



SF TIMES

Circulation 1000

Published by the Shepherd Forest Civic Club
P.O. Box 925282, Houston, Texas, 77292-5282

Volume 21, Issue 1

www.ShepherdForest.org

January, 2009

PORTIONS OF SHEPHERD FOREST TO BE INCLUDED IN TRAIN "QUIET ZONE"

The Shepherd Forest Civic Club recently learned that the City of Houston is currently reviewing applications for train **Quiet Zones** in Houston. One of the pending applications (Garden Oaks Quiet Zone) could possibly affect several sections of Shepherd Forest. In 2005, the Federal Railroad Administration issued a rule declaring that trains must sound their horns at all public train/highway intersections. However, this rule also offered an option for communities to establish "**Quiet Zones**" where train operators are not allowed to sound their horns unless there is an emergency. Communities must qualify for Quiet Zones by installing additional safety measures at train crossings in order to overcome the additional safety risk that results from not sounding train horns at crossings. Typically, these additional safety measures include medians at crossings so vehicles and pedestrians can not go around the crossing gates.



There are currently 12 Quiet Zone applications pending with the City of Houston, including the **Garden Oaks Quiet Zone** application. The application for a 'Garden Oaks Quiet Zone' would **run from Cornell St (near North Main) to West TC Jester**. Although the proposed Quiet Zone has taken the Garden Oaks name, the Quiet Zone will affect several neighborhoods including Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, **Shepherd Forest** and Independence Heights. Most Quiet Zones are 24 hour zones but some are "partial zones" which are quiet only between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am. The proposed Garden Oaks Quiet Zone is a 24 hour zone. Other communities such as West University, Bellaire, and River Oaks already have established Quiet Zones in their areas. For more information about this proposal, attend the next meeting of the Shepherd Forest Civic Club to be held on Monday, January 19th at 7pm. At the meeting, the Quiet Zone program and status of the Garden Oaks application will be explained and questions from residents will be addressed. Also, you may visit www.gardenoaksquietzone.com for additional information.

Shepherd Forest Civic Club Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 19th @ 7:00 pm

Garden Oaks Baptist Church (Library)

3200 N. Shepherd – Across from Gabby's BBQ

**Topic: Understanding the Proposed Quiet Zone
and how it will affect Shepherd Forest**

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



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CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Our Shepherd Forest 2008 Christmas decorations were once again quite beautiful throughout the neighborhood. Many thanks go to *every resident* who took the time to decorate – your efforts were enjoyed during the holidays by your neighbors. Special congratulations go to each of our most deserving **2008 SFCC Decorating Contest winners**. They are as follows:

Section 1

Best Religious - Rosemary Bartos – 1015 West 30th
Best Lighting - Bernice & Keith Boessling – 1114 West 30th
Traditional - Diane Ramos - 1235 Stonecrest
Children's Favorite - Lorene Cates – 1210 West 31st

Section 2

Best Religious (tie) – Denise & Delamon Hayes - 2115 Wilde Rock
Best Religious (tie) – Carter & Arlene Moyer – 2114 Wilde Rock
Best Lighting - Cookie Davenport & Eva Kirten -2118 Bron Holly
Traditional - Kate Dean & Denise St. Pierre – 2315 Bron Holly
Children's Favorite - Bert Casteca – 1927 Ansbury

Section 3

Best Religious - Tom & May Moratto - 3006 Havel
Best Lighting - Ken Mingus & Robert Hammond – 4302 Marlborough
Traditional - Mac and Pam Saso – 3006 Greenhaven
Children's Favorite - The Rezk Ebrahim Family - 4022 Marlborough



A huge “thank you” goes to Decorating Contest Chairman Ray Haley for his coordination of the contest, and to each of those who served as judges. Your time and effort was greatly appreciated.

