



TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2008

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

Valerie Leigh
345-1826

Catherine Mayberry
862-6342

Walter Shapero
862-2779

Kim Tandy
341-8044

Scott Wilson
341-2490

Scott Wilson
Patrol Manager
341-2490

MORE TREES FOR SHERWOOD FOREST

Last fall, through a reforestation program sponsored jointly by the City of Detroit and the Greening of Detroit, our neighborhood received almost 100 new trees. Some residents were disappointed that they did not get trees or that all dead ash trees were not removed from their blocks.

We are happy to report that approximately 75 additional new trees are scheduled to be planted in Sherwood Forest on April 26. If that date changes, we will let you know. Sometime early in March, crews will be working to clear the remaining dead ash trees and do trimming and general tree maintenance work.

We feel fortunate to be one of the neighborhoods selected for inclusion in the city's tree replacement program. Residents with new trees will need to keep their trees well-watered during the spring and summer months if we are to remain a beautiful forest in years to come.

John Corvino
Reforestation Committee

TAX RELIEF

Remember that Sherwood Forest is a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ). That means that people living in Sherwood Forest who purchased their homes after January 1, 1997, are eligible for a property tax break of anywhere between 18-35% for a period of fifteen years. However, eligible residents

must first submit an application form and receive a certificate from the State of Michigan.

The City Assessor's Office mailed application forms to eligible residents last August. Some **10,500** homeowners in 25 neighborhoods around the city were eligible for a tax reduction, but only **2,100** applied. Residents who have yet to apply are still eligible. The process takes some work on the homeowner's part, but it is worth it.

For NEZ information, call the Assessment Division of the Detroit Finance Department at 313-628-0283 or call our Neighborhood City Hall at 313-628-2190. And remember that if you want to appeal your property tax assessment this year, your appeal must be made by **February 15, 2008**. Information on how to appeal was included with your property tax assessment.

CALL US FIRST! COMMUNITY FORUM

Online subscribers to the *Tattler* received a notice on February 1st of a series of community forums being held around the city under the sponsorship of the Ombudsman's Office. The purpose of these forums is to help city residents learn how to solve common problems concerning their health and wellbeing. The forum for our neighborhood will be held twice on Tuesday, February 19, at the Northwest Activities Center at 18100 Meyers. The first session will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and

the second from 5 to 7 p.m. Participating organizations will answer your questions about voting, fire safety, crime prevention, senior assistance, health screening, and much more. For more information, go to www.detroit.mi.gov and click on "Departments," then "Ombudsman."

THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT

Although our residents are involved in many important community organizations throughout Detroit, there are just two organizations that are devoted exclusively to the wellbeing of Sherwood Forest. They are the Sherwood Forest Association and the Sherwood Forest Patrol. These two organizations exist to keep our community safe and vibrant.

The Sherwood Forest Association assures that our streets are plowed in winter, our parks are planted in summer, our property restrictions are followed, our city services are provided, and our neighbors are afforded opportunities to get together to share concerns and have fun. All of this costs each household just \$50 a year. This fiscal year began on October 1, 2007, but the majority of our residents have not yet paid their \$50 dues, and we know that some residents will never pay. If you have somehow overlooked making your payment this year, it is not too late. Make today the day you send your check to the Sherwood Forest Association at 19494 Shrewsbury. If you have questions about your membership, call our treasurer, Sue McMillan, at 862-6366.

Our patrol service also needs your support, and it needs it now. We will not have enough money to keep the patrol running to the end of its fiscal year, which is May 31, 2008, unless we significantly increase membership. When residents expressed dissatisfaction with our prior security service, we responded by investigating several security providers and selecting Gallagher Security, Inc., a regional provider with more than 75 years of experience in the security field. Gallagher has been on the job in Sherwood Forest since late November, and we have received positive reports from you about the responsiveness and professionalism of Gallagher's drivers. However, those positive responses have not translated into an increase in membership, and this particularly concerns

us at a time when a significant number of empty houses are magnets for vandalism and other crime. We need the eyes and ears the Gallagher drivers to help keep us safe and our property, as well as temporarily vacant property, secure. For the special price of \$100, you can become a member of the patrol from now to the end of the current fiscal year. You will enjoy all the individual benefits of membership and contribute to keeping our entire neighborhood a safe place to live.

Go the www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org/patrol to print out a patrol membership form. For questions about the status of your membership, contact Gordon Rodwan at rodwan@sbcglobal.net.

TATTLER GOES ALL-ELECTRONIC

As we announced in last December's *Tattler*, we are in the process of phasing out the paper *Tattler*, which some of our residents have been receiving through the mail. Of the six *Tattlers* that will be published in 2008, three will be electronic only, and by the beginning of 2009, all *Tattlers* will be sent electronically. Like many other organizations, we have concluded that it does not make sense to pay printing and postage costs for a newsletter that can be more timely and include more information if produced electronically.

