



SHERWOOD  
FOREST  
ASSOCIATION

# TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2009

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## PRESIDENT'S YEAR-END REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Lois Primas began the tradition of writing a year-end report for each December *Tattler*, recapping the year's activities, successes and challenges. I would like to continue that tradition with this 2009 report.

I assumed the position of president of the Sherwood Forest Association last year at a time when we had too many homes in foreclosure, housing prices were severely depressed, and at least some neighbors were feeling overwhelmed by the economic crisis that gripped our city. As a neighborhood, we did not sit still in tough times. We rolled up our collective sleeves and found ways to preserve our unique community. Sherwood Forest is not problem-free, but we have accomplished much in the past year. I am grateful to each and every resident who has given time and talent to maintain and improve not just his or her own home, but all of Sherwood Forest.

Let me highlight just a few of our activities and accomplishments in 2009:

In March we held a special meeting at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct to begin to formulate a plan to enhance security and minimize the negative impact of vacant homes. Many good things came out of that meeting, including our "Strategic Action Plan for Unoccupied Homes in Sherwood Forest," which you can read on our website, [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org). Neighbors volunteered to be block captains and vacant home monitors. A home maintenance group

was formed. We made plans to resume our Meet and Greets.

As a direct result of that March meeting, two critically important networks were formed. Under the able leadership of Luther Bradley, we reestablished the block captain network. Block captains are making sure we have current information, including email addresses, for all of our residents, and residents now know that they have a neighbor on the block to whom they can turn with questions and concerns about any community-related issue. Thanks to many capable volunteers, a home monitor network also was formed. Every vacant home now has a neighbor assigned to keep an eye on that home, report any changes in its status, pick up debris, cut grass in summer, rake leaves in fall and shovel snow in winter. Being a house monitor is a big job, but our house monitors are making a tremendous difference.

Sherwood Forest's block captain and home monitor programs have been recognized in a *Detroit Free Press* article on vacant homes and in a recent National Public Radio program featuring Luther Bradley.

In April, the chair of our property maintenance committee, Gary Brown, spearheaded a spectacularly successful neighborhood cleanup day, where we cleaned up the yards at vacant homes throughout the neighborhood. At the end of that day, the neighborhood shone, and a tired group of volunteers gathered at the Brown home to eat hotdogs and celebrate our good work.

In May, we had our annual potluck supper and business meeting at All Saints Church. That meeting was special because it gave us the opportunity to meet several new residents who had just moved, or were in the process of moving, into the neighborhood. That night we saw the beginning of a trend which has continued throughout the year: Enthusiastic homebuyers are choosing Sherwood Forest and breathing new life into their wonderful homes. We extend the warmest welcome to all the new neighbors who moved into Sherwood Forest in 2009.

Thanks to our Social Committee chairperson, Dan Clarkson, we had two successful Meet and Greets this year. The first was in June at the beautiful Sherborne home of Deborah, Michael and Micah Hood. The second was in September at the wonderful Shrewsbury home and garden of Teresina and Cordell Ross. Everyone had a great time at both parties. Also in September, we participated in the Crain's Magazine "Living in the D" event, where representatives of Detroit neighborhoods open their homes to residents of other metropolitan Detroit communities who want to learn more about "living in the D." Dave Vanstone and Dan Clarkson graciously offered their home for the Crain's event.

In October, in direct response to feedback from you, we created what we hope will be a more user-friendly billing system for both the Sherwood Forest Association and the Gallagher's Security Patrol. Both organizations will now have the same fiscal year (June 1 to May 31), and when you receive your next bill in May of 2010, you will find more and easier payment options.

Also in October, the Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative's "Neighborhoods in Bloom" program awarded Sherwood Forest a grant of \$1,525 for cleanup and beautification of our passive parks and the entrances into the neighborhood. Because the City was not able to cut grass and rake leaves in our passive parks this fall, we were able to do fall cleanups in the parks ourselves with the aid of funds from this grant.

And finally, in working with University Commons, I have seen our neighborhood, in conjunction with several neighborhoods around us, take steps to revitalize the Livernois business district. Livernois now boasts *twelve* new retailers, including the Windmill

Market and a new restaurant in our community. If you have not shopped Livernois for awhile, I encourage you to see what we are accomplishing.

