



SHERWOOD  
FOREST  
ASSOCIATION

# TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

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397-6080

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Vacancy

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862-1897

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864-4173

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863-6669

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861-3642

Lawrence Jackson  
861-1718

Shirley Jackson  
Editor  
863-2647

Valerie Leigh  
Real Estate  
345-1826

Allen Lewis  
Property Maintenance  
342-1858

Sue McMillan  
Membership  
862-6366

Kerlyne Pinkins  
Legal  
[legal@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:legal@sherwoodforestdetroit.org)

Lois E. Primas  
Emeritas  
863-0167

Gail Rodwan  
Vacant Homes  
342-5827

Maurice Telesford  
Social and Cultural Events  
303-1046

Lisa Williams  
Welcoming Committee  
342-9245



December 2011

*"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that  
within me there lay  
an invincible summer.*

\* \* \*

ALBERT CAMUS

## Sherwood Forest Board Welcomes New Directors

At its December 12 meeting, members of the Sherwood Forest Association Board of Directors voted unanimously to add two new directors to the board. Maurice Telesford will assume responsibility for organizing social and cultural events. He replaces Dan Clarkson. Rollin Henderson has agreed to take up the mantle of Treasurer, stepping into the shoes of longtime Treasurer Sue McMillan who, after many years of keeping our association solvent, will work closely with Board member Luther Bradley to increase membership in both the association and the patrol. The board is grateful for the dedication of the new members and that of all of our directors who spend many hours working to help Sherwood Forest remain a neighborhood where families can live, grow and prosper.

## Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

Remember that your Sherwood Forest Association dues pay for street snow removal whenever there is a snowfall of four inches or more. We ask that residents not leave vehicles parked on the street when snow is expected. Curb-to-curb snow removal cannot be accomplished when there are vehicles parked on the street. As a service to residents, we try to notify all email subscribers in advance once we estimate when our snow removal contractor will be working in the neighborhood. Please remember that our contractor will not remove snow from the end of your driveway after he clears your street. That is a service that the Association does not pay for, and we want to remind residents not to ask the snowplow drivers to provide it.



In fact, the reality of impending snowfalls and the conditions created by icy precipitation provide opportunities for neighborhood entrepreneurs to earn cash. If you are available to shovel walks or remove snow banks at the end of driveways after our streets are plowed, please submit your name and contact information to [editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org). We will make that information available to residents.

## 2011 – A Year of Hope Amid Challenges

**A Year-end Report By Kim Tandy,  
President, Sherwood Forest Board of Directors**

Dear Sherwood Forest Community:

As another year nears its close, it is appropriate that we look back at 2011 to plot a course for the New Year.

Our community continues to use the skills and talents of its residents to make certain that Sherwood Forest remains a beautifully vibrant neighborhood. Even though the national foreclosure crisis resulted in additional vacant homes in Sherwood Forest, the number of empty houses is down. What is more, neighbors continue to maintain the exteriors of these homes so that it is not readily apparent that no one resides in them. In most cases, we have been able to persuade banks not to board these homes. Consequently, our community has avoided the desolate appearance we see in so many Detroit neighborhoods. What is more, we have been able to continue using funds from the small but helpful grant we received from Community Legal Resources to maintain vacant properties.



Prospective buyers continue to view the purchase of a Sherwood Forest home as a unique opportunity to live in an environment where neighbors care for property and each other. These new neighbors are working to refurbish their homes and repair damage caused by the vacancies. We wish them well as they take on the hard work of restoration and renovation.

Most of us agree, as well, that in spite of the still too low home values in our community, our efforts to keep our neighborhood attractive have served us well and helped stabilize values.

