

COMMON SENSE 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**

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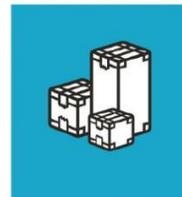
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School Board Runoff Election Voting Underway



The HISD District I and District VII Trustee runoff elections will be held **Saturday, Dec. 11th** with early voting scheduled for Nov. 29-Dec. 7th. Voting times will be 7am – 7pm for all dates except Sunday, Dec 5th, when polls will be open from noon to 7pm. Sample ballots and information related to mail-in ballots, early voting, and Election Day voting can be found at www.harrisvotes.com or by calling 713-755-6965. This is a very important election for HISD and students in our area. Please take a few minutes out of your busy holiday schedule to cast your vote.



THE SHEPHERD FOREST TIMES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHEPHERD FOREST CIVIC CLUB

DECEMBER 2021

SANTA TO VISIT SHEPHERD FOREST DEC 18TH

*Santa is heading to Shepherd Forest in 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 available as you visit with Santa and have your photo taken. The event will be held at the Children's Lighthouse of Oak Forest (2109 West 34th @ Oak Forest) from 9-11am. Please **RSVP** so we can have an accurate count and reserve room for you. Sponsors for the event include Children's Lighthouse, Shipley's DoNuts, PortraitEFX, and Signature Care. For more info about Santa's visit, check out the Civic Club website (www.shepherdforest.org), [FaceBook.com/group/shepherdforest](https://www.facebook.com/group/shepherdforest), or contact Chairman Kim Syrinek at 713-412-1471. You may also RSVP directly by visiting the [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-breakfast) website at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAC22A3F58-breakfast>*



The Shepherd Forest Civic Club **Annual Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Tuesday, December 7th** at Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3200 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 their favorite appetizer or dessert to share. This is a great time to invite your new neighbors or someone who may need a ride. Please join your neighbors for a wonderful evening with great food and some special Christmas music. For more info about this event, call the SFCC at 713-742-2470. Don't miss this festive Christmas dinner with your neighbors!



It's almost time for the Shepherd Forest Civic Club's **Christmas Decorating Contest** which will be held on the weekend of **December 11th-12th**. 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 the winning yards and will remain there throughout the Christmas holidays.

*** CHRISTMAS DINNER – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH SOCIAL 5:30 – DINNER 6PM**

*** DECORATING CONTEST JUDGING – WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 11-12TH**

*** SANTA VISITS SHEPHERD FOREST – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH - 9 - 11 AM**

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:

- 11/04 – 2000 block of West 34th - assault
- 11/04 – 2000 block of West 34th – destruction of property
- 11/05 – 3000 block of Ella – assault at restaurant
- 11/06 – 3400 block of West 34th – theft from motor vehicle
- 11/08 – 2000 block of West 34th – assault at convenience store
- 11/08 – 2000 block of West 34th – drug related activity
- 11/11 – 900 block of West 31st – forgery
- 11/14 – 1300 block of West 31st – burglary of residence
- 11/14 – 3000 block of Ella – robbery
- 11/16 – 1100 & 2100 block of West 34th – theft of motor vehicle parts
- 11/20 – 3000 block of Groven – burglary & theft of motor vehicle
- 11/22 – 2100 block of Ansbury – animal cruelty



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 report ALL criminal activity to HPD.



PARTY LINE

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)**, **GRAHAM AND HARPER ALLEN (12/25)**, **TORRY HILL (12/29)**, and **HADLY D'BLANCA (12/21)**. Happy Birthday!

Sincere sympathy is sent to SFCC Board member **JEANNE GEBO** and **RHONDA WILSON** on the loss of Jeanne's brother who passed away recently.

A special "Thank You" to **NELL BAHAM** for her dedication and hard work on organizing the recent Shepherd Forest Civic Club's Salute to Veterans. The very moving, patriotic program included the history of Veterans Day, a Cub Scout flag ceremony, singing, Taps being played, and a beautiful candle lighting ceremony. Thanks also go to **KATIE HASSETT** for putting together the video.

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 **2022 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 at any of the SFCC upcoming events.

SFCC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT** – Patricia Williams (Section 1)
- VICE-PRESIDENT** – Bid Nutt (Section 3)
- TREASURER** – Melody Bass (Section 3)
- SECRETARY** – Jeanne Berry (Section 3)
- SECURITY** – Paul Berry (Section 3)
- NEWSLETTER** – Delinda Holland (Section 2)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Paul Berry (Section 3)
- Mike Donovan (Section 2)
- Shirley Evanicky (Section 1)
- Jeanne Gebo (Section 2)
- Katie Hassett (Section 2)



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.



Emergency Roadside Assistance

SEX OFFENDER AREA MAP

Recent inquiries from residents regarding sex offenders living in Shepherd Forest revealed that several sex offenders live in and near or neighborhood. For specific locations and more information about these local sex offenders, you can go to <https://publicsite.dps.texas.gov/SexOffenderRegistry/Search> and enter your zip code as "map address". At this website, you can check out names, addresses, and even pictures of these and other sex offenders. This is free **public info** and can be obtained by anyone.



DON'T MISS THE SFCC CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MUSICAL PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 7TH