



TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

APRIL 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

ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8

The annual meeting of the Sherwood Forest Association will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at All Saints Church, West Seven Mile Road. We will hear from Sherwood Forest's own Kim Tandy, who is working with University Commons and the City of Detroit to implement the Next Detroit Initiative. Turning its focus to neighborhoods, the City has selected just six communities throughout Detroit for inclusion in the Next Detroit Initiative. One of those communities is a cluster of neighborhoods around Seven Mile Road, and it includes Sherwood Forest. Kim will update us on this project and the potential for improvements on Livernois and in the neighborhoods. Additionally, representatives of the Ombudsman's Office will be present to explain how this office can be a resource for us and to take our questions and complaints. You will find a complaint form at the end of the electronic version of this *Tattler*.

Your Board of Directors has a lot of big plans for 2007-2008. Please come and hear all about them.

This is the schedule for the May 8 meeting:

6:30 p.m. – Potluck supper. Bring a hot dish, a salad, dessert or bread for 8-10 people. Everything else will be provided.

7:30 p.m. – Business meeting and welcoming of new residents. Special guest speakers.

9:00 p.m. – Meeting ends

I hope to see many of you at the potluck supper and at the business meeting. This is our annual opportunity for everyone in the neighborhood to celebrate a meal together and talk about issues of mutual concern. Please make attendance on May 8 a priority.

Lois E. Primas
President, Sherwood Forest Association

FORMER RESIDENTS SHARE REMEMBRANCES OF LIFE IN SHERWOOD FOREST

In the February *Tattler*, we published an article from the Pasteur School Alumni Association, a group made up of former Pasteur students, many of whom lived in Sherwood Forest at the time, as well as friends of the school. All Sherwood Forest residents were invited to become a part of this organization, by volunteering to go to the school and read to the students or by supporting the group financially. The Pasteur School Alumni Association has a newsletter, and in a recent edition the editor urged its readers to take a look at our webpage at www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org. Many did, and some then wrote from other states as well as from Michigan to tell us how much they like our webpage and how much they loved growing up in Sherwood Forest. We reprint below the letters of Lillian Davis Shaye, who has now retired to Florida, and two of her children, Jo-Anne Shaye Dobrick and Richard Shaye. The Shaye family bought the home at 19563 Canterbury in 1950, and they lived there until 1976. Here are their remembrances:

RE: 19563 Canterbury Road
Sherwood Forest
Detroit, Michigan

THE MEMORIES OF LILLIAN DAVIS SHAYE:

Sanford Adler built the home on Canterbury for his family--he was a builder, but he could not afford to move into the house. He sold the property to Tillie and Louie Davidson--they owned the Federal Department Stores with their brothers and families.

I pursued Tillie to sell us their house--their children were all gone and they spent a good deal of time in Florida. Before we acquired the house we made a visit for an inspection to see if we really would buy the house. We were received by the Davidsons--Tillie and Louie, and they were seated in the conservatory, a wonderful glass environment filled with plants. During this visit, it was cold outdoors and walking in to see the greenery with snow falling on the slanted glass roof was such a delight to our senses. I asked my husband, I called him "Natey," if we could afford to buy the house on Canterbury Road. He assured me we could very well afford to buy the house. At that time, 1950, homes sold for between 6-8 thousand dollars--our new home was going to cost 75,000 dollars. Wow!! Lillian and Nathan Shaye were the third owners of 19563 Canterbury. We moved into the house with our children Marc (age 9), Jo-Anne (age 6), and Richard (age 1) in 1951. What a delightful feeling it was for Natey and me.

The house became our home --filled with the love we had for each other and our children. I think our home was so beautifully decorated and I worked hard to achieve both an elegant environment and a setting we all enjoyed during family and festive times. The delight I felt was in my heart and in these surroundings. The center hall was a welcoming place, and the rooms flowed so well from the living room and dining room with its backdrop to the conservatory. Our kitchen was large and had the best of equipment for its time. Our breakfast nook was cheery and bright and always inviting for our family and friends. A special drawer held wonderful chocolates that Natey enjoyed. Every spring we moved furniture from storage to the screened porch and lived so well having our barbecues and regular meals. The back yard was small and just large enough to hold a miniature riding train that Natey brought the children. Our times together, whether

during our meals or in the billiard room or the play room for the children, were memorable. We had a recreation room with a beautiful fireplace, long professional bar and leather-covered walls. Natey and I enjoyed collecting art from around the world and we had a wine cellar. I forgot to mention our den/library on the main floor. The children loved to see their father nap on the sofa. When he got up to leave the room they all scrambled to gather the change that fell out of his pockets behind the sofa cushions. We had a photo/dark room with all kinds of equipment and our pantry was well stocked from food brought home from Grosse Pointe Quality Foods, where my husband was president.