Some events and actions are noteworthy:

- Mayor Dave Bing named Sherwood Forest one of several neighborhoods slated to receive special attention by city departments as a part of the **Detroit Works Project**.
- University Commons, the coalition of neighborhoods and business districts I lead, continues its efforts to revitalize the Livernois business strip. Plans are in the works to upgrade the facades of businesses in one block with proposals to improve the fronts of the remaining businesses as funds from other improvement grants become available.
- We have added new names to our board's roster of directors. The willingness of our neighbors to dedicate time and talents to the work of building and maintaining a thriving community supports my belief that there are few nicer places to live than Sherwood Forest.
- It is common to have 100 or more neighbors attend our annual meetings as a show of support for our programs and policies. Such is the dedication of our residents.
- We are renewing our efforts to increase membership in the Sherwood Forest Association and Patrol through a campaign involving our block captains. My thanks to those who regularly support our efforts through their membership in both organizations.
- During the past spring neighbors joined forces to spruce up our passive parks and to rake leaves and trim shrubbery at vacant houses. These are annual tasks that the Sherwood Forest community considers its civic responsibility.

As we slip into 2012, we are reminded that this is a time beset by uncertainty. But an unambiguous truth is that few other

communities possess the stamina, embodied in the people who live here, to withstand the challenges of residing in a city fighting for solvency. The payoff is measured in sustainability fueled by personal and neighborhood pride. I remain convinced that relentless hard work will result in significant dividends for our community. Therefore, my hope is that peace, health and prosperity will be constants in your homes and that you and your families experience immeasurable joy this holiday season.

With much appreciation,

*Kim Tandy*

## Events Chair Plans Theatre Party

You are cordially invited to the University of Detroit (UDM) Theatre Company's production of Rick Cleveland's *Dogman's Last Stand*. Tickets are \$10.00 for Sherwood Forest residents (an \$11.00 discount).



**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm**  
**Marygrove Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Road**  
**Detroit, Michigan**

**A reception for those attending the play will take place at 6:00 pm at 19600 Stratford.**

Please call the UDM Theatre Company box office directly (313-993-3270) to purchase tickets. To receive the neighborhood discount, residents should mention that they are a part of the association.

### **About the production:**

*Dogman's Last Stand*, written by Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning writer Rick Cleveland tells the story of Dogman Thompson, a laid off factory worker with a murky past. Living in a Midwestern steel town, Dogman must defend the honor of his canine companion after a run-in with a local punk and paperboy, Danny Pascol. Set in a gritty town with even grittier characters, the situations that unfold on

Dog's front porch reveal the fact that assumptions can often determine and define the events of our lives.



The drama is directed by David L. Regal. *Dogman's Last Stand* will run 6 performances at the Marygrove Theatre: February 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12, 2012. *The show contains intense adult language and is recommended for individuals over 16.*

The production provides a wonderful opportunity for neighbors to meet socially. Please contact Maurice Telesford, Social and Cultural Events Chair, at [maurice.telesford@gmail.com](mailto:maurice.telesford@gmail.com) with any questions and to RSVP for the pre-production reception.

## City of Detroit Department of Public Works Adjusts Hours at Drop-off Locations

The City of Detroit Department of Public Works (DPW) has switched to fall/winter hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at its four drop-off locations. A fifth location, J. Fons Transfer Station, is open weekdays from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Residents can use the drop-off locations to discard bulk items, yard waste and recyclable items. These hours are in effect from now through the end of March.

### **Southfield Yard**

12255 Southfield Service Drive

Monday through Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### **Davison Yard**

8221 W. Davison

Tuesday through Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### **State Fair Yard**

19715 John R

Tuesday through Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

5840 Anthon (between Cavalry and Campbell)

Tuesday through Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### J. Fons Transfer Station

6451 E. McNichols Road

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All locations (except J. Fons) are closed from noon – 1 p.m. These drop-off locations are open to Detroit residents only with proper identification.

## DPW Crews to Collect Refuse and Recycling One Day Later

Most City of Detroit offices will be closed from December 22 through January 3, 2012. City offices will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 4.



In addition, the Department of Public Works will **NOT** collect refuse and recycling on Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 2. During both weeks, DPW crews will collect refuse and recycling one day later. Monday's collection will be picked up on Tuesday, and Tuesday's collection will take place on Wednesday and so forth. This means that collection day in Sherwood Forest will be Friday during those weeks.

