



SHERWOOD  
FOREST  
ASSOCIATION

# TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

February 2007

Lois E. Primas,  
President  
863-0167

Michele Davis, VP  
345-7120

Marcia Baum, Secretary  
862-1897

Sue McMillan,  
Treasurer  
862-6366

Gail Rodwan, Editor  
342-5827

Richard Carson  
861-3632

John Corvino  
861-0979

Robert Gold  
861-3642

Linda Jones  
863-8310

Valerie Leigh  
345-1826

Catherine Mayberry  
862-6342

Walter Shapero  
862-2779

Kim Tandy  
341-8044

Scott Wilson  
341-2490

Charlie Primas  
Patrol Manager  
863-0167

Dear Residents:

Five of your Sherwood Forest neighbors and I met with Deputy Chief Marshall Lyons and Commander Craig Schwartz at the Western District Police Precinct on January 30 to discuss recent crime problems in Sherwood Forest and learn how we can best work with the precinct to help solve these problems. I want to share with you some of the information we learned at that meeting in the hope that we can use this information in joining with the police to make Sherwood Forest the safest possible neighborhood.

We learned that 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. are the peak hours for burglaries in our area. All of our recent burglaries (seven since the first week of January) do not fit within that time pattern, however. Some were in the late afternoon or early evening. Some involved homes that have alarm systems, but the alarms were not turned on. Most items taken were small and easy to carry. Deputy Chief Lyons reported on one recent perpetrator who walked around neighborhoods looking like a student and wearing a backpack. When he entered homes, he took only items that would fit in his backpack. This man was caught (though not in Sherwood Forest). We should not assume that all people who break into houses have cars. Some are ringing doorbells, entering empty homes and then leaving on foot. The police have been unable to determine if the incidents in Sherwood Forest involve one person, one group of people or are unrelated. In response to these recent incidents, two police cars are now patrolling on a regular basis in our neighborhood.

We have re-established a procedure for receiving monthly crime reports from the precinct. These reports will be distributed and analyzed at the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association.

Deputy Lyons provided the following information about the 911 system: Crimes must be reported to 911, where they are prioritized. 911 is an off-site call center, and it is separate from the precinct. 911 operators notify the precinct of a run. Studies have shown that our precinct responds, on average, within 10-12 minutes of being notified of a run. The problem is that 911 may not notify the precinct of a reported problem right away, depending on the seriousness of the problem. If it takes 45 minutes for 911 to notify the precinct after receipt of a call, citizens blame the precinct for a slow response, but the precinct doesn't control this system. It must, however, work within it.

The current hours of our patrol service mesh well with the hours of police patrols. We are in the process of instituting procedures that will enable our patrol drivers to provide greater assistance to the police.

We talked about the ways in which we as individual residents can help to make the neighborhood safer. We must be alert to suspicious cars and strangers sitting in unfamiliar cars for extended periods of time. While everyone is not comfortable with the idea of approaching strangers in suspicious vehicles and asking what they are doing, such proactive behavior on the part of residents of a neighborhood discourages

criminals from coming into that neighborhood. What the police do suggest we do on a routine basis is get the license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles and report them immediately to the precinct's Community Relations Office at **596-1221**. **Please make note of this phone number and use it.** If you see a situation that doesn't look right to you, act on your instincts and call **596-1221** and tell the police what you have seen.

We met Sergeant Shirley Bledsoe of the Community Relations Office. Two community relations officers assigned specifically to our district (District 2) are Michael Crowder and Keith Buckman. Report **abandoned vehicles** as well as suspicious vehicles to **596-1221**. The community relations officer who takes your call will contact the officer in the field and have that officer check out the complaint. Leave a message on the answering machine if you don't reach an officer directly.

Deputy Chief Lyons and Commander Schwartz made the following suggests for what we can do to keep ourselves and our neighborhood safe:

1. **Use outdoor lights at night.** Our neighborhood is dark because it has so many trees. Everyone should be turning outside lights on at night.
2. **Trim overgrown shrubbery.** Homes with overgrown greenery provide cover for criminals. Trim your bushes!
3. **Be aware that vacant homes are a huge problem.** It is especially easy to spot a vacant home in winter if the walk is not shoveled and there are no tire tracks or footprints around the home. Neighbors need to work together to keep vacant homes from looking vacant. A vacant home is a good vantage point from which to observe other homes in the neighborhood. It is not uncommon for a breaking at a vacant home to be followed by a breaking at one of the houses next door (we did in fact have such an incident in Sherwood Forest).
4. **Be the eyes and ears of our neighborhood and report what you learn to the precinct.**
5. **Know the names of the shift lieutenants at the precinct.** If you call the Western District Precinct at the general number (596-1200) and

are dissatisfied with the response you get, ask to speak to the officer in charge of the shift. The shift lieutenants are:

Lieutenant Hope – midnight to 8 a.m. shift  
Lieutenant Kemp – 8 am to 4 pm shift  
Lieutenant Gargarlina – 4 pm to midnight

Deputy Chief Lyons and Commander Schwartz both stressed that citizens need to report crimes when they occur. It is a mistake to fall into a pattern of thinking, "Why call the police? They probably won't come." The police need information from citizens, and we were assured at the meeting that the police will respond.

I am writing this letter because I, like you, am mindful that January has been a difficult month for us. However, I am heartened by the sincere belief that we are opening good lines of communication with the Western District Precinct. Like all Detroiters, we have the right to expect first-rate police protection. Officials at the Western District have told us that they stand ready to provide that protection. Let's make the best possible use of this critical resource in our community. And, at the same time, let's work together to create an atmosphere in Sherwood Forest that sends the message: This neighborhood is not a place where criminals want to be. Its residents are alert and savvy and working together to prevent crime.

As always, I welcome your suggestions on this issue and all issues pertaining to Sherwood Forest.

Sincerely,

Lois E. Primas  
President  
Sherwood Forest Association

### **PASTEUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALUMNI FOUNDATION SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

Do you know about our Foundation? We read in the school each week to first graders, giving a book to the teacher and a copy to one child each week. The school could use more readers or tutors to help one-on-one with the kids who need it. It would be great if we could find neighborhood friends who would like to get involved. The kids are so nice and appreciative of us

coming each week.

We also give dictionaries to all graduates and have scholarships for college. In December each year we provide very large boxes of food and books for 15 needy families.

We meet 4 times a year and have over 200 paid members. We also have 900 alumni on our database who attended Pasteur between the 30's and the 90's. We're going to have a website in the near future. We have supporters from as far as Israel and the United Arab Emirates, and we would love to get more supporters in the Sherwood Forest neighborhood. Please call me.

Thanks so much,

Marcy Feldman  
President  
Pasteur Elementary School Alumni Foundation  
h (248) 399-6446

### TAX APPEALS

Within the past couple of weeks, most residents received by mail from the City of Detroit a Notice of Assessment, Tax Valuation and Property Classification. Please note that there is an explanation at the bottom of that form of how to appeal your property taxes.

An appeal must be made during the Assessors Review Period, which runs from **February 1 – February 15**. Residents must go to Room 804 of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to file an appeal. If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the Assessors Review, you must appeal to the March Board of Review before **March 12, 2007**. That appeal must be in writing and it must state the grounds from appeal that you presented during the February 1-15 Assessors Review Period (so you must file the first appeal to be eligible to file the second). Your written appeal to the March Board of Review must be sent to the Board of Review at 824 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

For more details, consult your Notice of Assessment, and note that the February 15 deadline leaves very little time to make your initial appeal.

### BULK PICUP REMINDER

Our next bulk collection date is **Friday, March 9, 2007**. Since the City announced last year that it will not resume collection of yard waste until May of 2007, bags of yard waste should not be included in the March pickup.

For a list of all the 2007 collection dates for Sherwood Forest, go to our neighborhood webpage at [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org), and click on "Neighborhood News."

### GETTING CONNECTED

In the period between publication of the December *Tattler* and the February *Tattler* that you are reading now, email subscribers to the *Tattler* received special crime alerts, information about the closing of the Lodge Freeway, tax information, notices of community meetings of interest, and a request for the return of a lost animal. I have heard from many residents thanking me for sending out such timely information. Unfortunately, fewer than half of our residents received the information because we do not have everyone's email address.

The *Tattler* is published only six times a year, but information of interest comes to me from all over the city every week. As editor of the *Tattler*, I decide what to send to our email subscribers. Email subscribers get more than these notices. The email edition of the *Tattler* is longer and more informative than the *Tattler* that is sent by "snail mail." For most editions, I simply can't fit everything I want to include into the format of the paper *Tattler*.

I regret that everyone in the neighborhood did not know about the January burglaries. That was important information for all of us. But the fact is that more and more neighborhood information will be disseminated by email in the future and less and less by other means. If you have not received an email from me in the last two weeks, you are not on the Sherwood Forest email list, and you need to be. Send your email address today to [rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodwan@sbcglobal.net), and be assured that I will not share your email address with anyone else.

