



SHERWOOD
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 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

200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: HANDS ALONG WOODWARD ON AUGUST 19

In a gesture of unity and celebration on the occasion of Woodward Avenue's 200th birthday, Sherwood Forest residents are invited to be a part of a human chain that will stretch from the foot of Woodward to the Pontiac Loop on Sunday, August 19 at 2:00. No streets will be blocked; hands will symbolically reach across streets.

Please bring a can of food with you. Gleaner's Food Bank will provide pick-up sites all along Woodward.

For more information about this event, go to www.Woodward200.com.

FROM THE EDITOR: THE LIVERNOIS MEDIAN

I attended a meeting at Gesu School on July 25. The purpose of the meeting was to give residents of Sherwood Forest and surrounding neighborhoods an opportunity to meet with representatives of the city and voice their concerns about the Livernois median. The meeting was chaired by Alfred Jordan, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works. Also present was DPW Chief Operating Officer Charles Beckham. The University Commons organization sponsored the meeting.

Here is what we learned from Mr. Jordan and Mr. Beckham:

- No city money was used to construct the medium. 80% was

federal money and 20% was state money. The state money came from gasoline and weight taxes.

- The city hopes that the median will help reduce the number of traffic accidents on Livernois and create a "pedestrian-friendly" area where residents will want to shop.
- Mr. Beckham conceded that a new shopping area slated for construction on a portion of State Fairgrounds land at Woodward south of Eight Mile Road may create challenges for the merchants on Livernois.
- Mr. Beckham also conceded that, "We didn't do it right" when planning and developing the Livernois median. In recognition of that fact, the plan to extend the median southward is now on hold.
- Mr. Jordan reported that certain inappropriate directional signs have been removed from the Livernois median in response to complaints from the neighborhoods.
- Mr. Jordan agreed that the median needs landscaping, and he predicted that next summer the median will look much better because the city is seeking grant

money for landscaping. However, there is no irrigation on the median, and that continues to be a problem.

- They city will add some new crosswalks and vehicle turn-arounds.
- The city does not consider removal of the median to be a viable option, at least not now.

The July 25 meeting was well-attended, and the attendees had a lot to say. I hope the representatives of the city were really listening when neighbors from Sherwood Forest and surrounding communities stated:

- We can't drive into our own neighborhoods.
- Parking is more difficult on Livernois now than it was before the median was built.
- We are wasting our time talking about landscaping when there is no water. Why not plant the entire median with low-maintenance ground cover?
- "I won't invest another penny on Livernois. You have killed the street." (This remark came from a very unhappy Livernois business owner.)

I left the meeting with the words, "You have killed the street" reverberating in my ears. I certainly hope that is not true. I was concerned, however, by the number of times questions from residents were met with responses like, "We are learning from our mistakes," "We are looking at that as we go along," "We are studying that," "Remember that this is a work in progress." The truth is that most of the problems with the median were entirely *foreseeable and foreseen* by residents who were told that this was "going to happen" and that the city did not want to turn away federal money.

Other neighbors who attended the meeting may have come away feeling more optimistic than I. If so, please send me your impressions, and I will be happy to print them in the next *Tattler*.

University Commons and Sherwood Forest's own Kim Tandy are working hard to assure that improvements are made on the median. Let's join with Kim to make sure we do more than just "tinker at the margins." There is so much work to be done.

WOODWARD-EIGHT MILE BRIDGE NEARS COMPLETION

This is the month for completion of the Woodward-Eight Mile bridge. As part of a seventeen million dollar makeover, the bridge has a new deck, a new road surface, upgraded guard rails and decorative lighting. Six 8 x 15 foot stainless steel art panels have been attached to the sides of the bridge featuring photographic scenes of Detroit area transportation through the decades, including trolley cars, an early view of the Ambassador Bridge and a shot of downtown Ferndale in the early 1960's. Five of these photos came from the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University, and one came from the archives of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). They are a wonderful addition to the corner of Woodward and Eight Mile.

NEIGHBORS IN TOUCH WITH NEIGHBORS

PASTEUR REUNION: On Sunday afternoon, October 7, celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Pasteur Elementary School Alumni Foundation and enjoy a reunion at the school with Pasteur teachers and friends. Pasteur is excited about its new principal, Sharon Lawson. You will have a chance to meet her on October 7. For more information about this event, go to: www.pasteuralumni.org.

