

October 2011

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HALLOWEEN

A gentle breeze rustling the dry cornstalks.

A sound is heard, a goblin walks.

A harvest moon suffers a black cat's cry.

Oh, Do the witches fly!

Bonfire catches a pumpkins gleam.

Rejoice, it's Halloween

RICHARD ANDERSON, 1998



Sherwood Forest Neighbors Prepare For Tiny Goblins

Neighbors planning to welcome trick-or-treaters to their homes on Monday, October 31, should leave front porch lights on between the hours of 6 pm and 8 pm. 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 the scores of young children in costume who visit our neighborhood.

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

Detroit Works Project Commences

Mayor's Revamped Initiative Targets Sherwood Forest Community

By Kim Tandy

With little fanfare but purposeful determination, the City of Detroit began a long awaited program to address the needs of neighborhoods.

Acknowledging that downtown Detroit and the Midtown Detroit neighborhoods are receiving support on numerous fronts, Mayor Dave Bing is making good on his promise to beef up services in other parts of the city. Of particular concern are neighborhoods such as Sherwood Forest, Palmer Woods, University District and the other neighborhoods that comprise what has become known as Detroit Works Demonstration Area One. These communities along with two other demonstration areas represent the city's most viable neighborhoods

The Demonstration Areas have been tasked with providing a means by which community concerns can be made visible through a reporting process that allows direct communication with departments. Team leaders from the six neighborhoods in our Demonstration Area inform the city of violations by documenting concerns on worksheets designed to streamline reporting. The worksheets are submitted to the city weekly with the promise that community concerns will be addressed in a timely way.

A common complaint in Sherwood Forest is that street lighting is nonexistent on some streets and seems to operate according to a system of rolling availability. Many of our neighbors have made repeated calls to the city with little or no resolution of their concerns.

Neighbors on Canterbury had been without streetlights for longer than many can remember. Most annoying was the reality of a pole that lay on the ground in the block between Chesterfield and Cambridge for the better part of two years. Neighbors reported that in spite of periodic visits by crews from the Public Lighting Commission to look at the downed pole, nothing was done to correct the situation. Recently, however, the pole and its components were repaired. Happily, commission crews have focused their attention,

finally, on the concerns of residents by restoring light to our previously dark streets. Worksheets documenting complaints and submitted to city departments by demonstration area representatives are credited with making the system operational

Types of Code Concerns

Concerns are reported in the following categories:

1. Lighting
2. Code Enforcement
 - a. Abandoned home
 - b. Abandoned vehicle
 - c. Open pool
 - d. Grass
 - e. Garbage
 - f. Other
3. Public Safety
4. Water/Sewage
5. Tree maintenance and planting
6. Other

Team members are working on a process to allow neighbors to report their concerns.

SFA Board Introduces New Security Service Provider

At a special community meeting Sherwood Forest's new Security Service Provider met with residents to share information about how it proposes to protect the neighborhood. The Sherwood Forest Association Board of Directors contracted with Recon Threat Management in August after Gallagher Security, our previous provider, was forced out of business. Recon provides security service for both Palmer Woods and the Golf Club Subdivision. At the August meeting, a company spokesman described a creative plan to provide 24-hour coverage of our neighborhood by sharing patrol time with the three other nearby communities the company serves. This is the first time Sherwood Forest has benefitted from round-the-clock patrolling.

Providing details about how it will protect our community, Recon's spokesperson described how it will use video and directly confront individuals it suspects have no legitimate reason to be in our neighborhood. The company also promised to work closely with 12th Precinct officers.

Recon uses most unmarked cars that have the look of official unmarked police vehicles. Security officers are polite and

seem well trained and approachable. Neighbors who subscribe to the Sherwood Forest Patrol are able to contact officers directly.