SFCC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT A SUCCESS

The SFCC Annual Christmas dinner was held on December 8th at Garden Oaks Baptist Church and one of the largest crowds in many years was in attendance. A great time was had by everyone as they mixed and mingled with old friends and neighbors. A delicious meal was provided by the residents and some great recipes were exchanged during the evening. Many thanks are sent to Delores Muske and Ruth Lepler for once again organizing such a fantastic event. Both ladies (and their husbands) worked tirelessly organizing, setting up, and then cleaning up after the event. Our hats are off to both of you !!! Thanks also go to Larry Walters for sharing his outstanding musical talents and his exquisite reading of The Night Before Christmas. Another special thank you is sent to Kevin Taylor and the Houston Pride Saxophone Quartet for the beautiful Christmas music they provided. At the end of the Christmas program, Santa found time to drop by and visit with everyone. Our appreciation to Dustin Odom for making the Santa visit possible. Many residents remembered to bring canned goods to donate to the Garden Oaks Food Pantry and several grocery boxes were filled. Many thanks to everyone that brought a canned good for the box.



2008-2009 SHEPHERD FOREST 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

Board of Directors:

Robert Hammond - 713-680-9007
Bid Nutt - 713 - 681-9367
Dustin Odom - 713 - 680-3302
Martha Stoerner 713- 864-3776
Edward Vargas -713- 864-8127

Shepherd Forest Civic Club Security Report

As often the case during the holidays, crime was up a bit in Shepherd Forest. Reports to our COP in December included: a **suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of West 30th**, a **home burglary in the 4100 block of Marlborough**, and a **vehicle burglarized in the 4100 block of Marlborough**. Other crime included a **car burglarized on Helberg** and a **suspicious woman on West 30th** that knocked on doors asking for money. They woman told several residents several different stories and HPD was finally called. Our COP reminds residents to **keep your homes and vehicles locked** at all times and never leave personal articles such as keys, phones, garage door openers..... in a vehicle that is parked *outside* of your garage. And **never give money to a stranger** that appears at your front door – regardless of what they say the money is needed for.

Many thanks go to all of our Citizens on Patrol volunteers who, despite the busy holidays and some facing serious health issues, managed to log in over 89 hours last month. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by everyone. A special thanks also go to each of our Shepherd Forest residents that made an effort during the holidays to watch the homes of their neighbors Please remember to **report all criminal activity**, to HPD immediately. The number of HPD patrol cars assigned to our area is *directly related* to the number of times SF residents make calls to HPD. Also, please remember that our **Citizens on Patrol members do not respond to criminal activity in progress** – this is a job for the Houston Police Department! So be sure to report **EVERYTHING to HPD FIRST** by calling **713-884-3131 for non-life threatening emergencies** (such as burglary, vandalism, stolen property.....) or **9-1-1 for life threatening emergencies**, Then, **AFTER** you have made a call to HPD, please contact our SFCC **Security Coordinator Ruth Lepler at (713) 681-0434** and let her know what is going on. It takes the efforts of **everyone** to be on alert and aware of their surroundings to ensure that our neighborhood continues as a safe place to live.

SFCC Membership Drawing To Be Held Jan. 19th

January is Membership Drive Month for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club and we encourage all homeowners and renters to join today. Civic club dues are only **\$20 per household** and help fund this newsletter, our Citizens on Patrol, Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Fall Picnic, Christmas dinner, monthly meetings, esplanade beautification, deed restriction enforcement, and much more. Every household that has joined the civic club and paid their membership dues by the **January 19th civic club meeting** will **AUTOMATICALLY** be entered into a **DRAWING** for some great prizes, including gift certificates to local restaurants. Don't miss your chance to win a great prize and support the SFCC at the same time. Also, residents who have not already done so are encouraged to complete the **SFCC Resident Survey** and return it to the civic club. If you need another copy of the survey, please attend the January 19th SFCC meeting, check the website at www.shepherdforest.org, or contact any civic club Director or Officer. Don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard on some very important neighborhood issues. Mail yours today !!!