Our second level in the house had four bedrooms and three bathrooms--and another suite over the three-car garage. A second staircase led to the suite and the playroom. The children's rooms were special havens for study and dreams. My son Marc had a wonderful mural on his wall depicting the historical figures on a map of the United States. One night at dinner Natey asked a series of questions of him about all the famous historical figures. After Marc answered each question his father posed, Natey announced it was time to redecorate his room. One rainy day the electric door was lowered by my son Richard on an unsuspecting friend who thought the opening garage door was a welcome sign during a fierce thunderstorm. Jo-Anne has written of her experiences and the love she had for the home and her room. I need not add to that. We had neighbors who were life long friends and it was rare we locked our doors. Although one day I saw some burglars leave a neighbor's house across the street and I began to chase them on one of the bikes we had. Not such a good idea as I thought about it afterwards.

Our children married out of the home. Sadly, I lost Natey at a very young age. The home was empty and lonely in 1973 with everyone gone. I sold the home in 1976. Through the years there was happiness and sadness, but we had the best of all worlds living at 19563 Canterbury Road.

* * * *

Hello,

My name is Jo-Anne Shaye Dobrick. We moved into the house on Canterbury a few months before my 5th birthday. I lived in that house until I moved to Chicago a few months before my 21st birthday. I still have dreams about the house, or should I say dreams that

take place in that house.

My room was very special to me. It was my world. At the time I had no idea how large it was or how many amenities it had. The room had built-in drawers from floor to ceiling on one wall, with a huge cupboard for all my stuffed animals on top. One wall was all mirrors. Behind the mirrors was the closet.

The best part of my room was my bathroom. It was a real 1920's bathroom with a built-in vanity. The tiles were pink and blue and it had a built-in heater that kept the bathroom nice and warm during baths.

The house was really wonderful. Off the living room there was a beautiful greenhouse that had brass frogs that spit water, to water the plants. There was a screened-in porch attached to the dining room. Every spring the porch furniture came out and we had dinner on the porch during the nice weather. I remember the basement, but after seeing many basements, I realized that this one was not in the same category as most. It had a wet bar that many restaurants would love to have. There was a dark room, a room that was a mini-grocery store, for packages and canned-goods only. It was a great house to play hide and seek. There were so many places to hide that the game could, and did, go on for hours. The house had three fireplaces and a laundry chute.

The neighborhood was beautiful. When I walked to school (Pasteur) every day the homes and gardens were pristine. Livernois was just a short walk away, and it had so many stores, restaurants, a bank, a bakery, a hardware store, drugstore, toy store, and a bookstore. It seemed everything anyone could ever want or need was on Livernois.

The neighborhood and world seemed so safe when I was a child. I often wonder what it is like today living in Sherwood Forest.

Jo-Anne Shaye Dobrick

* * * *

To the Residents of Sherwood Forest:

I was born in the house at 19653 Canterbury, and I probably know ever inch of it better than the builder or the architect ever could. I know all the hiding places and secret crannies that a little boy growing up playing

hide and seek could find, from the hidden area in the dark room to the hideaways in the attic. I remember playing with the garage doors and digging in the green house, having your brother and sister chase a 4-year-old up the front stairway and down the back.

I remember on a rainy day being bored and my Mom having a few friends over. Not knowing what to do, I decided I would play with the three-car electric garage door. A good friend of my Mom was coming down Berkeley and saw the door go up, she thought for her. "What a good friend helping me get out of the rain," she thought. She drove in just as I was pushing the button to have the door go down again. Her car was not the only thing that went crunch that day. I had a hard time sitting for a little while. I believe the person who invented the safety electric eye on today's doors had a kid like me in mind. I still laugh today thinking about it, and I get a tingle in my sore bottom almost 50 years later.

About 10-15 years ago, I owned a business. I had a new employee fill out a W4 IRS form. It appeared to say, "19563 Shrewselbury" in flowering script. I said, "I know Shrewsbury and I know Canterbury, but I don't know this street." She said it was actually Canterbury. I asked her if it was on the corner of Canterbury and Chesterfield? She said yes. I asked was it a yellow brick house? Yes, again. Did it have a 3-car garage on Chesterfield? Affirmative nod again. Is there a porch over the back door that leads into the kitchen? More surprised nods. Is your bedroom above the kitchen? She said, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? I said, I know that because that was my room!

