



TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

JUNE 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

SHERWOOD FOREST RESIDENTS INVITED TO JOIN WOODWARD AVENUE CELEBRATION ON AUGUST 19

Dear Sherwood Forest Residents:

My name is Norman Silk. I live in Palmer Woods and serve as a board member of the Woodward Avenue Action Association (WA3). This organization promotes the benefits, interests, and well being of Woodward Avenue. This is important to you because your neighborhood is dominated by this important byway. In celebration of Woodward Avenue's 200th birthday, the WA3 has organized an event, "HANDS ALONG WOODWARD". It will draw well-deserved attention to our 27 mile historic avenue. On August 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. (the day AFTER the dream cruise), we want thousands of people to join hands from the foot of Woodward Avenue to the Loop in Pontiac. What a symbol of unity this would represent. We invite everyone in Sherwood Forest to help us celebrate this milestone in Michigan history.

To achieve our goal, we need you to rally the support of your friends and neighbors. We could set records, or at the very least have fun!

Here is how it will work. Friends and neighbors will gather along the route and, at a specified time, briefly join hands to form a line from Downtown to Pontiac. No streets will be blocked; hands will symbolically reach across the streets. One side of the street will be designated, although both sides could be used if the turnout is great enough. The gesture of an extended hand, spreading goodwill and reaching out to the

community, will be further emphasized by the participation of the Gleaners Community Food Bank. A 30-day food drive for Oakland and Wayne Counties will begin at the Woodward 200 Kick-off on July 19th and will conclude with "HANDS ALONG WOODWARD." We encourage all participants to bring a can of food to the event. Gleaners Food Bank will provide pick-up sites along Woodward. The need is great and they do an excellent job. This could be the largest food drive ever!

I encourage your organization to participate. This one-time event could become a neighborhood get-together; maybe you will want to provide refreshments for your residents, or signs of support. There are many creative possibilities. Details and a sign-up page can be found on the WA3 website at www.Woodward200.com. The WA3 website will be updated on a continuing basis.

We look forward to joining hands with Sherwood Forest friends and neighbors on August 19.

Thank you,

Norm Silk

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

More than 100 residents attended the May 5 annual meeting of the Sherwood Forest Association at All Saints Church.

Thanks to all who contributed to the delicious potluck supper and especially to those who worked in the kitchen, including Catherine Mayberry, Carrie Simmons, Irma

Wise and Michele Davis. Thanks, too, to Richard Carson, who planned the program and secured and introduced the evening's speakers.

We first heard from City of Detroit Ombudsman Dorene Brown, who explained that the Ombudsman's Office is a valuable resource in solving problems and communicating with various city departments and agencies. While the office deals with a wide range of citizen concerns, more than 20% of the complaints it receives fall under the category of Health and Welfare, which includes vacant buildings. 80% of all complaints received are resolved.

The Ombudsman's Office is located in room #114 of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Buildings and the telephone number is 224-6000. You will *not* get a recording. Staff members answer their own telephones! A complaint form for the Ombudsman's Office was included with your April 2007 *Tattler*. Go to www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org and click on *Tattler*.

We also heard from Sherwood Forest Association board member Kim Tandy who is the Program Manager for University Commons, the nonprofit community organization that is working to implement the Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative in the Seven Mile-Livernois area. Anita Goff Foster from the Mayor's Office also spoke briefly about this initiative.

The Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative is a five-year strategy for rejuvenating Detroit's neighborhoods, with an emphasis on addressing basic quality of life issues such as cleanliness, safety and beautification through growth and development strategies. Philanthropic and nongovernmental agencies have joined with the city to fund the initiative in six targeted neighborhoods, one of which is actually a cluster of neighborhoods which includes Sherwood Forest. Critical issues identified for Sherwood Forest and its surrounding neighborhoods include trying to reduce taxes and insurance costs, strengthening crime prevention programs, improving schools and commercial retail. Kim addressed the need to make the Livernois commercial strip more responsive to the retail needs of its nearest neighbors, and she talked about current efforts to attract new businesses to Livernois.

Kim announced that on July 21 University Commons will sponsor an event called "Jazz on the Ave." Watch for further notices about this musical event for the

whole family.