Perhaps you have not been involved in the work of our community in 2009. If that is the case, I urge you to volunteer for a committee or project in 2010. Join the board of directors, become a vacant home monitor or a block captain, or offer your home for one of our Meet and Greets. Your commitment has never been more important than it is today.

My best wishes to you for a happy holiday season and a healthy new year.

Kim Tandy  
President, Sherwood Forest Association

## **REINTRODUCE YOURSELF TO LIVERNOIS**

If you haven't shopped Livernois this season, it is not too late to discovery some of the new businesses that were not here last year at this time. We have attracted twelve new retailers to our commercial strip in 2009, including a new restaurant named in honor of Sherwood Forest.

Here is a listing of our new businesses:

**1917 American Bistro** (19416 Livernois, 313-863-1917). Sherwood Forest was platted as a neighborhood in 1917, and the owners of this restaurant chose its name to recognize our community. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, has a great Sunday brunch and is the place to stop on your way home from work for carry-out.

**Papa John's** (18472 Livernois)

**Sizta 2 Sizta Healthy Hair Care / Ary's Naturals** (19371 Livernois, 862-1441). This shop features handmade natural bath and body products, as well as massages, facials, pedicures and manicures.

**Heavenly Clothing Creations & Detailing** (19480 Livernois)

**Brenda's Momma's Beans & Greens** (18280 Livernois, 313-457-5762)

**J-Ruth Collections** (19114 Livernois, 313-638-9418)

**Teasers** (19355 Livernois, 313-638-44818)

**Shabach Bakery** (19126 Livernois, 313-341-7777)

**Fama Import-Export** (19363 Livernois, 313-864-7777)

**Foxy Den** (19359 Livernois)

**Cornell Frye Custom Tailor & Designer** (19456 Livernois, 313-289-2538)

**Windmill Market** (at the SW corner of Livernois and the Lodge Freeway). This open air market features fresh produce and flowers.

Livernois business owners host monthly Meet & Greets at different retail locations on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. They invite Sherwood Forest neighbors to come out and meet the retailers, enjoy food from one of our local restaurants and fellowship with our community. There is a new retail district directory that lists all of the businesses in our district, and it is updated twice a year.

The following are events that will take place on Livernois in 2010: June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>. Carnival at the Windmill Market; June 5<sup>th</sup>. Community Parade; August 7<sup>th</sup>. Jazz on the Ave; October Harvest Festival at Windmill Market; November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>. Festival of Wreaths and Holiday Celebration. For more information about these events or to get a copy of the retail district directory call 313-653-1121 or email Kim Tandy at [kimtandy@universitycommonsdetroit.org](mailto:kimtandy@universitycommonsdetroit.org).

By supporting our local business district, we strengthen our own residential community. Please take the time to rediscover Livernois.

### **STREET SNOW REMOVAL IN SHERWOOD FOREST**

Remember that your Sherwood Forest Association dues pay for street snow removal whenever there is a snowfall of four inches or more. Please do not leave

vehicles parked on the street when snow is anticipated. It is impossible to do effective curb-to-curb snow removal when there are vehicles parked on the street. We try to notify all email subscribers in advance once we know approximately when our snow removal contractor will be working in the neighborhood. Remember that the contractor will not remove snow from the end of your driveway after he clears your street. Please do not ask him to do so. The Sherwood Forest Association cannot pay for that service.

Thanks to all for cooperating during these winter months.

Marcia Baum  
Snow Removal Committee



### **GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBORS**

**Joe Jones** of Berkeley is our good neighbor for December. The neighbor who nominated him wrote the following:

“I nominate Mr. Joe Jones, a resident of Berkeley, for his unselfish and untiring activities which assist in keeping our neighborhood safe, secure and beautiful. Mr. Jones is always available to assist neighbors – he regularly parks his truck in the driveway of a vacant home to give the appearance that someone resides there.