GRANDMONT COMMUNITY ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR: The Grandmont Community Association is extending a special invitation to Sherwood Forest residents to attend its 33rd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Sunday, September 9, from 12:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Longacre Street between Grand River and Lyndon, two blocks east of the Southfield Expressway. The George Benson Quartet will play from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., and Lisa Cunningham and Seventh Heaven will play from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the Fair will be used for college scholarships.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, GO TO:

www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR CITY

The Detroit Historical Society is featuring three tours in September. You must register in advance by calling 313-833-7935, ext. 1 or visiting www.detroithistorical.org/thingstodo and click on "Behind the Scenes." Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for Historic Society members).

- **Lafayette Park Architectural Walking Tour** – September 15 from 11am-1pm.
- **Pewabic Pottery People Mover Tour** – September 22 from 11am-1pm. This tour will feature four People Mover stations as well as Comerica Park, National Theater, Guardian Building, St. Aloysius Church, Fort Street Presbyterian Church and the Detroit Athletic Club.
- **Elmwood Cemetery Civil War Tour** – September 29 from 11am-1pm. This is Detroit's oldest cemetery and was established in 1846. More than 200 Union soldiers are buried at Elmwood.

NEXT BULK PICKUP WILL BE ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Mark the date of our next scheduled bulk pickup: Friday, **September 9**. Remember that normal yard waste is picked up every week on our regularly scheduled Thursday trash collection day. Yard waste must be in biodegradable paper bags or personal garbage cans and must be placed at least six feet from the curbside container. Yard waste is not to be placed inside the curbsides. For a complete explanation of the city's trash collection program, go to the homepage of www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org.

SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS July 9, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lois Primas, Walter Shapero, Michele Davis, John Corvino, Susan McMillan, Kim Tandy, Scott Wilson, Valerie Leigh, Gail Rodwan, Robert Gold and Marcia Baum

- I. Call to order by President Lois Primas at the home of Marcia Baum.
- II. Reading/Distribution of the June 19, 2007 Special Meeting Minutes- Minutes accepted as presented.
- III. Treasurer's Report - Susan McMillan presented the monthly treasurer's report. She reminded those present that all Board members are required to be paid subscribers to the Sherwood Forest Association and the SFA Patrol. The report was approved as presented.
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. University Commons and 12th Precinct – Kim Tandy reported that the community meeting to discuss issues related to the new Livernois median was very successful. The list of issues will be submitted to the city and a second community meeting will be scheduled.

Kim Tandy also reported that Mike's Market will be replacing the Farmer Jack market that closed on the corner of Seven Mile and Livernois. The owner is working with Kim and community representatives to provide the kind of products that will be supported by the community. She is also working with the owner on the proposed signage.

- B. Real Estate/Community Representative – Valerie Leigh presented an inventory tracking SFA home sales activity including active, sold, withdrawn from the market, and those listings that have been extended or expired. The list doesn't include homes for sale by owner or bank-owned property.
- C. Property Maintenance/City Services – Gail Rodwan initiated a discussion regarding the status of landscaping on vacant properties. She reported that in many cases, neighbors are maintaining the property near their homes. In other cases, the property is left without lawn or grounds maintenance. Kim Tandy will check to see if there is a city program that addresses this problem. Walter Shapero commented that the SFA Property Restrictions address this issue. Currently, there are approximately 30 homes on this list. It was suggested that the SFA Board send a letter to the realtors and owners of record of these homes, asking that they comply with SFA Property Restrictions regarding property maintenance. Michele Davis volunteered to send out the letters using the draft prepared by Walter Shapero. Sue McMillan and Michele will conduct a visual inspection to determine which homes are currently in need of the communication.
- D. Public Safety/Patrol - Gail Rodwan reported that Gordon Rodwan is preparing a second Security Patrol membership dues notice. She distributed a July 9, 2007 membership status report.

Walter Shapero reported that he met with Scott Wilson to review proposals from RCN Security and three additional security companies. They presented a Security Patrol/Contract Bid Analysis Report for each company. Walter suggested that he and Scott meet with each company to further discuss the Association's security patrol needs with an operational representative. They will also check references. Representatives from each company will be invited to a Board meeting to be interviewed by the Board on August 6, 2007.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Baum, Secretary