John Corvino reported for the Reforestation Committee that the city will begin to removed dead ash trees from the parkway areas of Sherwood Forest sometime in June and replace them with new trees.

It was gratifying to see so many neighbors at the May 5 meeting. Please remember that I am eager to hearing your suggestions and concerns, and I am always looking for volunteers to share in the important work of keeping Sherwood Forest the community we want it to be. I encourage you to call me or any of the hardworking members of our Board of Directors.

Lois E. Primas
President, Sherwood Forest Association

KEEPING THE "FOREST" IN "SHERWOOD FOREST"

One of our neighborhood's greatest treasures is its collection of magnificent trees. In the summer they give us shade; in the winter they protect us from harsh winds; and all year round they improve air quality and provide a beautiful canopy that makes our neighborhood distinctive.

Unfortunately, we tend to take trees for granted until we lose them—as we did in the 1970s when Dutch Elm disease hit Detroit, and as we are doing again due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Sherwood Forest has dozens of ash trees in its curb strips, and all of them are terminally ill (i.e. they cannot be saved).

You may have noticed that Greenacres, our neighbor to the north, recently had its ash trees removed and replaced with a variety of new species. Sherwood Forest is next on the City's list. In the next two weeks, crews will be in the neighborhood to cut down and remove dying ash trees from curb strips as well as to trim the other curb trees for health and integrity. (Trees on residents' property are the responsibility of the individual residents.)

This removal will result in a dramatic change in appearance for some of our streets. If you ever visit "new construction" neighborhoods that have been clear-cut, you know how jarring it is to be in a neighborhood without trees, or with trees that are smaller than the houses (and sometimes the people!). Stratford, in

particular, will suffer a substantial loss of street trees.

Fortunately, this removal will be followed by replacement of trees this fall (probably in October). The City, in cooperation with Greening of Detroit, will plant a variety of different species, not only to replace missing ash trees but also to fill other bare spots in the curb strips. The City will contact residents prior to replanting, and we will keep you posted in *The Tattler* as well.

We urge residents to cooperate by accepting the trees this fall (they will be planted by volunteers) and watering them weekly during their crucial first year, so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy mature trees as we do.

Also, please consider planting trees in your own yard. Local nurseries are a good resource for information about species and care; some of them keep booths at the Eastern Market. There is also useful information on the web, for example:

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/e2925.pdf>

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4114_Tips_Planting_Containerized_Trees_193596_7.pdf

Let's work together so that Sherwood Forest never becomes Sherwood Prairie!

Sherwood Forest mourns the sudden passing of Dan Kurkowski, head of the City's Forestry Operations, who spoke at our annual meeting in 2006.

John Corvino
Chair, Reforestation Committee

VACANT HOMES

We want to update residents on what the Sherwood Forest Association has done to deal with the problem of vacant homes. We had a title search done on every vacant home in the neighborhood in order to identify the true owners. Many of the owners are lending institutions, not individuals. We are in the process of contacting the owners to encourage them to maintain the properties until they are sold.

At the same time, we are realistic enough to recognize that many of these vacant properties will not be

maintained unless *we* maintain them. We thank those neighbors who responded to our request in the last *Tattler* for help in keeping at least the front lawns cut through the summer months. There are a few properties that remain unattended. If you live near one of these vacant homes, please maintain the lawn or get a group of your neighbors to work together to do so. We know this should not be our job, but every vacant and unkempt home in Sherwood Forest hurts our entire neighborhood. Let's take the initiative to deal with what we hope will be a short-term problem. It is important that we not allow our high standards of maintenance to slip due to a few vacant homes.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PATROL DUES?

The new fiscal year for our private patrol service began on **June 1**. If you have not yet submitted your dues payment, please do so today. We need the participation of every one of our residents in order to keep our community secure. If you have questions about the status of your membership, call Gordon Rodwan at 342-5827 or email him at Rodwan@sbcglobal.net.

