



SHERWOOD  
FOREST  
ASSOCIATION

# TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

## Happy Holidays

DECEMBER 2010

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

When I reported to you last year at this time, our neighborhood, like so many others around the nation, was struggling with the issue of home foreclosures and vacant properties. The struggle is by no means over, but in the past year we have pulled together to maintain our community and deal directly with the home foreclosure problem. Special thanks go to the members of the Vacant Homes Committee, whose members have mowed lawns, raked leaves, shoveled snow, and generally maintained our vacant homes so that prospective home buyers will be attracted to Sherwood Forest, which remains one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city. Special thanks also go to Community Legal Resources, Inc., which awarded us a small grant to help maintain our vacant properties.

The efforts of our Vacant Homes Monitors are beginning to pay off. Several homes have been purchased in recent months and are in the process of being renovated by caring new neighbors who are eager to become active participants in the life of our community. To those of you who have become residents of Sherwood Forest in the last year, a warm welcome!

While home prices are still low, and a few homes are still waiting to be purchased, we definitely feel that we are moving in the right direction.

Let me highlight just a few of our activities and accomplishments in 2010:

On February 10, we experienced the biggest snowstorm of the year. Our private snow removal service, operating under the capable leadership of Marcia Baum, was clearing our streets within hours of the big storm. Throughout the winter, we received compliments from neighbors about the efficiency of our snow removal service.

On May 11, the annual meeting of the Sherwood Forest Association was held at All Saints Church. More than 100 people gathered for a potluck supper, followed by a discussion with Sherwood Forest resident and Detroit City Council President Pro Tem Gary Brown about some of the financial challenges facing our city and how neighborhoods such as ours can play a major role in the revitalization of the entire city.

On June 1, we began a new fiscal year for both the Sherwood Forest Association and the Security Patrol Service, with more dues payment options and a new sense of vitality for our patrol, thanks in large part to the

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Allen Lewis  
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Patrol Manager  
863-0167

assignment of new drivers in our community by Gallagher Security Services. Our current roster of drivers is the best we have ever had, and neighbors apparently are taking notice because patrol membership has increased markedly this year. In fact, membership increased enough that by fall we were able to add two extra hours of patrol coverage *every day of the week*.

On July 10, we held another highly successful Meet and Greet, this one at the beautiful home of Sherri and Gary Brown. Our summer Meet and Greets are a highlight of the season, and we thank the Browns for opening their home and garden to their Sherwood Forest neighbors this year.

On October 11, we held an all-community meeting at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The primary purpose of this meeting was to address the issue of public safety in Sherwood Forest and talk about what we as residents can do to prevent / reduce crime and forge a closer relationship with the officers in our precinct. We met key members of the precinct, including Commander Linda Peltier, and learned about what the police are doing to increase security in Sherwood Forest.

On October 23, we had a neighborhood fall cleanup, focusing on small parks and some of our vacant properties. Property Maintenance Committee Chairman Al Lewis has announced that another cleanup will be held in the spring.

And, finally, I continue to work with University Commons, which, in conjunction with Sherwood Forest and several surrounding neighborhoods, is taking steps to revitalize the Livernois business district. If you have not shopped Livernois for awhile, I encourage you to see what we are accomplishing.

Your board of directors is in the middle of a campaign to encourage new residents, as well as longtime residents who have not been involved in the work of our community, to make 2011 the year to become a neighborhood volunteer. We have vacancies on the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association, and several residents who have served on the board for decades would like to retire. Please consider joining our board, volunteering for a committee or a special project, becoming a block captain or a vacant home monitor, or offering your home for one of our 2011 Meet and Greets. There is an opportunity for every interest and talent, and you will enjoy working with

your friends and neighbors. Your commitment of just a few hours each month has never been more important than it is today.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Kim Tandy  
President, Sherwood Forest Association

### **OUR COOPERATION IS REQUESTED FOR A UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT-MERCY CRIME STUDY**

Sherwood Forest is fortunate to be one of the neighborhoods selected for a crime study that is being conducted at University of Detroit-Mercy, the results of which are expected to lead to new crime-fighting procedures in the neighborhood and at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct. However, this study will provide tangible results for us only if we provide the data. That means that every time a criminal incident occurs in the neighborhood, even if it seems inconsequential, we need to send the information to U of D using the form on our website <http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org/Incident%20Report.htm>. If you absolutely cannot fill out the form, send an email about the incident to [rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodwan@sbcglobal.net), so we can submit the information for you, or send a security report directly to Professor Eric Barnes of U of D-Mercy at [ebarnes@udmercy.edu](mailto:ebarnes@udmercy.edu).