He also loans his truck to neighbors who need to move large items (tables for cookouts, etc.) to and from their homes. He patrols the neighborhood – on foot – to keep watch on people who ride bikes or walk unattended through the neighborhood. Mr. Jones helps neighbors with home restoration and repair projects to keep the neighborhood in picture-perfect condition. It is not unusual to see him with ladder and tools in hand leaving

his home to help a neighbor who needs assistance with a home repair project. Because he is a general contractor, he has a wealth of knowledge about home improvement, and he is always able to recommend a competent and professional tradesperson to a Sherwood Forest neighbor. He is very involved with the neighbors on Berkeley and Sherbourne, and we are blessed to have him as a resident of Sherwood Forest.”

A big thank you to **Joe Jones** for doing so much to make Sherwood Forest a very special place.

If you would like to nominate a neighbor to be our next “Good Neighbor,” please send your information about that person to: [editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org).

### **CELEBRATING CATHERINE BLACKWELL**

It was a pleasure to read in the newspaper last week that the students at the Catherine C. Blackwell Institute were throwing a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Sherwood Forest’s own Catherine Blackwell. As an African and African-American specialist for the Detroit Public Schools, Catherine, who has traveled to Africa nearly 70 times, has touched the lives of thousands of children who have listened to her stories and viewed the cultural artifacts she has brought back to Detroit from 48 different African countries.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Catherine Blackwell from your many friends and admirers in Sherwood Forest.

### **AN EMPTY HOUSE IS AN OPPORTUNITY: SHERWOOD FOREST RESIDENT FEATURED ON NATIONAL NEWS DISCUSSION OF VACANT HOMES**

Luther Bradley, a resident of Stratford and the chairperson of our Block Captain Committee, was one of three featured participants in a discussion about vacant homes that was aired last month on the National Public Radio’s morning news program, “The Takeaway.” Luther joined community activists from Brooklyn and Atlanta in explaining what neighborhoods around the country are doing to combat the blight that often goes hand-in-hand with foreclosures. A short excerpt from Luther’s remarks is printed here, but you can hear the entire segment by going to:

<http://www.thetakeaway.org/media/player/mplayer.html?file=/xspf/2009/nov/13/hour1/&autoPlay=true>

“We have what we call our Sherwood Forest Association, and within Sherwood Forest I’m a block captain. We also have house monitors. We decided that we were going to take the vacant home problem into our own hands, and so we asked a person on each block to take a particular vacant house and make sure it is clean, the grass is cut, the leaves are raked and no one, like a squatter, is coming into that house. We do that from block to block, and we meet quarterly and talk about those things. We have said we are not going to let this thing fall apart because we really enjoy our neighborhood. We love our community, so we are actually doing something about the problem, and you would be amazed how many people say, “You know I like this, and I am going to help maintain my community.”

Thank you, Luther, for representing Sherwood Forest so well on NPR, and thank you to all the block captains and house monitors whose community spirit and hard work have made Sherwood Forest newsworthy.

### **AN INVITATION FROM THE PALMER WOODS ASSOCIATION**

The Palmer Woods Association is again sponsoring its “Music in Homes” concert series, and it extends a special invitation to Sherwood Forest neighbors to attend some or all of its concerts. The first concert, featuring Thornetta Davis, will be held on December 26. It will be followed by eight additional concerts through the winter and spring of 2010, ending with a three-concert Jazz in the Woods series in June. To see the entire schedule, or to purchase tickets, go to [www.palmerwoods.org](http://www.palmerwoods.org).

### **CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION NOTICE FROM THE CITY**

Sherwood Forest residents who want to put Christmas trees out for collection may do so on our regular Thursday trash collection days of January 7 and 14. Place your tree at least 6 feet away from your Courville container no earlier than 24 hours before our scheduled pickup. The DPW **will not** collect debris that is placed in plastic bags.

**DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SEEKS OUR HELP IN REMOVING  
ILLEGALLY POSTED SIGNS**

The Detroit Police Department is seeking the assistance of neighborhoods across the city in removing signs and advertisements posted on public utility poles without the consent of the City.

If you can volunteer to work on this project or if you have information about illegal sign-posting, call Police Community Services at 313-596-2520.

The Department, with the help of volunteers, removed more than 2,700 illegal signs in October and November alone!