NAME(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

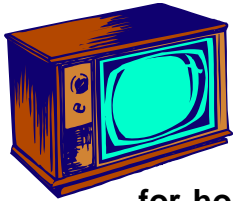
HOME PHONE _____ WORK OR CELL PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Mail this completed Membership form along with your **\$20 per household membership dues** (and Resident Survey if you have not already done so) to the Shepherd Forest Civic Club, P.O. Box 925282, Houston, Texas 77292-5282. (All checks should be made payable to the **SFCC**).

DIGITAL TV CHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE FEB. 17TH !

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. **If you do not currently subscribe to cable TV or other pay-for-TV service, you will lose TV service unless you connect your TV to a digital converter box.** Consumers who rely on antennas (including outside antennas and "rabbit ears") to receive over-the-air broadcast signals on TV sets will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV. Congress created the **TV Converter Box Coupon Program**



for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009.

The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, which can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. **Converter boxes can be purchased at WalMart, Target, Radio Shack, Sears, Best Buy and other places.** Until March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons. More information about the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program can be found at www.DTV2009.gov or by calling the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at **1-888-388-2009**. Cable and satellite subscribers will not need new DTV equipment to view DTV programming in digital format. If you are a cable or satellite customer, you should ask your provider if you need new equipment, what you will need, and when you will need it. Don't wait until the last minute - **Digital TV is coming in just a few weeks!**

Party Line

Best wishes are sent to those celebrating late January birthdays. Blowing out the candles later this month are as follows: **BETTY HANSEN (1/21), PAULINE TAYLOR (1/24), GRANT & ANDREW RICHEY (1/24), BRUNO BRYMM (1/28), and JEAN JUNGBAUER (1/31)**..... Happy Birthday wishes also go to those with early February birthdays including **JOE NIETO (2/1), CARMEN NIETO (2/2), SHIRLEY EVANICKY (2/9), KARTER BATTARBEE (2/9), and RUTH LEPLER (2/11)**..... Congratulations go to **JAMES & PAULINE TAYLOR** as they celebrate their wedding anniversary **(1/17)**. Happy Anniversary wishes are also sent to **MARY & JOHNNY FARMER (1/21)**..... Best wishes for a continued recovery are sent to **FRANK OWENS** who is finally back home from the hospital.....It's great to hear that **PAULINE TAYLOR** is getting around much better now that she has lost her "boot" that she has been wearing since an accident last year.....Best wishes are sent to **WILMA KUNETKA** who is back home from a recent hospital stay.....Good wishes are also sent to **PAULINE MORIN** who had faced several health issues in 2008.....Thinking of and missing you **HAZEL IRWIN**.....Deepest sympathy is sent to the family and friends of longtime resident **ED HOLLAND** who passed away recently.....A special congratulation goes to longtime resident **NELL BAHAM** who was recently named as the 2008 Leader of the Year by The Leader newspaper.....Warm congratulations are sent to **DARRELL & LYNETTE TIDWELL** on the recent birth of their granddaughter, **JORDAN LYNETTE TIDWELL**, who was born on December 29th.....To share birthdays, illnesses, or any other news with your neighbors, call the SF PartyLine at (713) 868-4062 and leave a message.

KEEP SAFE AND WARM DURING COLD WEATHER

As the weather gets colder, we will be using our heaters and space heaters more. According to the Houston Fire Department, about 100 Houston fires every year are blamed on faulty furnaces or space heaters. Residents are reminded to have their heating unit inspected every year by a licensed professional inspector and give space heaters their space by keeping them on the floor with at least three feet of clearance around the unit and away from combustibles such as walls, sofas, and anything else that could burn. Open-faced heaters should have a proper screen and grates in place - never operate a defective heater. Never leave children alone in a room with a space heater.

If you have a gas furnace or space heater or use your fireplace or stove to heat your house, be sure to buy a carbon monoxide detector and install it in the hallway and near bedrooms. Remember to provide adequate ventilation when using a gas space heater, opening a window slightly to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. For a complete list of heating and other fire safety tips, please visit www.houstonfire.org or contact the Houston Fire Department Information Office at 713- 495-7900.