



SHERWOOD
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

TATTTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

February 2011

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*Nothing that is can pause or stay;
The moon will wax, the moon will wane,
The mist and cloud will turn to rain,
The rain to mist and cloud again,
Tomorrow be today.*

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Dear Sherwood Forest Community,

This issue of the *Tattler* marks a turning point in the publication's history. For the first time in more than thirty-eight years, someone other than Gail Rodwan will edit our newsletter. Succeeding Gail, as editor, is an act of sheer bravery I could not have imagined a year ago. After all, every Sherwood Forest neighbor, including me, has come to depend on her reliably common sense approach to reporting events affecting our community. Nonetheless, the time has come to relieve Gail of at least one of a host of responsibilities she assumes on behalf of our wonderful neighborhood.

Putting together a product as seamlessly as Gail has throughout her tenure as editor is an accomplishment I don't expect to master immediately. However, because I recognize what a superior product the *Tattler* has been under Gail's tenure, I plan to work hard as I make every effort to meet her standard of excellence. I am, admittedly, humbled by her faith in me and extremely appreciative of the assistance I've received from Gail and Gordon in preparation for the first issue. As I grow into this new responsibility, I welcome suggestions that will ensure our newsletter maintains its high quality.

Warm regards,

Shirley Jackson

SHERWOOD FOREST TATTTLER WELCOMES NEW EDITOR SHIRLEY JACKSON

By Gail Rodwan

In 1972, I became the sole member of Harriet Alpern's "staff." Harriet was, and for many years had been, the editor of the Sherwood Forest *Tattler*. Harriet, a tremendously talented woman, was happy to have someone help her with the *Tattler*, but she wasn't sure that I was ready to take on the job of editor, so she trained me for more than a year.

In those days, we would take handwritten *Tattler* articles jotted down on various pieces of paper, including the backs of used envelopes, to a small print shop on James Couzens for printing and mailing. I once suggested to Harriet that we type the *Tattler* before taking it to the printer, but she said that would be a massive waste of our time, and the print would have to be typeset anyway. Somehow the printer always managed to decipher our handwriting.

In looking back at some early *Tattlers* recently, I discovered that Harriet Alpern's name was on the masthead as editor of the September 1973 *Tattler*, but my name was on the masthead of the October 1973 *Tattler*. I had arrived! Harriet finally had confidence that I could handle it alone.

And handle it alone I have, for some 38 years. Little did I dream that I would be the *Tattler* editor for so long or enjoy it so much. I have loved writing the *Tattler*, but I have understood in recent years that it was

time to pass the job on to someone else. Several weeks ago, Canterbury resident Shirley Jackson agreed to take over as editor. I have become Harriet Alpern, but with one major difference: I have absolutely no qualms about turning the job over to Shirley. She is smart and energetic and technologically savvy, and, most important, she is devoted to Sherwood Forest. So from now on, when you want to submit an article to the *Tattler*, or have an idea, a question or a concern for the editor, contact Shirley at: www.editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org or 313-863-2647.

I am grateful to Shirley, and I predict that she will be the best *Tattler* editor that Sherwood Forest has ever seen. I am grateful as well to Gordon Rodwan, without whose technical assistance, I surely could not have made the transition from the print shop and handwritten notes to today's electronic *Tattler*, which we have produced together at home.

For the time being, I will continue to maintain the email and address lists for the neighborhood, so if you get information on a new neighbor, send the name and address to me, and if you get a new email address, make sure that you inform me. I will also continue to send out notices of news that cannot wait for the next *Tattler*, such as security and snow removal alerts and dates of upcoming special events.

With thanks to my good neighbors,

Gail Rodwan

WILD KINGDOM, INDEED

Sherwood Forest residents have become accustomed to sharing our small corner of the world with animals normally found in the wild. It is not unusual to see raccoons, possums and rabbits traveling the streets of our community. Neighbors are now asked to remain alert in the face of reports from several residents of red fox sightings. While we feel confident that humans have little to fear from these creatures, we ask that you keep close tabs on small dogs and cats since foxes, known to be cunning and clever, are carnivores.

STREET SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

Because we know that winter isn't over yet, we again

remind neighbors not to leave vehicles parked on the street in snowy weather. Whenever we have a snowfall of 4 inches or more, all vehicles should be removed from the streets in anticipation of plowing. It is impossible for our private contractor to do effective curb-to-curb snow removal when there are vehicles in his way. The snowplow driver will not remove snow from the end of your driveway. Your Association dues pay for snow removal service, but we cannot pay to have snow removed from the ends of more than 400 driveways. Please do not ask the driver to provide that service.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Marcia Baum Snow Removal Committee

PLEASE PAY YOUR ASSOCIATION DUES AND ASSURE STREET SNOW REMOVAL FOR THE REST OF THE WINTER.

Street snow removal is only one of the services paid for by your Sherwood Forest Association dues. The value of this service was demonstrated on February 2, when, on the morning after the winter's biggest snowstorm to date, Sherwood Forest streets were clear due to an early plowing by our private snow removal contractor. The truth is, however, that just half of our residents paid the entire bill for that service, even though we all benefited. That is because only half of our residents have paid their \$55 dues this fiscal year. We need greater support if we are to continue snow removal service to the end of the winter. There are plenty of opportunities for snowstorms ahead in February and March. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check for \$55 to:

Sherwood Forest Association
P.O. Box 21031
Detroit, MI 48221

If you are uncertain of your membership status, call Gordon Rodwan at (313) 342-5827.

CITY SNOW AND ICE ORDINANCE

City of Detroit Ordinance #139H - Snow and Ice 50-8-1

No person shall permit any snow or ice to remain on the sidewalk, in front, rear or sides of any house, premises, building or lot owned, occupied or controlled by him

longer than twenty-four hours, after the same has fallen or formed. Where either snow or ice has fallen or formed on any such sidewalk, such owner, occupant or agent shall, within twenty-four hours after the same has fallen or formed, remove such snow or ice or cause a sufficient quantity of salt, sand, ashes, or other approved materials to be strewn thereon in such a manner as to render the same safe for persons walking thereon.

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LOOKING FOR SNOW SHOVELERS?

Three brothers who live with their family in Sherwood Forest are available to shovel snow this winter. All three are students at Wayne State University. If you would like to hire one of the Morris brothers to shovel snow for you, call Mark Morris at (313) 861-8524.

HELP FOR WAYNE COUNTY RESIDENTS FACING FORECLOSURE

The following letter provides information about a program whose goal is to assist Wayne County residents in preserving their communities. The letter was sent to neighborhood associations throughout the county:

Sherwood Forest Association:

Today many Wayne County residents are faced with not having enough money to pay the mortgage. Please assist us in getting the word out to your membership that free and confidential help is available. **The Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program (MFPP)** is dedicated to helping at risk residents avoid or survive mortgage foreclosure. MFPP offers free and confidential services through a network of certified counselors. Our goal is to keep Wayne County residents in their homes or after examining all options help them through foreclosure process on fair and reasonable terms . . .

Thanks for your consideration,

Donnell Cravens
Outreach Assistant / AmeriCorp Volunteer
Wayne County
Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program
640 Temple Suite 745
Detroit, MI 48201-2599
(313) 833-3667

THE SHERWOOD FOREST PATROL NEEDS YOU

Every resident living in our community can find reasons not to become a member of the patrol. Many residents convince themselves that joining our patrol won't make a difference in the safety and security of our neighborhood. The facts, however, tell a different story. Communities with dedicated patrol services enjoy far lower crime rates than those without such services because criminals take the path of least resistance and target neighborhoods where they are less likely to be observed. So if you've been telling yourself that membership in the patrol doesn't matter, please reconsider, and go to our web site <http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org/Join.htm> for information on rates and how to pay by check or PayPal. There is a payment plan to fit every budget.

If you are uncertain about the status of your membership, please contact Gordon Rodwan at rodwan@sbcglobal.net.

PUT AWAY YOUR COURVILLE CANNISTER

Cold and snowy weather create a bunker mentality for all of us. It is not unusual to want to spend as little time as possible outside, this time of year. We realize that unwillingness to venture out into arctic-like temperatures may account for the number of Courville canisters left at the curb long after city trash collectors have made their rounds. However, aside from the fact that the unsightly canisters detract from the beauty and elegance of our community, they send a message to criminals that a home may be unoccupied. In the interest, therefore, of both aesthetics and safety, please be reminded that the canisters should be placed at the curb no sooner than Wednesday evening before collection on Thursdays and removed as soon as possible after collection has taken place. Under no circumstances should these containers remain at the curb until the day after collection.