### **KNOW YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN**

Here is a list of the Sherwood Forest block captains. Make sure you know who your block captain is so you can contact that person if you have questions or concerns about happenings in the neighborhood. You will see from the list below that we still need a few block captains. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at [lutherbradley@gmail.com](mailto:lutherbradley@gmail.com).

Luther Bradley  
Chair, Block Captains Committee

# BLOCK CAPTAINS

12/6/10

## Berkeley

|   |                           |                  |                |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 7 Mile to Sherbourne      | Joe Jones        | 19150 Berkeley |
| 2 | Sherbourne to Cambridge   | Art Merriweather | 19255 Berkeley |
| 3 | Cambridge to Chesterfield | Don Josaitis     | 19305 Berkeley |

## Cambridge

|   |                        |               |                |
|---|------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 4 | Parkside to end        | Clyde Gray    | 2850 Cambridge |
| 5 | Canterbury to Parkside | Skip Rosemond | 3230 Cambridge |
| 6 | Berkeley to Canterbury | Skip Rosemond | 3230 Cambridge |

## Canterbury

|    |                             |                 |                  |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 7  | 7 Mile to Cambridge         | Sharon Rhodes   | 19235 Canterbury |
| 8  | Cambridge to Chesterfield   | Shirley Jackson | 19480 Canterbury |
| 9  | Chesterfield to St. Martins |                 |                  |
| 10 | St. Martins to Pembroke     |                 |                  |

## Chesterfield

|    |                        |                |                       |
|----|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 11 | Warrington to Pembroke | Robertha Brown | 19750 Chesterfield Rd |
|----|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|

## Kingston

|    |                         |              |                 |
|----|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 12 | 7 Mile to Sherbourne    | Sherri Brown | 3333 Sherbourne |
| 13 | Sherbourne to Cambridge | Sherri Brown | 3333 Sherbourne |

## Parkside

|    |                      |              |                |
|----|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 14 | 7 Mile to Cambridge  | Bobbie Riley | 19245 Parkside |
| 15 | Cambridge to Renfrew | Herbert Hill | 19469 Parkside |

## Renfrew

|    |                        |               |               |
|----|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 16 | Cambridge to Roslyn Pl |               | 19510 Renfrew |
| 17 | Roslyn Pl to Pembroke  | Lisa Williams | 19645 Renfrew |

## Roslyn

|    |                           |                |              |
|----|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 18 | Stratford to Chesterfield | Herb Dipple    | 19515 Roslyn |
| 19 | Chesterfield to Pembroke  | Judith Jackson | 19677 Roslyn |

## Sherbourne

|    |                        |              |                 |
|----|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 20 | Kingston to Canterbury |              | 19100 Parkside  |
| 21 | Berkeley to Kingston   | Sherri Brown | 3333 Sherbourne |
| 22 | Warrington to Berkeley | Kathy Vinson | 3440 Sherbourne |

## Shrewsbury

|    |                           |               |                  |
|----|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 23 | Stratford to Chesterfield | Cleo Maxie    | 19460 Shrewsbury |
| 23 | Stratford to Chesterfield | Teresina Ross | 19530 Shrewsbury |
| 24 | Chesterfield to Pembroke  | Laura Rodwan  | 19484 Shrewsbury |

## Stratford

|    |                        |                  |                 |
|----|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 25 | Cambridge to Roslyn Pl | Evelyn Sims      | 19444 Stratford |
| 26 | Roslyn Pl to Pembroke  | Woodrow McCarthy | 19490 Stratford |

## Warrington

|    |                            |                 |                  |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 27 | 7 Mile to Cambridge        | Larry Dickens   | 19207 Warrington |
| 28 | Cambridge to Chesterfield  | Ernest Thompson | 19316 Warrington |
| 29 | Chesterfield to St Martins | Aaron Maddox    | 19451 Warrington |
| 30 | St Martins to Pembroke     | Karen White     | 19735 Warrington |

## PATROL REPORT

Thanks to the excellent support of the community, we have been able to increase patrol coverage in Sherwood Forest by two hours per day. That means that the patrol car is on our streets 14 hours longer per week than it was just a few weeks ago. For obvious reasons, we do not publish the security patrol schedule, but an additional 14 hours per week will increase safety for everyone in our neighborhood, even residents who have chosen NOT to support the patrol financially. If that includes you, please reconsider, and go to our web site <http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org/Join.htm> for information on rates and how to pay by check or PayPal.