We realize that there are a few residents who do not have access to a computer, and we want to assure them that they can always pick up a paper edition of their *Tattler* at the home of the editor or, better still, arrange to have a friend in the neighborhood print out a copy for them. We also realize that there are a significant number of neighbors who have not provided us with email addresses, either through inadvertence or reluctance. We want to assure those who fall in the latter category that we do not share email addresses with ANYONE, including other neighbors, no matter how good the reason for requesting those addresses. We look forward to the day when every Sherwood Forest residents will receive this newsletter electronically.

Please note that this February edition is our first all-electronic *Tattler*.

REMINDER: BULK PICKUP DATES

We have three remaining bulk pickup dates for 2008:

Tuesday, April 1

Tuesday, July 1

Tuesday, September 30

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can read back-issues of the *Tattler* by going to www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org and clicking on the "Newsletter" button on the left side of the home page? You can also access the most up-to-date version of the This Old House list by clicking on the separate "This Old House" button.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Published below are the minutes of the January meeting of Sherwood Forest Association Board of Directors. As always, we welcome your comments on the work your board is doing on behalf of the neighborhood.

SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 14, 2008

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

Call to Order at 7:15 p.m. by President Lois Primas at the home of Ricardo Carson.

II. Reading / Distribution of the Minutes of December 10, 2007. Kim Tandy moved and supported by Valerie Leigh that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report. Sue McMillan presented the treasurer's report. Valerie Leigh moved and supported by Ricardo Carson that the report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

IV. President's Report and Correspondence:

A. Correspondence: President Primas read a thank you note from Catherine Mayberry who is recovering from a stroke. The Board sent Catherine Mayberry roses and prayers for a speedy recovery. It was moved by John Corvino and supported by Robert Gold that the Association reimburse Valerie Leigh.

B. President's Report:

1. President Primas reported that a neighbor on Renfrew contacted her regarding a problem of tampering with the contents of a U.S. mailbox.
2. It was moved by Kim Tandy and supported that the SFA monthly Board of Directors meetings return to a 7:30 p.m. start time. Motion passed.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Public Safety Committee:

Scott Wilson reported that:

- A mailer was sent to non-subscribers including a membership application for the new patrol service.
- The Patrol Service Officer will meet with our precinct Deputy Chief Hudson to establish a working relationship with the local precinct.
- Discussion will continue with five area neighbors to coordinate neighborhood security service.

Kim Tandy reported that:

- 30 on-foot patrol officers-in-training are patrolling the Livernois shopping district and that additional patrol cars are on duty patrolling up and down Warrington as they cover the Livernois commercial strip.

B. Snow Removal: Marcia Baum reported that the street snow removal contract with B & L Landscaping is in place including appropriate liability insurance documentation. There was one push last month for a snow fall of over 8".

She also reported:

C. Real Estate / Community Representative:

- Valerie Leigh distributed the January listing of the Sherwood Forest Acting, Pending Sale and Sold Residential Properties from the Multiple Listing.
- Valerie will be sending a communication to the realtors and all perspective homeowners outlining information about the SFA property restrictions, historic district guidelines and security patrol services.

- University Commons will be holding an Economic Forum on February 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- There are 14 new businesses on Livernois.
- Mike's Market is doing well. She encouraged everyone to visit the new market.
- 12th Precinct Neighborhood Coalition Vacant House Forum is scheduled for January 26, 2008.

D. Tattler: Gail Rodwan reported that she will publish a *Tattler* the second week of February.

There being no further business, it was moved by Richard Carson and supported by Robert Gold that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Motion passed.

E. Public Safety Committee: Gail Rodwan reported that membership in the Patrol Service is at a critical level. The Board discussed a variety of strategies to increase membership. Scott Wilson and Richard Carson will work with Gordon Rodwan to reach out to lapsed patrol members.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Baum,
Secretary

F. Meet & Greet. Social and Cultural: Richard Carson led a discussion on how to improve communication between neighbors and engage new and younger residents. Board members were asked to help identify neighbors who will host Meet and Greet gatherings. A spring Meet & Greet and "Spring Fling" were discussed.

G. Parks and Reforestation:

- John Corvino reported that he was contacted by Greening of Detroit who offered to return to the community to continue planting trees on the berms in the Forest.
- It was suggested that "Green's the Thing" might be a focus for the Spring May Neighborhood Meeting featuring a guest speaker discussing home energy efficiency.

H. Block Captains: Kim Tandy volunteered to work with the block captain program.