

OCTOBER 2010

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## COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING ON OCTOBER 11 AT 12<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT

The Sherwood Forest Association will hold its second community meeting of the year on Monday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct on W. Seven Mile Road. The primary purpose of this meeting is to address the issue of crime in our community and what we as residents of Sherwood Forest can do to prevent / reduce crime and forge a closer relationship with the officers in our precinct.

Our entire neighborhood last met at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct in March of 2009. At that meeting, we tackled the dual concerns of crime and vacant homes. Some of the ideas offered by our residents at that meeting prompted us to form our Vacant Home Network of volunteers and re-energized our Block Captain system. However, we recognize there is still much to be done. We have just come to the end of a summer where we have seen break-ins at some vacant homes as well as at some occupied homes and garages. We would like to have a full discussion of this with our precinct officers.

Please come ready to share your thoughts about what we should be doing and how we should be doing it. Be aware that there are not nearly enough volunteers on our small Sherwood Forest Association Board of Directors to do all the jobs that need to be done. Four of our members have served on the board for more than 30 years and one has served for just under 30 years. This is not good for our community. We appreciate all that those members have done for

Sherwood Forest over the decades, but we also recognize that those members need to move on to new undertakings and be replaced by residents who will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasms to the Sherwood Forest Association (see related letter of retiring board member John Corvino below). Please be ready to discuss volunteer participation at the October 11 meeting.

This will be our opportunity to meet and hear from the precinct commander, Linda Peltier.

We want this to be a working meeting with representation from every Sherwood Forest household. Please save the date of **October 11**. Here is the tentative agenda for the 6:30 meeting:

Welcome  
Introductions  
Open Discussion of Crime in Our  
Community with the Commander of  
the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Security Patrol Update  
Block Captain Update  
Invitation to Join the Board or a  
Committee of the Board  
Comments and Questions



## A LETTER FROM JOHN CORVINO

Dear Neighbors,

After nearly four years serving on the Sherwood Forest Association Board—most recently, as Vice President—I am stepping down, effective immediately. While it might make the *Tattler* more interesting (and befitting its name) if my departure resulted from some juicy scandal, alas, it stems merely from my increasing professional duties. (I'm a Wayne State philosophy professor, and I'm currently working on some book projects.)

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude to the Board and to the community, and also to encourage other neighbors to consider running for the Board, which is looking for fresh perspectives.

I moved to Sherwood Forest in 2002, and even before joining the Board I became involved in community issues, especially property tax reform. Together with friends in Palmer Woods and University District, I founded the Detroit Tax Forum, which fought for property tax reductions. These efforts eventually contributed to more realistic assessments, as well as to Neighborhood Enterprise Zone legislation.

At that time some members encouraged me to run for the Board, but I demurred. "Not for me," I said.

It wasn't until 2006 that I considered joining, when Florence Gantz—who for years served as "Parks and Reforestation" chair—retired, and I became concerned about the loss of trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. So I joined and made reforestation my focus, eventually working with the Greening of Detroit to arrange the planting of new curb trees. Later, I switched my focus to the Historic Committee, seeking to assist residents with historic preservation and with securing their Michigan Tax Credits for renovations. I remain passionate about the historic character and architectural integrity of our community.

My point is that my participation in the Board stemmed directly from issues that I care about, not from any political expertise. I know that many of you care about the community, too, which is why I am urging you to consider Board membership.

As many of you know, we have several Board members

who have served not merely for years, but for decades. We are deeply in their debt. At the same time, they deserve a rest. Several of them are planning on retiring soon. The Board already has several vacancies, and frankly, it cannot survive and flourish without new blood.

I'm proud of the things that this Board has accomplished. In recent years our security patrol has become noticeably better thanks to vigorous oversight. Our response to the foreclosure and vacant-home crisis has been the envy of other neighborhoods. Sherwood Forest continues to be one of the best places to live, not just in the City of Detroit, but in the entire Metro area.

The Board has an ongoing important role to play, but it needs to be YOUR Board. For it has always been the case that what makes Sherwood Forest special is its people—not just its architecture, or its trees, or its location (all of which I love), but the vibrant and diverse mix of individuals and families who call it home. The Board should reflect that vibrancy and diversity.

It has been an honor to work with this Board serving the community for the last four years. I look forward to continuing to support its work as it evolves in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
John Corvino, Ph.D.