If you are uncertain about the status of your membership, contact Gordon Rodwan at [rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodwan@sbcglobal.net).

We have never gotten the number of positive comments about the patrol drivers that we are getting right now about Dee and Mattie, our regular Gallagher drivers. Both are highly skilled and conscientious, and we are lucky to have them working in Sherwood Forest. They routinely get out of their cars and walk around houses. They are making a concerted effort to get to know all of our families, including children and pets. Residents who have not chosen to support the patrol in the past because they were “not convinced it was worth it,” really can’t use that excuse anymore. Our drivers are topnotch, and they are making a difference.

### GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBORS

Our Good Neighbor this month is **Kenneth Redditt**. Kenneth was nominated by Ernest Thompson, who wrote the following:

**Kenneth Redditt** has been a long time resident of Sherwood Forest. His parents, Dr. Jonathon and Annie Redditt, were educators in the Detroit Public School system, and Kenneth is a product of that system. His father has passed, and his mother continues to reside in the metropolitan area. Kenneth has parented two adult sons and remains in his parental home on Warrington Drive, where he has resided since 1970.

He enjoys working on his home, and playing the guitar and keyboard with various local bands. He is a kind and

unassuming gentleman, who has been willing to help make the quality of life what it should be in the “Forest.” Kenneth demonstrated that he was quick to assume responsibility for the repair of one of our Sherwood Forest signs, which recently was hit by a speeding car on Seven Mile Road. We thought the sign was ruined, but Kenneth stepped forward and volunteered to reconstruct it. It is people who care, like Kenneth, who keep Sherwood Forest such a desirable neighborhood.

Thank you, Kenneth, for being our Sherwood Forest “Good Neighbor” for the month of December.

If you would like to nominate someone to be our first “Good Neighbor,” of 2011, send information about that person to: [editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org).

### SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Criminals don’t take a vacation during the holiday season, which means that we must be particularly careful to protect ourselves and our homes. Here are some suggestions that have been sent to us by Detroit City Councilman James Tate:

- Make sure exterior doors have good locks. Dead-bolt locks should have a minimum one-inch throw.
- Make sure all porches, entrances and outside areas are well-lighted.
- Trim bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. Maintain your yard and keep ladders and tools inside when you are not using them.
- Don’t hide your key under the mat or in a flowerpot. Those are the first places burglars look! Give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- Don’t leave gifts or other tempting items near a window where a passer-by will be able to look inside your house and see them.
- If you must park your car outside your garage, don’t leave the garage door opener in the car.
- Consider installing an alarm system and asking the police to do a security survey of your home and yard.
- Survey your block, and be on the look-out for problems that affect your well-being and the wellbeing of your neighbors. These include abandoned cars, missing traffic signs, malfunctioning traffic lights, reckless drivers and

poor street lights. Report such problems to the appropriate authorities.

- Here are some additional suggestions for when you stop to buy gas:
- Pick stations that are well-lighted and have video surveillance cameras at the pumps.
- Keep your keys with you and lock the car doors when you are pumping gas.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle.
- Do not let your cell phone distract you.
- Pay attention to your surroundings, whether you are inside or outside your car.

### **STREET SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER / DOG WALKING**

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 expected. 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. Our contractor will not remove snow from the end of your driveway after he clears your street. That is a service that the Association does not pay for, and we want to remind residents not to ask the snow plow drivers to provide it.

An additional reminder to dog walkers: Cold weather is no excuse for not cleaning up after your dog. Unfortunately, we are receiving complaints that some of our neighborhood dog walkers are not carrying scoopers with them. Every responsible dog owner knows better, so please heed this gentle reminder if you are one of residents prompting these complaints.

Thanks to all for your cooperation during these winter months.

Marcia Baum  
Chair, Snow Removal Committee

### **YOGA IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Would you like to join a yoga group close to home? A group of neighbors, organized by University District resident Pat Harrington, is meeting on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at Gesu Parish Center.

