all “waste” material deposited by their pets** on property they do not own, including neighbors' yards, city parks, sidewalks, etc. *Please* - be a good neighbor and don't let your pet roam free without being on a leash – it's the law!

* The date for **National Night Out 2009** (in Texas) will be held on **October 6th**. Mark your calendar and start making plans now for this important upcoming event. More details available next month.

* **Tax-free school clothing purchases** can be made **August 21st-23rd**. For more information about this tax free shopping opportunity and/or a list of specific merchandise that qualify as tax free items, log on to <http://www.window.state.tx.us> or call the State Comptroller at **1-800-252-5555**.

* City Ordinance Section 10-452(b)(10) states that it is against the law to permit **grass and weeds** to grow in excess of **9 inches** on your property. Dial 311 to report this type of violation to the City.

* It is **against** our current Deed Restrictions to build a carport on your property !

Feedback Requested on Possible Road Closings (Oak Forest) for Quiet Zone Implementation

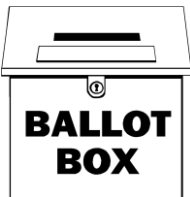
An application for a “**34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone**” (formerly known as the Garden Oaks Quiet Zone) is pending with the City of Houston. A Quiet Zone is an area within a community where train **conductors can not sound the train horn** unless there is an emergency. The Quiet Zone would run from Cornell near Main to West T.C. Jester and will affect several neighborhoods including Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, and **Shepherd Forest**. The 34th St Corridor Quiet Zone has not been fully funded and one proposal being discussed to cut costs & improve safety along the tracks is **the closing of five streets near the railroad tracks, including Oak Forest, Golf, Brinkman, Courtlandt, and Cornell**. Feedback is being requested on this proposal and a representative from the group will give an update on the *34th Street Corridor Quiet Zone* proposal and their efforts to close these streets (at the railroad crossings) at the **August 17th Shepherd Forest Civic Club meeting**.

Don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard. For more information on this proposal, you may visit their website at www.34thquietzone.com or email them at info@34thquietzone.com.



SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB URGES YOU TO "GET INVOLVED"

At the September 21st monthly meeting, the Shepherd Forest Civic Club will elect a new **President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer**, as well as **three members of the Board of Directors**. *We urge all residents to consider serving.* In an effort to fairly represent all three sections of our neighborhood, the SFCC is seeking residents from each section to get involved and seek these positions. In addition, the SFCC is looking for Chairpersons and/or volunteers for our **Citizens on Patrol, Yard of the Month & Christmas Decorating Contest, Membership Committee, Welcome Committee, Beautification Committee, Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee, Architectural Control Committee, Program Chairman, Newsletter distributors.....**



It's time for new faces to fill the positions within the SFCC – and **we need YOU** to help keep this organization strong. *Whatever* your interest, we have a place for you to volunteer. If you have ideas for programs and projects for our neighborhood, *now* is your chance to speak up and get involved. Please consider volunteering to help make a difference in Shepherd Forest. Our past officers and board members have worked countless hours to keep abreast of issues facing our residents. Now it's ***your turn*** to get involved. It takes **all of us working together** to preserve our neighborhood. **We MUST have your help if we are to continue as a strong civic club** and work on behalf of all of our residents. Please contact any SFCC officer or Board Member to volunteer to serve or to nominate someone else for any one of these positions.

Party Line

Best wishes for a very Happy Birthday are to sent to our neighbors celebrating upcoming birthdays. They include **MARY ELLEN RESTIVO (8/15), NELL BAHAM (8/20), ROBERT HAMMOND (8/24), MARY FARMER (8/25), RUTH EVANS (8/25), GREG RESTIVO (8/29), BRANDON TRISTAN (8/30), and LORI BATTARBEE (8/31).....**Congratulations are sent to those Shepherd Forest couples celebrating late August wedding anniversaries – **STANLEY & JANIE KOPP (8/26), and BILL & SANDY RITTENHOUSE (8/28).....**Happy Birthday wishes are sent to those who will be celebrating early September birthdays, including **PAUL DAVIS, JR. (9/5), KEN MINGUS (9/7), JOE JUNGBAUER (9/9), KENNY BATTARBEE (9/10), and ELSIE HALEY (9/12).....**Warm congratulations are sent to **RICHARD & DELINDA HOLLAND** on the marriage of their son, **TRAVIS HOLLAND**, to **ULA KOBESZKO** last weekend!.....Best wishes are sent to **FRANK OWENS** as he continues his rehab from recent knee surgery. It's great to see **MARY ELLEN RESTIVO** back on her feet following surgery and **EVA KIRTEN** back to work after a bout with chicken pox. Get well wishes are also sent to **JOHN CARTER** as he recovers from recent surgery. Best wishes for improved health are sent to **VIRGINIA HILL** who is facing several health issues and to **CARMEN NIETO** who has been under the weather since last week..... If you have news of birthdays, new neighbors, anniversaries or any other news that you would like to share, please call the SF PartyLine at (713) 868-4062 and leave a detailed message.