NOTE: In an effort to keep residents apprised of what the Board of Directors is doing on behalf of the neighborhood, we reprint below the minutes of the April 2007 board meeting:

**SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 9, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lois Primas, Kim Tandy, Walter Shapero, Susan McMillan, Scott Wilson, Robert Gold, Gail Rodwan, Catherine Mayberry, Richard Carson, Marcia Baum

I. Call to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Lois Primas at the home of Kim Tandy.

II. Reading/Distribution of the Minutes of March 12, 2007

It was moved by Walter Shapero and supported by Gail Rodwan that the minutes be approved as corrected.

III. Treasurer's Report.

Susan McMillan presented the monthly treasurer's report. The report was accepted as presented.

IV. President's Report.

- President Primas reported that two neighbors responded to the article in the *Tattler* regarding call for volunteers to help maintain abandoned homes.
- Robert Boyce contacted the Board requesting approval to replace an existing dilapidated wood fence with a wire fence. It was moved by Walter Shapero and supported by Bob Gold that the request be approved with the following considerations: cyclone type fence approximately no higher than 4 feet from the rear of the house to the rear property line and with the approval of Mr. Boyce's neighbor.
- President Primas reported that the owner of West York Cleaners called to apologize for not getting back to Walter Shapero and that they intend to upgrade the front of the building as requested by the SFA Board and outlined in Walter Shapero's correspondence.
- Board Membership update: Lois Primas distributed a list of Board members and their terms. She reminded Board members that they are required to be a member of the Patrol and Association.
- There are two Board members who retired from the Board this year. President Primas prepared certificates for Alfred Greene, Jr. and Ronald Kischuk to be presented at the Annual Membership meeting.
- There was a general discussion about the security patrol contract and services. Walter Shapero, President Primas and Scott Wilson will review the contract and report back to the Board.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Parks and Reforestation

- John Corvino submitted the following report: He reviewed a proposal from Shrubs-R-Us, which has done park maintenance in the past. John reviewed the proposal with Board member Scott Wilson. They compared Shrubs-R-Us rates with standard industry rates and report that they are extremely reasonable and recommend using Shrubs-R-Us, given our satisfaction with their previous work, for the 2007 season. The Board agreed and authorized expenditure of \$1,000 for spring clean up.
- Kim Tandy reported that University Commons plans to “adopt” the area around the big tree in the walkway at the foot of Chesterfield. Plans include removal of the damaged metal barrier.

B. Property Maintenance/City Services

- Walter reported that he completed title search on vacant homes in the Forest. Scott Wilson surveyed all vacant property and completed an inventory highlighting five properties that require immediate and significant attention.
- After much discussion, the Board agreed to:
 - Send a letter from the Association Board notifying the property owner, mortgagee and/or other interested parties that the property is not in compliance with the SFA property restrictions.
 - Create a special committee to review and address all aspects of the vacant home issue including communication with property owners and meetings with realtors.

VI. May Meeting Plans

The Board discussed logistics and program content. Kim Tandy, Program Manager for University Commons, will be the featured speaker. The City Ombudsman will provide overview of services and be available to discuss individual concerns.

VII. New Business

Sue McMillan reported that Detroit Crain’s Business would be repeating “Living in the D,” the event that profiled Detroit’s neighborhoods. Last year, Laura Rodwan’s home was featured. We need to identify a home to feature this year. The event will be held in the fall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Baum, Secretary

Mumford High School Mustangs Alumni Association



4th Annual Alumni Picnic & Scholarship Fundraiser

All Years (1953 to present)

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2007

10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

AT

MUMFORD HIGH SCHOOL

On the field behind the school

17525 Wyoming Ave

Detroit, MI 48221

Alcoholic Beverages NOT allowed on School Property

Alumni Tee-Shirts on Sale

\$12 (slightly higher for larger sizes)

Activities for Adults and Children

50/50 Raffle * Music

Bring your picnic spread and lawn chairs

For more information and/or to make scholarship donations:

E-mail: Mumfordhs_graduate@yahoo.com

Website: www.mumfordhsdetroitalumni.org

Call: (313) 494-7069 or (313) 673-2026

Carol Brooks & Gina Nunnally – 2007 Picnic Chairpersons

Hosted by the Mumford High School Alumni Association

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

P.O. Box 211188

Detroit, MI 48221-1188