### TRICK-OR-TREATING IN THE FOREST ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

If you want trick-or-treaters to come to your home on Sunday, October 31, leave your front porch light on between the hours of 6-8 p.m. We ask that children trick-or-treat only during those hours and that adults accompany them.

Please park cars in your garage or driveway on Angels' Night and Halloween Night, and remind guests to park in your driveway rather than on the street. Drive carefully and watch out for young children in costume.

With everyone's cooperation, we look forward to another happy Halloween celebration in Sherwood Forest this year.

## **ANNUAL ANGELS' NIGHT CAMPAIGN COMING UP OCTOBER 29 & 30**

October is upon us, which means that the City is calling for thousands of volunteers to help keep watch in our neighborhoods during the annual Angels' Night campaign of October 29 and 30. Detroiters can get involved in the Angels' Night effort in several ways:

- **Watch Your Block**
- **Patrol A Neighborhood**
- **Adopt-A-House Program.**
- **Turn On Your Porch Light**
- **Wear an Orange Ribbon to Show Your Support**

For more information, call the Angels' Night Volunteer Hotline at (313) 224-4415, go to the City's Web site at [www.detroitmi.gov](http://www.detroitmi.gov). or contact the local Neighborhood City Hall offices at (313) 224-3450.

Please note: NCH has undertaken a consolidation of its offices. The West and Northeast offices have been merged into the four following offices:

- **Northwest District**, 19180 Grand River, 870-0649
- **East District** (at Butzel Family Center), 7737 Kercheval, 628-2170
- **Southwest District**, 7744 W. Vernor, 628-2180
- **Central District**, Coleman Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Ave., 224-2989

Sherwood Forest is in the Northwest District.

Remember that on October 30 and 31 there will be a 6 p.m. curfew for juveniles under the age of 18. All parents are asked to help enforce this curfew.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD FALL CLEANUP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

Please plan to spend the morning of Saturday, October 23, participating in our Sherwood Forest fall cleanup.

You may remember that our planned spring cleanup last May was rained out. That makes this fall event more important than ever.

Here's hoping for a beautiful morning on October 23. We will meet at my house at 19660 Stratford, just south of Pembroke, at 8:30 a.m. I will have a list of assignments ready and will provide coffee and donuts to get everyone in the mood for some satisfying work. Please bring rakes, mowers, edgers, gloves and any other tools you think might be useful. Garbage bags will be provided. Dumpsters will be strategically placed in the neighborhood. We will need to rake the yards of some of our vacant homes.

I am in the process of trying to identify neighbors who own trucks and are willing to drop off extra bags and provide other assistance as needed, including picking up full bags of debris and returning the bags to the dumpsters. Afterwards, everyone is invited back to my house for hot dogs, chips and refreshments.

If you would like to volunteer a truck, or can help in any other way, please contact me at [bluelewis78@att.net](mailto:bluelewis78@att.net). Most important, though, we need lots of neighbors to turn out on the morning of Saturday, October 23, ready to make sure that Sherwood Forest looks its best in this beautiful fall season.

Al Lewis  
Chairman  
Property Maintenance Committee

## **BULK PICKUP REMINDER**

Please remember that our last bulk pickup of 2010 will be on **Friday, October 1**. The DPW will continue to pick up leaves and other yard debris in biodegradable paper bags through the first week of December on the regular Thursday collection day. Last year, because so many leaves fell late, the DPW extended collection of bags of leaves into the second week of December. We don't know if it will do so again this year.

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE HOURS OF THE SECURITY PATROL EXTENDED?**

First, the Sherwood Forest Association would like to thank the many families who joined our security patrol this year. Membership is up over recent years,

something we attribute to several factors. One factor certainly must be that we have better patrol drivers working in the neighborhood than we have had in as long as we can remember. They are professional, vigilant and fearless. They routinely get out of their patrol cars to walk around vacant homes and make sure that all is secure. Many residents have told us that they appreciate the drivers' increased visibility. Another reason is that people are increasingly focused on the issue of security. A third is that we instituted a new, more user-friendly, payment plan this year.

Because of increased membership, we are very close to being able to increase the number of hours of daily service. If just **ten** more families would join the security patrol, we could increase our coverage immediately. You will find instructions for joining the patrol along with rates, by going to [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org) and clicking on the "Pay Dues" button. You can pay by check or by using PayPal.

If you have questions about the status of your patrol membership, contact Gordon Rodwan at [rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodwan@sbcglobal.net) or at 313-342-5827.