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME – PLEASE SLOW DOWN !

Don't forget that it's time for most local **schools to be back in session (HISD starts August 24th)**. Use **caution and proceed slowly** when driving through *any* school zone. Motorists should pay close attention to **flashing school zone lights** as well as posted speed limit signs. **HPD** reports that laser and motorcycle units are keeping a watchful eye



on drivers who **exceed** the school zone speed limit. Motorists who **pass a stopped school bus** with its red lights flashing will face a \$200 to \$1,000 fine **Slow Down – it's the Law !!**

For the latest information about neighborhood related issues, SF civic club programs & projects, local schools, weather, traffic, and much more, please check out our website at www.shepherdforest.org.

Shepherd Forest Security Report

Security Coordinator Ruth Lepler reports that our Citizens on Patrol volunteers continue to do an outstanding job in Shepherd Forest, volunteering over 104 hours last month on your behalf. Their efforts are applauded and appreciated by everyone in the neighborhood! Ruth also reports that she received very few calls from residents wishing to report crimes to her in the last few weeks. Of the calls she did receive, a resident reported that a **truck tailgate was stolen in the 2300 block of WildeRock**. Another reported a **vehicle being vandalized in the 2100 block of WildeRock**. Residents reported large **rocks being thrown** through windows in homes on **Greenhaven and Gardendale**. In another incident, HPD was called on **suspicious people** walking through the neighborhood in Section 3. Security Coordinator Ruth reminds us to **PLEASE** call HPD and report ANY AND ALL CRIMES – regardless of how insignificant they may seem to you. Then, **after** you have notified HPD, please call **Ruth at 713-681-4143** and let her know what you have reported to HPD. Also, call Ruth if you have aluminum cans to donate and someone will be by to pick them up. Patrollers are still needed for our Citizen on Patrol group, so if you are willing to give an hour or two a month to patrol, please consider becoming a COP volunteer.



SFCC HOSTS 21ST ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club will celebrate their **21st Annual Fall Picnic** on **Sunday, September 27th** from 4:00 – 6:00 pm and you are invited!!! Bring your neighbors and lawn chairs and come out for an afternoon of free food and lots of fun. In addition to the delicious **hot dogs** that will be served, plans are being made to have a petting zoo and great entertainment for everyone. If you know of a special group that would like to entertain at the picnic, have a fun game to play, know someone with a special craft to show off, or if you have a special talent that you would like to share at the picnic, please let us know. We are also looking for a person to help with games and/or booths for entertainment. Any new ideas or suggestions for the picnic would be welcomed and greatly appreciated. The annual picnic will again be held at **Stonecrest Park** (East T.C. Jester at Stonecrest) and is one of the SFCC **"Big Events"** for the year. Don't forget to mark your calendars now for **Sunday, September 27th**. For more picnic information, watch for the September issue of the SF Times or call Delinda Holland at 713-680-3956.



TAX FREE SCHOOL SHOPPING IN AUGUST

Texas shoppers will get a break from state and local sales taxes on **August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd**, – known as the **Texas tax free shopping holiday**. On these days, purchases of school related **clothing and footwear** priced at less than \$100 will be tax free during. Effective this year, in addition to clothes, footwear and some backpacks, Texas families also get a sales tax break on most **school supplies** priced at less than \$100 purchased for use by a student in an elementary or secondary school. On **August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd**, clothing and footwear used primarily for athletic activities or for protective wear are **not eligible** for the exemption. Customers buying golf cleats or football pads, for instance, must pay sales tax. Athletic wear that is also used for participation in other non-athletic activities can qualify for tax exemption. For example, tennis shoes, baseball caps, and jogging suits are worn during everyday activities and thus may be purchased tax free during the holiday. Also excluded from the sales tax holiday are accessories such as jewelry and watches; items that are carried rather than worn, including handbags, briefcases and wallets; skates or bowling shoes, clothing rentals, such as formal wear and costumes; sports helmets, and repairs and alterations. For a complete list of eligible tax-free items, please contact the **State of Texas Comptroller's office** by logging on to <http://www.window.state.tx.us> or call **1-800-252-5555** if you should have any questions about the sales tax holiday or want additional information about potential savings.