Detroit residents can place their Christmas trees out for collection on their weekly trash collection day during the entire month of January. Residents should place the tree near their Courville container no more than 24 hours before the scheduled pickup.

## Palmer Woods Association Presents Music Series

Eight concerts representing eight opportunities to experience world-class musical presentations make up Palmer Woods' 2011-2012 music series. Every month, from December through June of 2012, spectacular artists from the worlds of jazz, classical and ethnic music will perform in Palmer's architectural treasures providing unmatched entertainment a stone's throw from our homes. Each concert includes a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvre, dinner served during the intermission and a dessert buffet after the concert.

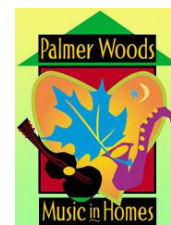
The December 17 concert, first in the series, featured homegrown diva and vocalist Mische (pronounced Mickey) Braden accompanied by internationally acclaimed keyboardist Gerard Gibbs, Guitarist Spencer Barefield and Jeff Pedraz on bass. Gibbs, who came of age in Sherwood Forest, attended school in Detroit graduating from Cass Technical High School and the University of Michigan. An architect by training, his classical music preparation makes him a draw on local, national and international stages. Barefield is a widely admired musician and writer who regularly plays with jazz greats and lives in Palmer Woods. He and his wife, Barbara, are organizers of the series. Information about and tickets for this season's concerts, can be accessed by clicking below, where indicated:

**JAZZ, CLASSICAL & WORLD MUSIC IN HOMES**  
Presented by the Palmer Woods Association & Creative Arts Collective



[Click here for TICKETS](#)

To download the 2011-2012 brochure, [click here](#).



“Homes for this year's intimate concerts are designed by legendary architects and are embellished with the irreplaceable artistry of old world craftsmen. A reception with refreshments is included with each concert.”

Taken from the series brochure



## Street Lighting Still an Issue in Our Subdivision

In spite of improvements in some spots within our neighborhood, residents are still reporting a kind of roving lighting scheme where streets may be lit for as much as a week and are then in darkness for unspecified lengths of time. It is impossible to determine when a street will be without lights. Because of the sporadic nature of the lighting, neighbors are asked to use their porch lights as a way to provide additional security. Because it becomes dark by 5:30 p.m. in the winter, criminals have an increased number of hours to find their way to vulnerable homes, unnoticed.

## Dog Walkers Are Critical Partners in Neighborhood Watch Programs

We want every Sherwood Forest resident to be alert to unusual and suspicious activity in our neighborhood and notify our patrol and the police. However, neighbors who walk their dogs several times a day are uniquely positioned to notice behavior that may be associated with criminal pursuits. Because our canine-loving neighbors are outside more than others, we ask that they tune in to irregularities along their routes and call the appropriate parties.



Communities across the country are using the assistance of runners, walkers, dog walkers and other citizens to help reduce crime in their neighborhoods. During these times of joblessness, decreased pay and fewer police officers, even communities with private security patrols must use every available resource to make certain that they don't become targets for criminal enterprise.

So while you are participating in your daily exercise program or taking Fido for his walk, keep your cell phone handy and dial 911 if anything looks fishy. <sup>2</sup>

## Neighbor to Neighbor



This column has been added to the Tattler because, occasionally, we are asked to publicize events of interest to Sherwood Forest residents. We continue to refrain from including commercial advertising for products or services offered to the general public. However, we will use this space to advise Sherwood Forest residents of a garage sale, house sale or other event we judge to be planned by a neighbor for the benefit of other Sherwood Forest neighbors. *The Tattler* will not publicize events or services the board believes are not in the best interests of our community.

**Our neighbor Don Josaitis, husband of the late Eleanor Josaitis has notified us that he is moving and offering several pieces of furniture for sale. Sherwood Forest residents may call him at (313) 863-9662 for more information.**

## Sherwood Forest Association

**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Minutes for November 14, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kim Tandy, Robert Gold, Shirley Jackson, Valerie Leigh, Gail Rodwan, Sue McMillan, Al Lewis, Maurice Telesford, Marcia Baum

**GUEST:** Gregory Terrell

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. at the home of Shirley Jackson.

