



NEWSCASTER

A publication of
Spring Shadows Civic Association, Inc.

10355 CENTREPARK DRIVE, SUITE 220
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77043

TEL. 713-460-1718

FAX 713-460-2399

PCT. 5 CONSTABLE 281-463-6666

www.springshadows.org

ISSUE 286
PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

APRIL 2020



ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

- Executive Committee Meetings: Mondays, April 6, May 4, 6:45 pm
- BOD Meetings: Monday, May 18, 6:45 pm
- ACC Meetings: Wednesdays, April 22, May 27, 6:45 pm
- Garbage pickup: Fridays
- Recycling: Fridays, April 10, 24, May 8, 22
- Large Trash, Junk Pick-Up: Friday, April 24
- Tree Waste Pick-Up: Friday May 22
- General Meeting April 14, Spring Woods Baptist Church 7:00 pm

April

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 9 Holy Thursday
- 9-16 Passover
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 15 Taxes due
- 21 Holocausts Remembrance Day
- 22 Earth Day, Admin Professionals Day
- 24 Arbor Day

May

- 1 May Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 10 Mother's Day
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 25 Memorial Day

Important Phone Numbers

- Pct. 5 Constable** 281-463-6666
- Graffiti Removal** 311 (713-837-0311)
- Emergency** 911
- Houston Police (Non Emer)** 713-884-3131
- Houston Fire (Admin)** 832-394-6700
- SBISD Police** 713-984-9805
- Amy Peck Council Member District A**
832-393-3010
- BARC (Roaming Dogs)** 713-229-7342

Contact information correct at time of printing.

Online Newscaster

The Newscaster is delivered to members' homes by the 1st of February, April, June, August, October and December. It can be viewed online at www.springshadows.org by the 15th of the month prior to delivery.

Office Information

10355 Centrepark Drive, Suite 220
Houston, Texas 77043
Tel. 713 460 1718
Fax 713 460 2399
www.springshadows.org
email: sscaoffice@yahoo.com
Office hours Mon. – Fri. 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

INFORMATION POSTED IN THE NEWSCASTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT ENDORSED BY SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED OTHERWISE. SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONS MADE BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS PUBLICATION.

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SPRING SHADOWS AREA CLUBS *

Spring Shadows Moms Club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm. Please contact our leadership team at ssmomsclub@gmail.com for more information.

Spring Shadows Book Club meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm for dinner and discussion. For more information, contact: Sandy Lynch at San-lyn@hotmail.com.

*** Clubs have no affiliation with the Association**

ATTENTION PLEASE

The Social Committee is reviewing neighborhood input regarding the festival with a goal towards creating a more extensive, inclusive and intentional neighborhood social calendar. Results will be shared at the April General Meeting and in subsequent issues of the Newscaster.

AUTHORIZED SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ONLINE SITES

www.springshadows.org
on Facebook **LIKE**
Spring Shadows Civic Association

Check the website often for current updates

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello again, Neighbors!

I want to take this opportunity to first share with you some great news regarding our local schools. Two of our local schools have received well-deserved recognition from the Spring Branch Independent School District. Ms. Jennifer Collier of Spring Woods High School received the District's Secondary Principal of the Year Award while Ms. April Falcon-Blanco of Terrace Elementary received the Elementary School Principal of the Year Award. Both Ms. Collier and Ms. Blanco should be in attendance at the April General Meeting and I hope you attend as well to join me in congratulating them on this esteemed honor. They and their staff are just one of many things that make Spring Shadows a great place to live.

The April General Meeting is scheduled for April 14th and will be held at Spring Woods Baptist Church at 7 p.m. I encourage you to attend. This is a great opportunity for you, as members, to address the Board and is one way that we, as your representatives on the Board, can hear your concerns. As you sign in, you will be provided a slip of paper to write down your information in case you wish to address the Board. Please fill out this paper, as it helps us keep track of your comments and allows us the opportunity to follow-up with you personally regarding any concerns you have.

As many of you already know, I am conducting Saturday morning walking tours of the numerous sections of Spring Shadows. It has been wonderful walking the neighborhood and personally meeting so many of you. I value hearing your concerns and will continue these tours throughout the year. Notices of my walking tours are being sent out via electronic mail, so please make sure the SSCA office has your current e-mail address.