Everyone is welcome, from beginners to experienced “yogees.” Pat describes this as “gentle or slow flow yoga . . . you do what you can and leave feeling refreshed and energized.” Wear loose clothing, bring a mat and \$5, and prepare for one hour of stretching that is designed to relax you. Drop-ins are welcome.

If you have questions, contact Pat Harrington at 313-864-9562 or [hoopingtonpatricia@gmail.com](mailto:hoopingtonpatricia@gmail.com).



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION  
NOVEMBER 8, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Tandy at 7:40 p.m. at the home of Sue McMillan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kim Tandy, Al Lewis, Dan Clarkson, Gail Rodwan, Luther Bradley, Catherine Mayberry, Sue McMillan

**GUESTS:** Lisa Williams, Lawrence Jackson, Jesse Hawkins, Alexzandria Hawkins, Carl Vaughn

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as presented.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Snow Removal** – Marcia Baum, who was absent from the meeting, sent a written report stating that she has contacted B&L Landscaping about the 2010-2011 snow removal season. The company is faxing her a contract this week, which she anticipates will not differ significantly from last year's contract. The board voted to authorize Marcia to sign the new contract if it is materially consistent with last year's contract. If it is not, she will consult with the board before signing.

**Public Safety / Communications** – Gail Rodwan reported that we are experiencing the theft of tires from cars parked in driveways or on the street. Jesse Hawkins stated that someone tried to steal tires from his vehicle, but was scared off by his dog. Lisa Williams stated that unlocked vehicles at and around her home were entered, and the words, "Eight Mile" were written on a van parked in front of her home.

A dog owned by a Sherwood Forest resident has attacked three smaller dogs, killing one. Police reports have been made. Kim Tandy will follow up with Commander Peltier at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct about this situation.

It was suggested that an article be placed in the December *Tattler* about the need to be particularly aware of suspicious people or vehicles during the holiday season.

Because of an increase in patrol membership, we are in a position to increase our patrol coverage by two hours per day. The board voted to authorize Lois Primas to arrange with Gallagher, the patrol provider, for increased coverage to begin as soon as possible.

There was a discussion of the need for neighbors to report crimes to the board and for the board to forward the information to the University of Detroit crime study project.

Gail Rodwan reported that there will be a December *Tattler*, and she asked that any articles be submitted not later than the first week in December.

**Property Maintenance** – Al Lewis reported that a small but dedicated group of neighbors participated in the October 23 fall cleanup. Another such event will be scheduled next spring.

**New Neighbors** – Catherine Mayberry reported that she took a welcoming packet to a new family on Roslyn and will follow up with a tray of baked goods. Lisa Williams is working with Catherine on this committee and will assume primary responsibility for baking and delivering treats to new residents.

**Block Captains** – Luther Bradley reported that he will be hosting a party for block captain in his home on December 3. He has re-contacted all the Block Captains, and there are just three blocks where we still need block captains. Proposed Block Captain initiatives for 2011 are:

1. To get from each block captain a commitment to serve for at least one year.
2. To use Block Captains to encourage residents to attend all Sherwood Forest meetings.
3. To assist Block Captains in planning an annual social event for their block.
4. To consult Block Captains as to ways to improve neighborhood security.
5. To encourage Block Captains to help collect association and patrol dues.

Luther volunteered to serve on a committee to investigate the feasibility of making Sherwood Forest a “gated community.” Eric Blount will also serve on that committee.

It was agreed that a list of all the Block Captains will be published in the December *Tattler*.

**Social Committee** -- Dan Clarkson reported that there are tentative plans for a holiday Meet and Greet. This needs to be confirmed.

**University Commons** – The storefront church at the corner of Seven Mile and Livernois has received numerous tickets in the past two months for using a loudspeaker on the exterior of the building for broadcasting its Sunday services. Ticketing has been ineffective.

Owners of a Community Center and Mosque at the site of the former Hunter’s Supper Club on Livernois are seeking a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals due to lack of adequate parking. There will be a public hearing on this matter November 16, and all residents will receive an email notice of the hearing. Kim Tandy urged that we oppose this variance and encourage as many residents as possible to attend the hearing.

The meeting ended with a discussion among board members and potential new board members of the various association committee assignments and the interests of potential new board members, whom we welcomed to join us in serving on the Association board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Rodwan  
(In the absence of secretary Marcia Baum)