## WHY YOU NEED TO BE ON OUR EMAIL LIST

A couple of weeks ago, a location scout for the new ABC television series *Detroit 187* emailed me to say that he wanted to find two Sherwood Forest homes to shoot scenes for upcoming episodes of the program. He needed to contact our residents quickly with descriptions of the kinds of homes he was looking for. Of course, we never share our neighborhood email list with anyone, but I did tell him that I would send out an email on his behalf to everyone on our list. He was overwhelmed by the response, and although I do not know if homes have been selected yet, he reported to me that he had a great list of homes to work from, now and in the future.

You may not be interested in having your home appear on *Detroit 187*, but this illustrates the point that interesting information to be shared with neighbors comes to me with some frequency. I immediately am able to let neighbors know of an important meeting, a security concern or an opportunity to become a TV star! People who have not given me their email addresses simply do not get this information. It has been a slow

process building our email list and keeping it current, but a significant majority of neighbors are now getting regular emails, which they tell me are helpful. If you have a Sherwood Forest neighbor who has not chosen to share his or her email address with the Sherwood Forest Association, please urge that neighbor to do so today. All the person needs to do is send the email address to [editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org).

Gail Rodwan, Editor

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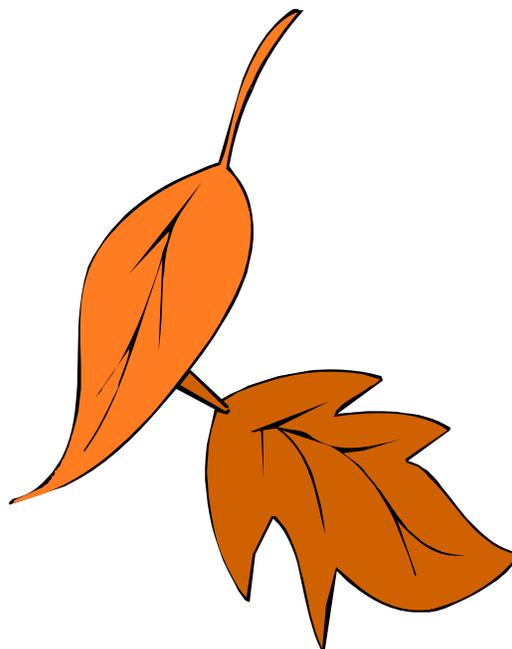
## 7th Annual Mumford Mustangs & Friends Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, October 30, 2010  
9:30am to 12:00pm  
Mumford High School  
17525 Wyoming Ave (Cafeteria)  
Detroit, MI

All-you can-eat-pancakes for \$7 adults & \$5 students, sides extra.

Children under age 5 are free.

Contact Co-Chairs Denise Cunningham (313) 673-2026 or Gina Nunnally (313) 575-6144 for more information.



# What is an Ombudsman?

The City Ombudsman is an appointed official who acts independently to receive and investigate complaints from residents, property owners, businesses, and visitors. In accordance with the City Charter, the Ombudsman also submits periodic reports to the City Council and makes recommendations to resolve ongoing complaints.

## Why would you want to contact the Ombudsman?

If you have a complaint against any City department or agency, you should call the Office of the Ombudsman. Abandoned cars, illegal dumping, flooded streets, vacant/abandoned/dangerous buildings, public lighting outages, and tree trimming are some of the reasons to contact the Office of the Ombudsman.

There are several ways to reach the Office of the Ombudsman and file your complaint:

- **Telephone:** (313) 224-6000
- **Fax:** (313) 224-1911
- **E-mail:** [Ombudsman@ombud.ci.detroit.mi.us](mailto:Ombudsman@ombud.ci.detroit.mi.us)
- **U.S. Mail and Walk-ins:** Coléman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Ave., Room 114, Detroit, Michigan 48226

The Ombudsman's Office is not open to take complaints on the weekends, but it is open on weekdays between the hours of 8:30-4:30.

Sherwood Forest residents are encouraged to make use of the services of this office. Ombudsman Durene Brown is eager to demonstrate that her staff knows how to get things done. Ask for her directly if you are not satisfied with the service you receive.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 1 – last bulk pickup of 2010
- October 11 – important neighborhood security meeting at 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct
- October 23 – fall neighborhood cleanup followed by lunch at the Lewis home.
- October 31 – Halloween in the Forest