On pages 8 and 9 of this issue, you will see some of the work performed by Ken Arnold and the Branding Committee. I want to thank him and the volunteers on this committee for their work in creating a packet of information that will be provided to local realtors. As you may know, several real estate developments will be occurring over the next few years in close proximity to our neighborhood. This Board will continue to track these developments and attempt to provide you with as much information as possible. These investments show the value that businesses place on Spring Shadows and further acknowledge that Spring Shadows truly is a great place to live.

DID YOU KNOW?? I didn't know this, but Clyde Sloan, one of my fellow board members let me know that Spring Branch ISD provides senior citizens with discounted or free admissions to school events. For more information on the STARCard, you can contact SBISD by calling (713) 464-1511, ext. 2272.

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at the April General Meeting.

Sincerely,

Carl Thompson, President

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

REPRINTED FROM APRIL, 2011 ISSUE

GREG JANEK

Although the Association may some- times seem like Big Brother when you want to build a shed, put up a fence or paint your house, our Architectural Control Committee review program is actually a benefit, not a burden. The Association's design standards are based on maintaining harmony with the overall community, consideration for neighbors, and ensuring high-quality construction practices. The Committee exists to maintain, protect, and enhance the value of your property, and it strives for a balance between individual rights and the good of the entire neighborhood community.

While Association members have the biggest stake in property values, others are also interested in seeing our community well maintained and looking its best. Public officials have an interest in maintaining and enhancing the community, since city and county tax revenues depend on property values.

The Association tries to notify new members of its requirements as soon as possible after they move in. If we missed you, or if you need another copy of the deed restrictions, please contact the office. Also, be sure to consult the Committee if you are considering any type of exterior change to your property.

The Architectural Control Committee makes every effort to process applications fairly, reasonably and quickly, and we trust the same can be said for how we handle alleged violations - most of which are resolved easily.

We are always looking for new members. Any Association member in good standing is welcome to volunteer. The Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Its duties include but are not limited to the following items:

- Reviewing application and promulgating minimum acceptable construction standards.
- Approving design and building location.
- Reviewing monthly violation reports.
- Advising association members on their improvement projects.
- Touring the community periodically to verify and identify deed restriction and architectural guideline violations.

It's time to clean gutters of leaves and other debris and repair them if needed.

Check your house for mildew buildup (most of the mildew occurs on north- facing siding, but we have also noticed that black/brown mildew often occurs along driveways, or where water runs off the roof).

Cut back bushes and shrubs, remove dead plants, and start replanting; if needed, fertilize your lawn and get the weeds under control.

If your lawn is in need of sod, start planning now.

Remove grass and weeds from flower- beds.

Repair or replace mailboxes/posts.

Keep all debris and clutter out of driveways and out of public view.

PATROL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Joe Canales, Lynda Cooms, Rob Cooms, David Durham, Jerry Gilcrease,
Ben Gillis, and Tom Pizzo

“Are We Our Own Worst Enemy?”

For a long time the highest number of crimes in Spring Shadows have been **Theft from Autos** and other vehicles that have been parked on the street or in the resident’s driveway. Most of these crimes have a few things in common: the vehicles are parked on the street or driveway, the vehicles are unlocked, and there are valuables that can be seen through the windows. This is an invitation to a theft saying “rob me.” There have been many reports on social media of persons being on subdivision streets in the middle of the night checking car and truck doors to find unlocked doors to gain easy entry. Some of the recent reports have been for Spring Shadows.

What can Residents Do to Not be a Victim of Theft from an Auto: (1.) Park your vehicle(s) in the garage whenever it is possible. Your car or truck is much more valuable than what you are storing in your garage. One car parked in the garage is much better than no cars being parked in the garage. (2.) If you have to park your vehicle on the street or in the driveway, please lock it. (3.) Please do not leave valuables in the car where they can be seen. (4.) If your truck can not be parked inside the garage, park it in the driveway with the tail gate next to the garage doors. (5.) Have good lighting in your driveway.

An **Example of a Theft from an Auto** happened in Section 14 of Spring Shadows earlier this year. A cell phone was stolen from an unlocked vehicle on one street and was found later in the front yard/driveway of a house on the next street. The resident who found the phone was able to return it to the owner of the phone. Whoever stole the phone was apparently “checking” the cars and trucks on both of the streets.

If you see unknown persons trying to open car or truck doors on your street please call the **Pct. 5 Dispatcher at (281) 463-6666** for a Constable to come to your home. This includes if you later discover on your security video that there had been a problem during the night. The resident does not need to file a formal report on the incident. The Deputies need to find out about these problems as soon as possible in order to catch individuals in the act.