**AUDIT REPORT:** Gregory Terrell, GREGORY TERRELL & COMPANY, Certified Public Accountants, presented a draft of the findings of an Independent Auditor's Report and a Financial Statement for the SFA fiscal year ending May 31, 2011. Mr. Terrell outlined the audit process and presented

supporting documents for discussion and board review. The three documents included: 1) Letter explaining the audit process and a discussion of management responsibilities, 2) Draft of the Audited Financial Statement and 3) a Management Letter including a discussion of current accounting practices and specific recommendations to update the process.

**Action Items:**

1. Board members review audit documents and discuss recommendations at December meeting.
2. Board will write a response addressing each audit recommendation
3. Review and make recommendations for update of SFA bylaws as they relate to financial management (Robert Gold, Legal Committee and Gail Rodwan)
4. Prepare a June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012 budget (Susan McMillan and Kim Tandy)
5. Review Directors and Officers insurance and bonding options (Greg to provide agent names and forward to Kim.)
6. Review issues related tax exempt status and the establishment of a nonprofit organization. (Gregory Terrell)
7. Institute a formal Conflict of Interest policy (Greg to supply sample document(s)).
8. Modify and update SFA accounting practices (Susan McMillan, Treasurer). Action items for Treasurer in response to audit are listed in separate document.

**Minutes:** It was moved by Valerie Leigh and supported by Shirley Jackson that the minutes of October 10 be approved as corrected. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was moved by Shirley Jackson and supported by Robert Gold that the treasurer's report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Snow Removal:** Marcia Baum presented the 2011-2012 Brilar street snow removal proposal/contract along with contract addendum and required certificate of liability insurance. She noted that fees and terms of the contract were unchanged from last season. It was moved by Bob Gold and supported by Al Lewis that SFA contract with Brilar for the 2011-2012 street snow removal season. After discussion, president Kim Tandy signed the contract. Shirley Jackson

volunteered to work with Marcia to determine when to activate a street snow plow.

**Action Item:** Shirley Jackson will include an article about street snow removal in the next Tattler. Included in article will be information on how the street snow removal process works, a request to keep cars off the street in anticipation of a push and a call for individuals who are interested in providing the service of removing the snow build up at the end of driveways after a push.

**Real Estate:** Valerie Leigh presented the November 2011 Listing of Active, Pending Sale and Sold Residential Properties in Sherwood Forest under the Multi-Listing System.

**Tattler:** Shirley Jackson reported that the next Tattler will include the following topics: 1) with the sporadic history of public street lighting in the Forest, encourage neighbors to use their porch lights after dark 2) street snow removal information, 3) request to dog walkers to add "neighborhood watch" during their outings, 4) information of the Palmer Woods Concert Series, 5) yearend report with highlights of activities that occurred in the Forest this past year.

**Public Safety:** In an attempt to increase memberships, we will provide RECON with a list of residents who joined the patrol but not the association and residents who were members of both groups last fiscal year but have not rejoined this year. RECON has agreed to ask drivers to visit each of the homeowners personally and speak to the homeowner about the benefits of membership.

**Action Item:** Kim Tandy will contact RECON 1) for a status report on "membership solicitation" visits, 2) proof of liability insurance, and 3) incident activity report of the month of November.

**Detroit Works Project:** Kim Tandy reported that the Detroit Works committee formed to oversee our general area, known as Demonstration Area #1, will focus its next meeting on public lighting.

**Action Item:** President Tandy will update board about plans to address public lighting and other issues for demonstration Area #1. Kim will also update the board about discussions related to the revival of talks regarding Special Assessment Districts (SAD).

**Membership:** Board members discussed strategies to increase association membership. It was suggested that a thank you be extended to all neighbors who are association members for supporting the services provided by the SFA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcia Baum*

Marcia Baum, Secretary