Gail Rodwan

**SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
December 11, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lois Primas, Gail Rodwan, Walter Shapero, Robert Gold, Sue McMillan, Linda Jones, Richard Carson, John Corvino, Kim Tandy, Scott Wilson, Marcia Baum

I. Call to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Lois Primas at the home of Lois and Charlie Primas.

II. Reading/Distribution of the Minutes of November 13, 2006

The minutes were approved as presented.

III. President's Report.

A. President Primas acknowledged Gail Rodwan for another outstanding *Tattler*.

B. The President introduced new SFA Board members commenting on their areas of interest:

- Richard Carson      Social and Cultural
- John Corvino      Parks and Reforestation
- Kim Tandy      Activities related to 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct Coalition  
and University Commons
- Scott Wilson      Public Safety and Landscaping

C. President Primas instructed committee chairs to submit annual budget projections to Treasurer, Sue McMillan.

IV. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer, Sue McMillan, presented the budget report. Bob Gold moved and Richard Carson supported a motion to approve the budget report. Motion passed.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Snow Removal: Marcia Baum reported that after review by Board member Walter Shapero, a street snow removal agreement was signed with B&L Landscaping. The Board discussed issues related to City of Detroit street snow removal services, which have been problematic in the past. Kim Tandy will contact Charles Beckham to discuss city plans for the 2006-2007 street snow removal season. She will also explain SFA street snow removal process and standards. The Board agreed to continue to work with B&L Landscaping.

B. Real Estate/Community Representative: President Primas explained the responsibilities of this committee including a monthly listing of homes for sale in the Forest.

C. Tattler/Communication Information: Gail reported that she produces a *Tattler* 6 times a year. She explained that she has about 50% of our neighbors e-mail addresses and asked for suggestions on how to increase that number.

D. New Residents/Welcoming: President Primas described the new neighbor welcome program, which includes a delicious home baked tray of baked goods and distribution of the SFA brochure and information on the SFA Patrol and Historic District.

- E. Media/Public Relations/Block Captains: Linda Jones, who recently assumed responsibility for the Block Captain program, reported that she would be contacting neighbors who have volunteered to be block captains. She will produce a list of blocks that don't have captains. That list will be included in the next *Tattler*. The article will explain the role of block captain and ask for volunteers.
- F. Public Safety:
- Gail Rodwan presented a patrol financial status report. There are currently 142 members. \$2710 was collected since the November meeting. A list of overdue subscribers was submitted.
  - Gail reported that we still have difficulty getting crime statistics from the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Kim Tandy will check with her contacts at the city through University Commons to see if the crime data that they receive can be broken into neighborhoods.
- G. Property Maintenance/City Services:
- Walter Shapero explained the committee's responsibilities.
  - A discussion followed regarding public security issues related to abandoned homes in the community. The Board supported the suggestion that the patrol provide special attention to abandoned homes. Linda Jones will ask block captains to help identify the abandoned homes. She will give the information to President Primas who will speak with the drivers to provide additional attention to the homes on the list.
- H. Legal: Walter Shapero reported that he is still working with the City Law Department regarding the 7 Mile & Warrington Cleaners and the zoning guidelines regarding the agreement to create an entrance from 7 Mile and not Warrington and the maintenance of parking blocks to prevent people from jumping the curb.
- I. Meet & Greet/Social Cultural/Special Projects: New Board member Richard Carson is enthusiastic about growing the annual neighborhood musical event and the annual membership meeting.
- J. Parks & Reforestation. John Corvino shared his enthusiasm about the reforestation and beautification of the neighborhood. He was exploring a variety of sources for a tree-planting project including The Greening of Detroit. Removal of dead Ash trees and reforestation efforts will be a priority.

## VI. New Business

- A. Kim Tandy reported on new efforts to promote the Livernois business district including "Home for the Holidays" special award program to promote the retail community. There will be a Window Decoration Competition, activities for children and special discounts for shoppers on December 16, 2006. She also described many exciting projects that are part of University Commons' plans to revitalize the commercial shopping district.
- B. New efforts to promote patrol membership were discussed. Scott Wilson and John Corvino volunteered to work with Michele Davis to promote the patrol.
- C. Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ). Sherwood Forest is one of a few neighborhoods selected to be part of the new NEZ project. Gail Rodwan reported on the information shared at the first meeting with the City. The program developed to maintain and grow the City residential tax base is expected to

provide improvements specific to each community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Baum, Secretary