Shut and Lock your Garage Doors: if you are not outside working. An open garage door with no one around is an open invitation to a thief.

Spring Shadows
Market Information for February 2020

Active Listings on 02/28/2020	8
12 months ending February 28, 2020 :	
Number of Homes Sold	91
Average days on the market	73
Highest Priced Home	\$498,000
Average Sales Price/SqFt	\$162.25
Average Sales Price	\$369,468

Prior year - 12 months ending February 28, 2019 :	
Number of Homes Sold	110
Average days on the market	52
Highest Priced Home	\$544,000
Average Sales Price/SqFt	\$149.00
Average Sales Price	\$355,231

HOUSTON REAL ESTATE ENJOYS A STRONG START TO 2020

HOUSTON — (February 12, 2020) — Fresh on the heels of a record-breaking 2019, home sales across greater Houston began the new year with a strong showing as consumers continued to take advantage of historically low interest rates. Homes priced between \$500,000 and \$750,000 drew the most buyers in January followed by homes in the \$250,000 to \$500,000 range.

The single-family home median price (the figure at which half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less) rose 4.5 percent to \$234,000 and the average price climbed 4.6 percent to \$291,034. Both figures represent the highest prices ever for a January.

The average interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 3.45 percent last week, according to figures released by Freddie Mac. That is the lowest level since October 2016.

Broken out by housing segment, January sales performed as follows:

- \$150,000 - \$249,999: increased 14.8 percent
- \$250,000 - \$499,999: increased 25.6 percent
- \$500,000 - \$749,999: increased 33.9 percent

HAR (Houston Association of Realtors) also breaks out sales figures for existing single family homes. Existing home sales totaled 3,760 in January, up 12.1 percent versus the same month last year. The average sales price increased 6.6 percent to \$279,803 while the median sales price rose 4.8 percent to \$220,000.

Prepared by:
ARLENE NOVICK,
REALTOR® SRES®
Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan
a.novick@comcast.net
713-898-0818
www.ArleneNovick.com

Information obtained from HAR MLS, is believed to be accurate but is not guaranteed. This should not be considered an opinion of value.

EXTERNAL BRANDING COMMITTEE

Ken Arnold, Arlene Novick, Ben Gillis, Allison Melnar, Dave Durham



Spring Shadows



Community Leadership

Strength in Numbers

With nearly 2,000 homeowners, the Spring Shadows Civic Association (SSCA) offers a wealth of amenities and services, including:

- Productive relationships with Harris County Commissioners, Houston City Council, Spring Branch Management District, and Spring Branch North Super Neighborhood
- A dedicated office and staff to support community needs and goals
- Supplemental patrol services provided by Harris County Precinct 5 Constables
- Landscaped esplanades on major streets
- A bimonthly newsletter covering community activities and information
- A website and timely email notifications to homeowners

Commitment to Service

Serving in two-year staggered terms, 47 homeowner-elected directors manage the SSCA. Dedicated volunteer committees address areas vital to neighborhood safety, health, and sustainability:

- Patrol and safety
- Health / mosquito control
- Budget and financial planning
- Business and government relations
- Special events
- Welcoming
- Architecture (maintaining external standards)
- Beautification
- Communication / publications



The **Neighborhood Guide** includes information regarding Education, Health & Wellness, Shopping, Parks and more. It will be distributed to local realtors.



Spring Shadows



Security

Spring Shadows' in-town location offers easy access to Houston's myriad amenities while maintaining levels of security comparable with those of neighborhoods many miles away from the city.

Harris County Precinct 5 Constables

Funded by residents through the Spring Shadows Civic Association (SSCA), supplementary patrol services by Harris County Precinct 5 Constables enhance security in the Spring Shadows subdivision. Spring Shadows also benefits from helpful programs available throughout Precinct 5:

- Silver Watch, where constables regularly check on participating senior citizens' welfare
- Vacation Watch, where constables keep an extra eye on things while participating residents are away

Centrally Located Fire Station

A City of Houston Fire Station adjacent to Spring Shadows provides Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and ambulance services.