Sherwood Forest and 19563 Canterbury are jewels that show the greatness of Detroit. It is nice to hear that families today are loving it just as much as we did for so many years. I look forward to hearing more about the neighborhood. Thanks for your interest.

Richard Shaye

NOTE: In case you missed it in the February *Tattler*, we are reprinting below the article calling for Pasteur School volunteers. Can you spare just a few hours a month to make a real difference in the lives of Pasteur children?

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
(248) 399-6446 home

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

We are happy to report that the breakings and enterings that plagued us in January and early February appear to have subsided. Our thanks to the Western District Precinct for addressing our concerns so effectively and for providing us with the following crime statistics for the period from February 8 through March 8:

- 2-6-07 – a home invasion on Warrington (a breaking and entering when no one home)
- 2-9-07 – an arrest following a 1-27-07 armed robbery and UDAA (unlawful driving away of an auto) on Roslyn.
- 2-12-07 – UDAA on Parkside
- 2-13-07 – report of an open door on Stratford
- 2-19-07 – an arrest for possession of burglary tools on Parkside

2-21-07 – UDAA on Berkeley

Every one of these incidents is a matter of great concern. We certainly have no reason to feel complaisant. But we are demonstrating that being alert and watching out for one another pays dividends. As spring weather approaches, we must renew our efforts to keep Sherwood Forest safe. Here are two phone numbers to keep handy:

Western District Precinct General Number: 596-1200

Police Community Relations Office: 596 1221 (Call this number to report any suspicious behavior in the neighborhood, and be ready to provide license plate numbers where relevant. Also call this number to report abandoned cars.)

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Wendy Baxter has volunteered to organize a neighborhood-wide garage sale, to be held on Saturday June 16. At the end of the day, the Salvation Army will pick up anything that is not sold. All participants will be asked to pay a small fee, which will be used to place newspaper ads about the garage sale. If you are interested, please call Wendy Baxter at 862-2888.

KEEPING SHERWOOD FOREST BEAUTIFUL

It is no secret that the real estate market is suffering almost everywhere, and Sherwood Forest currently has several empty houses. Some are houses that have been foreclosed. Others are waiting for new owners, while the current owners have moved elsewhere. Unfortunately some of these empty homes are not being maintained, and that hurts all of us. The Sherwood Forest Association is in the process of trying to determine the true owner of every vacant home, so we can contact that individual or institution about maintenance. However, that is not always an easy task, and in the meantime, grass is starting to grow and a few properties are looking shabby. We need to act now, and self-help seems to be our best alternative.

When a group of Sherwood Forest residents met with Deputy Chief Marshall Lyons and Commander Craig Swartz at the Western District Precinct several weeks ago, one of the things they told us was that Sherwood Forest needs to maintain its vacant properties as a deterrent to crime.

Now that spring is here, our goal is to maintain the front lawn of every vacant house. If you live on a block that has a vacant house, would you maintain, or organize some of your neighbors to help you maintain, the lawn of that house, as well as pick up debris? If we work together, the job will not be too big for any one person, but it will make a real difference in the appearance of the neighborhood. Please call me at 863-0167 and let me know that you are willing to help. I am trying to find volunteers for every vacant house in Sherwood Forest.

Lois E. Primas

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

We count on generous neighbors to help us keep Sherwood Forest blooming throughout the spring and summer months. These neighbors donate plants and flowers, plant them around our Sherwood Forest signs and in Canterbury Park and our small pocket parks, and then water and weed their designated areas through the season. No one person's gardening project is too large but, together, these planting make a real contribution to the beauty of the neighborhood. If you can help out this year, please contact John Corvino, the chair of our Reforestation Committee. You can reach John at 861-0979 or at j.corvino@wayne.edu.

SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 12, 2007

Members Present: Lois Primas, Michele Davis, Catherine Mayberry, Richard Carson, Scott Wilson, Kim Tandy, Sue McMillan, John Corvino, Gail Rodwan

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Lois E. Primas at the home of Gail Rodwan. The January minutes were adopted as presented. The treasurer's report was adopted as presented. Treasurer Sue McMillan reported that current Sherwood Forest Association membership stands at 189, a decrease from last year at this time, and she has sent a reminder notice to non-subscribers.