Sherwood Forest Patrol Is Seeking New Members

150 Sherwood Forest families currently enjoy the benefits of membership in the Sherwood Forest Patrol. In a neighborhood where over 400 families co-exist, however, more residents would reduce the cost of our private patrol and allow the patrol to add manpower. With fewer Detroit Police officers and longer response times, few can deny the need for more protection particularly in a city where so many people are jobless and the crime rate has risen. Many of us are convinced that we would experience many more encounters with criminals were it not for our patrol. In fact, the presence of patrol officers accounts for the conditions that attracted many of our neighbors to this community. Furthermore, even residents who do not belong to the patrol benefit from its presence.

If you are not a member of the patrol, now is a perfect time to join your neighbors who pay for these services. You can access information about the patrol and learn more about payment options on our website, www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org.

Food Initiative Seeks Feedback From Focus Group Participants



Request For Participation
Seven Mile - Livernois Area
Community Members
Grocery Store Focus Groups

Dear Community Residents:

The Green Grocer Project, a program of the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, wants to give you the opportunity to share your opinions and feedback with the owners of local, independent grocery stores in your area.

The Green Grocer Project has hired a Michigan-based market research firm to assist in conducting two grocery store-related focus groups in your community. We are seeking approximately 300 community members to participate in a

10-15 minute phone interview, which will result in the creation of two groups of community participants.

If you are interested in being interviewed to participate, please send an email with your **first and last name, telephone number and address** to GreenGrocer@degc.org. To be included, we need your information no later than October 30th, 2011. All information provided will be used solely for the purpose of interviewing for participation in the focus groups, will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared with any other entities.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important initiative. For more information on DEGC's Green Grocer Project, please visit www.GreenGrocerProject.org.

We look forward to working with the Seven Mile-Livernois area communities to bring an improved grocery store to your neighborhood!

University of Detroit Mercy Theatre: A Community Jewel

GREG GROBIS believes that great theatre has the power to connect people in ways that are difficult to accomplish using other methods. He is convinced, as well, that theatre can be a force for social change that strengthens communities. As general manager of the University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company, Greg is well positioned to support that view. During a recent conversation with the Sherwood Forest Board of Directors, Greg described his views about theatre and shared his hope that he will be able to partner with other university and community theatres to help educate students as well as residents about the arts, particularly theatre.



During our time with Greg, he shared a bit of UDM theatre history, reminding us that the theatre has been around since the early 70s and that it already partners with Marygrove College to bring top-rated plays to our area. The actors, like those in most professional theatres, are union-affiliated and

not hobbyists. Board members were surprised to hear that Detroit, with its multiple venues, has the second largest theatre district outside of New York City

During the 2011-2012 season, the UDM theatre Company is offering four plays beginning with *Eleemosynary* that ended its run on October 9. Three other are *Anatomy of Gray*, *Dogman's Last Stand* and *Autobahn*. The season ends on April 1. Greg is working with the board to organize a community theatre outing and reception proposed for February 11, 2012. Regular admission to the theatre is \$18 for adults and \$9 for students. Greg is working to arrange a reduced adult admission for our event.

It was a pleasure to be reminded of the rich cultural heritage Detroiters share and to realize that there are artistic treasures in our own community.

Mumford High School Group Plans Benefit For Scholar Athletes

Many of us recall teachers or coaches who made such a difference in our school experiences that we credit them with helping in our overall development as functioning individuals. Irving Petross was such a person. Mr. Petross served as coach to numerous successful Detroiters who attended Mumford High School. He died in August of this year at the age of 85. During the late Kenneth Burnley's tenure as superintendent of Detroit Public Schools, Mr. Petross served as an Executive Director supervising principals in the district. Those of us who served with him remember his kindness and concern for students.

Now, the Mumford Alumni Association is commissioning a scholarship in his honor to support a Mumford alumnus pursuing higher education in sports. Details of an event to raise funds for the scholarship follow:

PANCAKES AND COMEDY

ON STAGE LIVE

Mumford's Own Headliners



Darryl Earl, Dwayne Gill and Mike Bonner

BENEFIT COMEDY SHOW
Saturday, October 29, 2011
Mumford High School Auditorium
12 Noon to 2 PM

PANCAKES & COMEDY Ticket Combo
\$20

Comedy Show Only, \$15.00 in advance

Purchase tickets at the following locations:

BUNCHY'S CHICKEN & BURGERS

13807 W. 9 Mile Road
Oak Park, MI 48237
248-291-6325

PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA

18472 Livernois
Detroit, MI 48221
313-863-7272

SIX MILE EXPRESS

10208 W. McNichols
Detroit, MI 48221

GOLDFINGER ENTERPRISES

Mr. Birdies Anderson, Event Promoter
21700 Greenfield Plaza, Suite 134
Oak Park, MI 48237
313-737-4002

The following article contains excerpts from Jenice Mitchell Ford's email to Detroiters about revision of the Detroit Charter:

**New City Charter is Up For Vote On
November 8**

Are you ready for change?

By Jenice Mitchell Ford
Chair
City of Detroit 2009-2012 Charter Revision Commission

On Nov. 8th you can vote to adopt the proposed Charter during a regularly scheduled election versus a special election, saving the city \$1.5 million dollars in special election fees.

On that day, you will be asked a single question in Proposal C.

**PROPOSAL C - PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A
NEW CITY CHARTER**

**Shall the City of Detroit Home Rule Charter
proposed by the Detroit Charter Revision
Commission be adopted?
Yes ___ or No ___.**

To answer this question, you probably want to know what the proposed Charter actually says. If you are like me, you don't want to hear someone's opinion or version, you want the facts for yourself.

The facts -- each provision of the proposed Charter -- can be found at www.2009dcrc.org. On Sunday, October 9th, the proposed Charter was an insert in the joint Sunday edition of the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News. Also, call [\(313\) 628-2517](tel:3136282517) for a listing of locations where you can pick up a hard copy, including libraries, senior citizen buildings, churches and recreation centers. Finally, a summary letter has been mailed to all absentee voters.

In sum, the new Charter speaks to
Ethics, Vision & Better Government.

Moving towards the Nov. 8th election, I will send more frequent updates focusing on specific provisions such as: (i) canceling contracts with bad acting contractors such as Synagro; (ii) requiring Mayor and City Council to meet twice a year in advance of budget time to address revenues; (iii) ethics rules with penalties including fines and jail time; (iv) immediate reporting of budget deficits by each department; (v) requiring that an elected official live in the city 1 year before running for office; and (vi) City Council electing its own leadership versus being decided by popular vote.

Again, visit www.2009dcrc.org for a complete copy of the proposed Charter and for information about the charter revision process.



CITY BRIEFS

October 2011

The City of Detroit, through its Communications and Creative services Division, sends a monthly update of activities thought to be of interest to Detroiters. We think two of the activities listed this month are timely.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL ANGELS' NIGHT CAMPAIGN OCT. 29-31

It's once again time for the city's annual Angels' Night campaign, when volunteers work together to keep Detroit's families, residents, and neighborhoods safe October 29-31. Please consider joining thousands of volunteers keeping a watchful eye over our city this year. 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, go to the City's Web site at www.angelsnight.org, or contact the Community Access Centers at (313) 224-3450



CUSTOMERS CAN SET UP DWSD BUDGET PAYMENT PLAN

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is now offering the opportunity to open budget payment plans to its Detroit residential customers. Participants will receive a flat monthly bill based on their actual usage. The account will be routinely reviewed to ensure that budgeted payments reflect the account's actual usage.

Eligible customers must have DWSD's new Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technology installed and also must not have an outstanding balance that is more than 60 days past due. Residents interested in the budget payment plan should call the DWSD main Customer Service line at (313) 267-8000 or visit one of the department's three Customer Service Centers to set up a plan.

Residents who do not have the AMR technology installed should contact Customer Service at (313) 267-8000 to schedule an appointment for free AMR installation.