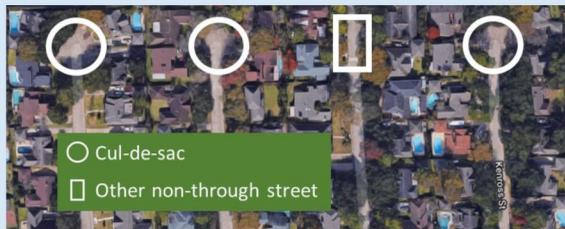
Limited Through-Traffic

Spring Shadows' layout enhances security by limiting through-traffic. Many streets end in cul-de-sacs.

A Diverse, Friendly Resident Population

Most importantly, Spring Shadows' diverse resident population supports security in several ways:

- The neighborhood includes many stay-at-home parents, professionals working from home, and retirees, all of whom can quickly spot and report potentially suspicious activity.
- Several active neighborhood interest groups and the SSCA's Special Events Committee provide opportunities for neighbors to get to know and care about one another.



Imagery © 2020 Houston-Galveston Area Council, Maxar Technologies, Texas General Land Office, US Geological Survey. Map data © 2020 Google.



If you See Something, Say Something

If you see or hear something suspicious, please call the **Pct. 5 Dispatcher at (281) 463-6666** and report the incident. Please help keep Spring Shadows safe. As discussed in the February Newscaster, Spring Shadows residents called the Constables to report two possible burglaries, one in December 2019 and one in January 2020. Our Constables caught the burglars and arrested them. The Deputies patrol our neighborhood and will have a faster response time than the police.

It's Daylight Saving Time – Walking Safety: With it being light later in the evenings, more people will be out walking. If you or your children are out walking, walk against the traffic for safety. This means that you are facing the traffic on the side of the street where you are walking. You will see the car first and it will not be surprise you from behind. At night, wear light colored clothing or have something that reflects the light.

Telephone Safety: (1.) There have been scam calls stating that family members need money immediately wired to them and to wire it now. Call the family member and make sure that there is really the family emergency before wiring the money. (2.) There have also been calls or e-mails from fake banks asking for personal information that could be used to assess your accounts. Telephone your bank separately and check on your accounts.

Constable's Telephone Numbers: Be sure to put the Constable's telephone number **(281) 463-6666** as one of your **favorites on your cell phone**. If you have a home phone – keep the Constable's number near it. If there is an emergency or problem, you do not want to have to search for the telephone number.

MEMBERS OF THE
SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
ARE ENTITLED
TO ATTEND AND OBSERVE THE BOARD'S
MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams

Scammers are pretending to be government employees. Scammers will try to scare and trick you into giving them your personal information and money. They may threaten you or your family and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action.

DON'T BE FOOLED! IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS CALL: Hang up!

DO NOT give them money or personal information!

Report the scam at **OIG.SSA.GOV!**

Social Security may call you in some situations but will never:

- Threaten you
- Suspend your Social Security Number
- Demand immediate payment from you
- Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash

What to look out for

- The call or email says there is a problem with your Social Security Number or account.
- Someone asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or by mailing cash.
- Scammers pretend they're from Social Security or another government agency
- Caller ID or documents sent by email may look official but they are not.
- Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.
- Protect yourself, friends, and family!

If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report it at oig.ssa.gov.

Don't be embarrassed to report if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.

Learn more at oig.ssa.gov/scam.

Share this information with others.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
DAVID VAN BERGEN

Spring Shadows Civic Association is continuing to coordinate closely with Council Member Amy Peck's office on several different projects that will affect Spring Shadows.

The Neuens Road project is fully funded and expected to be under construction by mid-summer. This is the first part of the Spring Shadows South project which will eventually include paving and drainage improvements in Campbell Woods and Spring Shadows neighborhoods south of Buttermilk Creek.

The Spring Shadows North project is funded, however the City of Houston is still looking for additional detention needed for this project.

We have also worked with Harris County Flood Control to continue to keep Buttermilk Creek clear of debris, especially where Teague Road dead ends into the Buttermilk Creek right of way. HCFCD (Harris County flood Control District) is also putting in "No Dumping" signs at this location.

We have asked the City of Houston to reevaluate the intersection of Kempwood and Rosefield for installation of a traffic light due to increased accidents and traffic at this location due to the rise in traffic from new home construction in our area.

The site of the Pavillion on Gessner has been cleared for the construction of an Aldi grocery store on the North end of the site and a small Mister Car Wash on the Southern end of the site. Spring Shadows Civic Association has been in contact with both concerning the need for sight and noise buffers on the East side of the site adjacent to Spring Shadows. Both have told us these will be installed.

NEW MUSIC TERMS

Hidden Number

\$50.00 is the prize this issue!

Your six digit account number is the top line of your address label. The number is included in one of the articles in this issue. When you find your number, contact the office by letter or email. Give us your name, your account number, the article in which you found it and a check will be in your mail box soon. Prizes must be claimed within 45 days and unclaimed prizes roll over into the next issue. The numbers are randomly picked by SSCA's CPA firm. Association dues are not used to fund the prize.

NO DUMPING ALLOWED

It has come to the Association's attention that some residents and or yard crews are dumping yard waste in the Harris County Flood Control ditches and rights-of-way.

DO NOT use the ditches or rights-of-way for any type of waste dumping. Instead, please use the City of Houston approved yard waste bags for all yard debris.

Also, remember, **DO NOT** dump or blow any kind of waste into the street drains.

Consider using the City of Houston Adopt-A-Drain program. Learn more about this program at www.HoustonAdoptaDrain.org.

Angus Dei: To play with a divinely beefy tone.

A Patella: Accompanied by knee - slapping.

Dill Piccolini: An exceedingly small wind instrument that plays only sour notes.

Placebo Domingo: A faux tenor.

Fiddler Crabs: Grumpy string players.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Please let the office know your email* address so you can be included on important Association news. The office needs only **ONE (1) good email address per family.**

Email your name and street address to the Association at **sscaoffice@yahoo.com**.

If you are currently receiving group emails from the Association, then you're already in the system and do not need to take further action.

Thank you. (015822)

*email address will be used for Association business only



ANGELINA KECK
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713 898 2797
stephanie@stephanieschoggin.com



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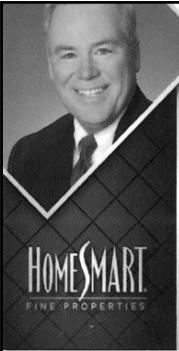
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NOTE TO ADVERTISERS

The next issue of the Spring Shadows
 Civic Association Newscaster will be June
 2020. Please advise the Association of-
 fice if you plan to discontinue or change
 your ad for the new year no later than
 May 1, 2020. The price is \$50.00 per is-
 sue and there are six (6) issues per year.
 Your support by advertising in the News-
 caster is greatly appreciated.

LARRY D. KOLB, II

Owner

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Advertising Policy for Spring Shadows Civic Association

Approved by the Board of Directors on May 15, 2017

It has been suggested that the Civic Association establish an advertising policy that will allow more community businesses to advertise in the Newscaster. A policy would establish a fixed number of advertising spaces and allow those businesses currently advertising, and those who would advertise if space was available, an equal opportunity to submit camera ready advertisements together with payment, by January 1, 2018, for the initial 2019 Newscaster, and following editions.

The Newscaster is a bi-monthly publication of the Spring Shadows Civic Association, Inc. presenting information about the subdivision and the neighborhood to the residents of the Spring Shadows Subdivision. Spring Shadows has 1,966 homes comprising the membership of the Association. The Newscaster is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December of each year.

Beginning January 1, 2018, the Newscaster will make available approximately 40 advertising spaces for local businesses to advertise their goods and services to residents and homeowners. Each advertising space will be the same size, 1/8th page (approximately business card size, each measuring 3.5" x 2" (including border or background)).

An advertisement may be purchased and placed issue-by-issue, or six issues may be purchased in January, at a cost of \$50.00 per issue. All advertisements will be placed in the Newscaster on a space available basis, in the order received. Advertisements must be submitted to the Association's office in a camera-ready format and must be paid for in advance. Advertisements, together with payment, must be received in the Association's office by the following deadlines:

December 1st for the following year's February Newscaster

February 1st for the April Newscaster

April 1st the June Newscaster

June 1st for the August Newscaster

August 1st for the October Newscaster; and

October 1st for the December Newscaster.

Advertising rates for the next calendar year are determined by the Association each October.

The Association reserves the right to refuse advertising if, in its sole discretion, the Association finds that the advertisement is not in the best interest of the residents. Advertisers must comply with any applicable laws or regulations regarding their advertisements. The Association is not liable for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse nor assume any responsibility or liability for an advertiser's product or service.

General Meeting April 14, 2020

7 pm

**Spring Shadows Baptist Church
10131 Emnora Lane**