PLEASE PRESERVE OUR SIGNS

The signs identifying Sherwood Forest as a historic neighborhood have stood at entrances to our community for many years and serve as reminders to visitors and residents alike of our collective pride in our lovely community. We hope to enjoy these unique identifiers for many years to come. For that reason we ask that residents refrain from attaching anything to the signs so that we can avoid the cost of replacement.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBORS

With so many amazing people living in our community, we were surprised to find that no one was nominated as this month's honoree. We ask that you submit names of neighbors who add to the quality of our community. Contributions worthy of mention need not be

monumental. Small acts of kindness or thoughtfulness that build community and enrich relationships should be considered. Let's all commit to honoring those who makes our community so unique: the exceptional people who do such a magnificent job of "loving their neighbors."

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2011 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION

Members Present: Lois Primas, Al Lewis, Shirley Jackson, Lisa Williams, Larry Jackson, Kim Tandy, Valerie Leigh, Gail Rodwan Kerlyne Pinkins, Sue McMillan

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Kim Tandy at the home of Lois Primas.

The minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting were approved with corrections.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Snow: No report

Real Estate: Valerie Leigh distributed copies of the "Listing of Resident Properties Under Multi-Listing System."

Patrol: Gail Rodwan reported for Gordon Rodwan that we currently have 150 Patrol members and 165 Association members. Billings for second payments were sent in early December to the 20 patrol members who pay in two installments. Only 7 of those 20 members have made their second payments to date, and a reminder notice is about to be mailed to the rest. Thanks in part to PayPal; we have collected approximately \$1,700 more this year to date than we collected last year during the entire fiscal year. We need to make sure we are making new residents aware of the advantages of patrol membership.

Tattler: Gail Rodwan reported that Shirley Jackson has assumed responsibilities as the new editor of the *Tattler*. Gail and Shirley will work together on the February *Tattler*. Board members asked that Gail and Shirley include in the February *Tattler* articles about the following: 1) fox sightings in the neighborhood, 2) a reminder about shoveling our walks (we have received complaints from walkers about residents who are not shoveling snow from their sidewalks), 3) a reminder to all not to affix postings, decorations or anything else to our Sherwood Forest signs. We had a spate of problems over the December holidays when people put nails in our signs. We need to remind neighbors that the company that made our signs cautioned against putting nails, staples, etc., into the wood.

New Neighbors: Lisa Williams reported that last weekend she delivered two welcoming trays and information about the neighborhood to new neighbors on Parkside and

Shrewsbury. Lisa showed board members a sample of the postcard she created for new neighbors, and she requested an electronic copy of the Sherwood Forest logo for future postcards.

Property Maintenance: Al Lewis reported that he intends to send reminder letters to residents who chronically fail to shovel snow from their walks.

Social and Cultural: Dan Clarkson sent a report via Kim Tandy that he is planning a spring Meet and Greet. He is exploring the possibility of a Sherwood Forest theater night in the spring to see a production of the University of Detroit-Mercy Theatre Company. The director of that company is a new resident to Sherwood Forest.

President's Report: Detroit Works will hold a neighborhood cluster meeting on January 27 at University of Detroit-Mercy to discuss the Mayor's plans to "right-size" the city. Kim will send details to Gail for publication to the neighborhood.

The Urban Land Institute will be meeting in Detroit next week. Kim is looking for a few volunteers to be interviewed by representatives of the institute.

The 12th Precinct Neighborhood Coalition and University Commons have joined forces to sponsor a "Celebration of Unsung Heroes." Each community that is a part of the coalition is to nominate a member who is making a special contribution to the life of the community. A dinner will be held to honor the "unsung heroes" on February 27. The name of Ernest Thompson was placed in nomination. Kim requested that Gail send an email to our residents about this event and request that the names of nominees be sent to Kim no later than January 20.

Kim announced that residents who have expressed an interest in exploring the feasibility of a gated community will hold a February planning meeting on a date-yet-to-be-set.

Old Business: The board voted unanimously to invite Lisa Williams of Renfrew to become of member of the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gail Rodwan (in the absence of secretary Marcia Baum)

For additional information about the Sherwood Forest community please visit our website at www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org.