Homeowners Insurance May Not Cover Damage by Dead Trees

While our ancient stock of stately old oak trees add beauty and protection from the elements, legal experts think they might make us vulnerable to less than attractive issues of personal liability. At a recent board meeting, members of the Sherwood Forest Association legal team described instances where insurance claims were denied after dead trees fell on personal property.



To avoid a scenario that could leave you open to lawsuit and a possible judgment, our legal eagles suggest that you:

- Trim dead branches from trees, particularly if they hang over your roof.
- Cut down and remove trees that have died. (A strong wind could topple them.)
- Check your homeowner's insurance policy to determine how falling limbs and trees are addressed.

As we approach winter, trees are returning to dormancy. This is a perfect time to trim your oaks.

Sherwood Forest Association Minutes From the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 8, 2011



Members Present: Gail Rodwan, Kim Tandy, Susan McMillan, Luther Bradley, Valerie Leigh, Shirley Jackson, Larry Jackson, Al Lewis, Kerlyne Alexis Pinkins and Marcia Baum

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Tandy at the home of Gail Rodwan.

Security Contract and September Security Meeting.

President Tandy confirmed that the logistics for the SFA September Security Meeting are in place. All neighbors will be invited to learn about RECON Security, the new patrol service, on September 12th at 6:30 pm at the 12th precinct.

Gail Rodwan presented a review of the key points of the new RECON Security contract including the monthly service fee and how RECON service is different from previous security services. Gail explained that the board's legal committee had diligently reviewed all aspects of the contract including the required liability insurance. President Tandy thanked the members of the legal committee for their hard work. Members include, Robert Gold, Gail and Gordon Rodwan and Marty Baum. After all questions were addressed the board agreed to RECON's request to prepay for one month's service.

The board reviewed a draft of the letter that will be sent to all homeowners regarding the new service. A second letter with new telephone contact number stickers will be sent to all current paid up patrol members. In addition to the previous communications, Gordon Rodwan will send out a 2nd notice to those who are on a payment plan. A pitch for new members will be part of the September 12th meeting.

Financial Audit

At a previous board meeting, members asked Gail Rodwan to identify and secure bids from at least three CPA companies to review the SFA Board financial operation process and make recommendations of how we could update/computerize the process and incorporate best practices. She spoke with four companies, and after review of the proposals she recommended that the board contract with Gregory Terrell, a neighbor and CPA with a local firm. Mr. Terrell sent President Tandy an engagement letter outlining the services to be provided. After discussion, it was moved by Valerie Leigh and supported by Shirley Jackson that the board contract with Gregory Terrell to conduct a SFA financial audit and make recommendations for best practices for the future. President Tandy will sign the engagement letter. In preparation for the process, Susan McMillan will work with Gordon Rodwan and Marty Baum to transfer data to a non-profit software program. Results from the process will be presented at the October board meeting.

Detroit Works

President Tandy provided information about the new Detroit Works program. Three separate "groups" of communities have been selected to participate in the first phase of the program. Sherwood Forest, considered a "stable" neighborhood, is part of one of the selected communities. As a 'chosen' community, we have been asked to identify 3 priorities. The board discussed lighting, security and code enforcement as our top three. On a related topic, board members discussed past attempts to establish neighborhood Special Assessment Districts (SAD) in the city. Action by the Detroit City Council is required to activate the process. President Tandy will discuss this option with Detroit Works leadership. Shirley Jackson will attend the August 23, Detroit Works meeting with Kim Tandy.

Vacant Homes and Beautification

Kim Tandy reported that there is a city ordinance that requires banks and other owners of vacant properties to board them up, but there is an exemption for historic properties, and Sherwood Forest has "opted out" of the ordinance. Boards were removed from a vacant home on Renfrew after calls by Gail Rodwan to the property management company, the boarding contractor and the realtor.

Treasurer's Report

Susan McMillan provided a July Treasurer's report for information only. An updated report will be distributed at the regular October board meeting. The November board meeting will include a discussion and adoption of the annual budget.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Baum

Secretary