**ASSOCIATION DUES ARE OVERDUE**

Our shortened fiscal year for the Sherwood Forest Association began on **October 1**, but some residents have not yet paid their reduced dues of \$35. We can provide services like street snow removal only with strong financial support from you. If you have not paid your 2009-2010 dues, please do so today. If you are uncertain about the status of your membership, call our treasurer, Sue McMillan, at 313-862-6366.



**SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**October 12, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gail Rodwan, Kim Tandy, Gary Brown, Susan McMillan, Robert Gold, Catherine Mayberry, Dan Clarkston, Scott Wilson, Luther Bradley and Marcia Baum

Call to Order at 7:48 p.m. by President Tandy at the home of Kim Tandy.

II. Reading / Distribution of the Minutes of September 14, 2009. It was moved by Susan McMillan and supported by Luther Bradley that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report. Sue McMillan presented the Treasurer's Report. Sue reported that, as approved at the September board meeting, a statement for SFA membership dues was sent out at the beginning of October. The statement covers the period from October 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. This will align the Patrol and Association fiscal years so that the fiscal years of both organizations run from June 1 to May 31. It was moved by Robert Gold and supported by Dan Clarkston that the report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

IV. President's Report/Correspondence

President's Report:

- President Tandy reported that there will be a meeting regarding the future of the State Fair and the State Fair grounds. She will report on the issues discussed at the next SFA board meeting
- The president reported that a proposed emergency ordinance will prohibit dispensing of fuel into portable containers during the 2009 Halloween season from October 27 to October 31.
- President Tandy announced that SFA submitted an application to the Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative, Neighborhoods in Bloom program and was awarded a mini grant of \$1,525. The funds will be used for beautification of our passive parks and entries into Sherwood Forest. The Greening of Detroit will be supplying bulbs for the project.
- The president acknowledged the hard work of neighbors who have adopted and maintained areas around many of the SFA entry signs. Robert Gold reported that his family worked to clean up and plant a tree and perennials in the passive park at Warrington and Chesterfield.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Vacant Home Committee Board members, Luther Bradley and Dan Clarkston, were interviewed by a reporter from the Detroit Free Press about the SFA Vacant Home Monitor program. The Monitors continue their work. Board members agreed that the VHM program has had a noticeable and significant impact on the well being and appearance of our community.

B. Communication/Tattler Gail Rodwan is preparing the October *Tattler* and asked that board submit articles within the next few days. She will be including information about the city of Detroit's guidelines for the Halloween holiday celebration along with the SFA Trick or Treat hours.

C. New Residents/Welcoming Catherine Mayberry reported that she delivered welcome trays of home baked treats along with SFA literature to new home owners on Shrewsbury, Berkeley and Kingston.

D. Public Safety The board continued the discussion about the proposal for aligning the Patrol and Association fiscal years, including a proposal to change the way residents pay Patrol and Association dues. In addition to combining Patrol and Association dues notices, the plan will send payment requests via email to as many residents as possible, and will send paper to remaining residents. It will also provide for Paypal, electronic, payments, and allow for more payment options if using Paypal. The proposal highlighted both financial and administrative advantages. The board agreed to proceed with the proposal for the June 1, 2010 fiscal year. Scott

Wilson reported that the SFA contract with Gallagher Security Services is up for renewal. He will meet with Gallagher management to discuss future options, sharing related contract documents with legal advisor Walter Shapero, and report details at the November board meeting. Scott also reported that he will be stepping down as Public Safety Committee chair. President Tandy and board members thanked Scott for his years of commitment to the public safety of our community and his leadership. Board member Lois Primas will assume the position of patrol resident manager after Scott steps down from his position.

- E. Street Snow Removal Marcia Baum reported that she will contact B & L Landscaping, the company that has provided street snow removal for our community in the past. She will share the 2009 – 2010 contract and related insurance documents with legal advisor Walter Shapero and report back to the board at the November meeting.
- F. Meet and Greet/Social Cultural Dan Clarkston reported that he has begun plans for 2010 events. Neighbors interested in hosting a Meet and Greet should contact Dan.
- G. Block Captains Luther Bradley, block club chair, reported that the committee is made up of 28 block captains. His goal is to recruit representation from every block in our neighborhood. He is close to completing this goal. He is planning a recognition and thank you event. Board members thanked Luther for a job very well done.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Baum, Secretary