The board voted unanimously to send a letter to DPW supporting Green Acres in their request that Chippewa

between Livernois and Warrington remain a one-way street. Gail will draft the letter for Lois's approval.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety: Richard Carson volunteered to be Sherwood Forest's representative at future Western District Community Relations meetings. The March meeting will be held at the precinct at 6:30 p.m. on March 8, and thereafter on the second Thursday of every month. Kim Tandy will also attend the March 8 meeting as a representative of University Commons. Richard will take to the meeting a list of recent crime incidents in the neighborhood.

Lois Primas reported that the Western District has invited the president of RCN Security Patrol to attend briefings at the precinct. Lois will follow up with Mr. Nicholson to make sure that he or his representative will attend all such meeting. Lois announced that Michele Davis and Scott Wilson will be working together on public safety and patrol membership issues. Lois asked Gail to be responsible for getting monthly crime statistics from the precinct.

Gail Rodwan reported on the January 30 meeting that a group of residents had with Deputy Chief Lyons and Commander Schwartz at the precinct (see February *Tattler* for details of that meeting). Gail also reported that we now have dues payments sufficient to meet our patrol expenses to the end of the fiscal year.

Various board members reported that two suspects in recent breakings and enterings were apprehended on Cambridge last week. We are seeking more information on this report.

Welcoming Committee: Catherine Mayberry reported that she delivered a welcoming tray to one new neighbor this month. The neighbor is Marla Summers of 19733 Shrewsbury.

May Membership Meeting: Richard Carson discussed various topics and guests being considered for the May meeting, tentatively scheduled for the second Tuesday in May. He plans to have a staff member from the Ombudsman's Office present at the meeting to take resident complaints about city services. We talked about inviting a member of the media to talk about public perceptions of our city and how the media and neighborhood groups can better work together to

publicize positive programs being put into place, such as Next Detroit and the various University Commons projects. Kim Tandy volunteered to talk about Next Detroit and its specific plans for our area. Richard will consider all of our suggestions and bring a May meeting program proposal to the next board meeting.

Events: Richard Carson reported that he would like for us to hold a social event that will encourage some of our newer residents to become better acquainted with their neighbors as well as with what is available on Livernois. One suggestion was an event at Baker's Keyboard Lounge featuring Sherwood Forest's own Penny Wells. Richard will look into this and report back at the March meeting.

Reforestation: John Corvino met with Lee Stevenson, the city's Director of General Services, and Brad Dick, Deputy Director, about removal of dead ash trees. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Dick reported that they hope to announce in early April a four-pronged plan for dealing with the ash bore infestation. The plan will include:

1. cutting dead ash trees, with Sherwood Forest being one of the pilot neighborhoods;
2. trimming healthy existing parkway trees;
3. reforesting the parkways;
4. developing maintenance programs in conjunction with neighborhoods deemed capable and interested in partnering with the city on maintenance efforts.

John reported that the city may work with Greening of Detroit in executing this reforestation plan.

Next Detroit / University Commons: Kim Tandy reported that a design charette will be held in the first half of March. A charette is a brainstorming session intended to address all issues surrounding a design

dilemma. This charette will address the development plan for Livernois from Six Mile to Eight Mile Road. Issues addressed will include the Livernois median, turnarounds, crosswalks, signage and lighting. Kim asked board members to fill out and return to her a survey on what we would like Livernois to be. This survey will be sent electronically to all the residents of Sherwood Forest for whom we have email addresses.

Kim reported that there will be several upcoming fundraising events for University Commons, including summer and holiday events on the Avenue of Fashion and a community golf outing in July. Kim said that University Commons needs many resident volunteers to work on various projects. She anticipates that Next Detroit's plans for our community will be announced in early April.

New Business: The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will conduct a hearing tomorrow on a request by Advance America Check Cashing to open a business at 17502 Livernois. The University District Association has requested our support in opposing this business, either by attending tomorrow's hearing or sending messages of opposition to the BZA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Rodwan
(acting in the absence of Marcia Baum)

Ombudsman's Office Form
Complaint In-Take

Return to: Office of Omsbudsman
Coleman A. Young Municipal Building
2 Woodward Ave., Suite 114
Detroit, MI 48226

Date:

Complaint No.

Complainant's name:

Address:

Telephone:

Name Withheld: Yes/No

Ombudsman Initiated: Yes/No

Complaint Location + Zip-Code:

Cross Streets:

Department:

Complaint Received As: Telephone/Letter/Walk-In

Complaint: