

THE TATTLER

Your Neighborhood Chronicle of Events

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Maurice Telesford
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Karen White
Parks and Reforestation
313-342-7152



The Sherwood Forest Association Board of Directors
wishes the families of our beloved community
peace, prosperity and continued good health throughout 2019
and the coming years

SFA Board President Offers 2019 Prognostications

By Phillip Caldwell, II

As we stand on the precipice of a new year, it is perfectly natural to wonder what we can expect in the approaching months. We all hope that the fragile hold most Americans have on relative peace will not weaken and that our ability to provide safe spaces for loved ones will remain a reality. With those positive images of the year firmly stamped

on our minds, let us take a look at what the very near future holds for those of us who reside in this special corner of the city.

Like most communities, Sherwood Forest is a dynamic array of possibilities anchored by the ebb and flow of families whose circumstances dictate the length of time we get to call them our neighbors. During the past year, some long time residents, people who added value to our community, saw changes in their lives that resulted in their decisions to relocate. The moves were an appropriate response to new realities. We wish them godspeed as they begin the next part of their journey and hope that those who replace them will share their commitment to our

community.

The reality of change is a consistent reminder of the never-ending need to examine our values with periodic assessment of our core values, those measurable reasons that caused us to choose this neighborhood. With that thought in mind, we welcome new neighbors to our beloved community and invite them to play an active role in maintaining the character of Sherwood Forest. We hope that all of our neighbors will join us in charting a course that will ensure the continued viability of this special enclave marrying new ideas about living together with those that have sustained Sherwood Forest for more than 100 years.

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

--- Margaret J. Wheatley



Technology Makes Information Readily Available But Hasn't Solved the Problem Of Falling Leaves

By Shirley Jackson

Most Sherwood Forest residents probably agree that while city services are not as robust as we might wish, they have certainly gotten better over the last four years. Examples are the ability to have bulk items collected; improved, if not perfect, street lighting; the assignment of neighborhood police officers whom neighbors can contact directly; the ability of neighborhoods to become special assessment districts with expanded support for snow removal, security and, in limited ways still being explored, mosquito control.

In spite of those improvements, though, the city still has not arrived at equitable solutions to problems that affect some communities disproportionately. Concerns about leaf collection and disposal come to mind. Specifically, neighborhoods like Sherwood Forest and others in this corner of the city, with their wealth of mature trees that produce tons of leaves are on the same schedule for collection as neighborhoods that have far fewer leaves with which to contend. Such scheduling may be efficient for city contractors but does little to satisfy the needs of residents whose trees can produce as many as 100 bags of leaves during the three to four heaviest weeks of defoliation. At issue how to rake, blow and bag that quantity of leaves so that they are

ready for collection by the city every two weeks and not have our streets constantly lined with untidy yard waste bags.

At the risk of offending a large segment of the community, I have determined that three camps seem to have emerged in our neighborhood:



Undeniably, an array of brightly-hewed fall leaves can be a delightful vision of beauty. However, after a day or two, when they've been transformed into messy clumps of non-descript brown detritus, they are an eyesore.

1. A group of neighbors that insists that leaves not be put at curbs until the day before collection is scheduled (This is, incidentally, the law).
2. A second group that struggles, for a variety of reasons, to get its leaves collected according to the current schedule, even though they agree with the ordinance. (I belong to this group)
3. A third (and alarmingly growing) group that may not care about the untidy look of a neighborhood with dead leaves all over its lawns, streets and sidewalks.

So, what can a neighborhood that prides itself on its reputation as a beacon of order, cleanliness, beauty and neighborliness do to remedy this dilemma? The simple solution

is for all of us to follow the law as it is written. This, however, will involve careful planning on our parts and should become the prescribed way of operating throughout the year as a way of honoring our responsibility to those who are our neighbors. None of us

is happy to pick up the leaves that accumulate on our lawns as well as those that blow on to our property from yards where the owners have abrogated their duty to clean up.

A Possible Way Forward

In a park-like community such as ours, with its tree-lined streets, the reality of busy or complex schedules (especially for families with young children or with aging and ill family members) can make the prospect of bagging leaves after work or on weekends seem like an odious challenge that is too abhorrent to contemplate or conquer. This is especially true given the timing forced upon us by city law and Detroit's burdensome collection schedule. Here are some reasonable steps homeowners can take to keep our neighborhood clean. My husband and I plan to follow these steps:

- **First, decide who will do the work.**
- **If your family performs this task, keep the collection schedule handy so that leaf bags are not at the curb until a day or so before collection.**
- **If you or family members are unable to perform this task yourselves, plan for how you can hire a contractor to collect your leaves.**
- **Hire or appoint the person or company who will be responsible for leaf collection **BEFORE** leaves start to fall. (Early September is a good time)**
- **Share the scheduled collection day as well as the city's rules regarding leaf collection with the person responsible for leaf gathering. Remind this individual that the expectation in this community is that leaves will **NOT** be placed at the curb until the day before collection. To do otherwise is a violation of the law.**
- **Remind your leaf collector to clean the curb in front of your home.**

Finally, it may be time for our neighborhood association to pursue ways to ensure leaf collection during off weeks recognizing that the vast majority of residents care deeply about the appearance of our community.

REMINDER:

Yard waste collection ended on Friday, December 14.

Neighbors should remove any bags still sitting at curbs.

Advance Disposal will not pick them up

Please log in to the Sherwood Forest Facebook page or monitor your email for SFA alerts concerning Advance Disposal's collection schedule

Sherwood Forest Wins Palmer Park Log Cabin's Christmas Decorating Competition

By Shirley Jackson

For the second consecutive year, People For Palmer Park (PFPP) hosted its Winterfest in and around the old log cabin near Lake Frances. This year's festival was well-attended and welcomed visitors from neighborhoods across the city, from communities that surround the park and those who live in suburban communities. Many remember visiting the log cabin as children. There were artisans on hand, carriage rides, cookies, hot chocolate and PFPP's second annual

H o l i d a y
d e c o r a t i n g
c o n t e s t.



Palmer log cabin in 1905

P F P P i n v i t e s
t e a m s f r o m
c o m m u n i t y
o r g a n i z a t i o n s
a n d
n e i g h b o r h o o d s
t o d e c o r a t e
a r e a s o f t h e
c a b i n u s i n g

themes and materials of their choice. Last year's first place winner was the team of Tiffany Franklin and Shirley Jackson representing the Sherwood Forest Community. The team returned this year and was again declared the winner.

Winterfest and other events hosted by PFPP call attention to the importance of Palmer Park to its adjacent communities and to the city as a whole. The non-profit's strong presence as a resource for culture and recreation was likely a factor in the long overdue decision to rebuild racquet facilities in the park, including the much used tennis courts.

As previously stated, People for Palmer Park assumes a key role in contributing to the vitality of our neighborhood. As a part of that work, the organization hosts seasonal events to call attention to the need to retain the park as a community resource for surrounding neighborhoods and the city, at

DO YOUR PART

[Click here](#)

**to become
a member of
People for Palmer Park**

*"To further the preservation,
revitalization, and viability of Palmer
Park — a Detroit park for the good of
all."*

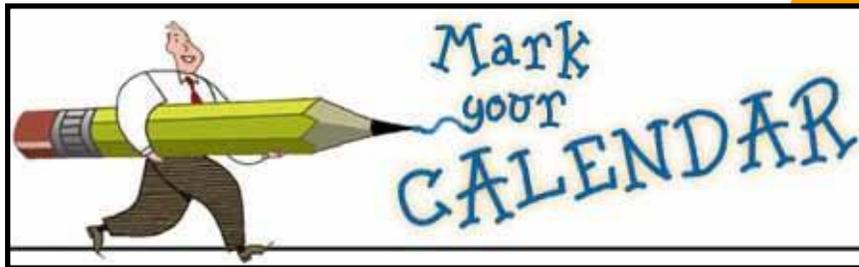
large. In fact, wide participation by citizens from across Detroit and its suburbs in the organization's work to fulfill its social contract with those who reside near the park has been instrumental in attracting support and funding for its broad spectrum of programming. Furthermore, living in the shadow of a well-cared-for recreational and environmental asset has added value to the homes that surround the park.

It is apparent that without the ground-breaking and dedicated corps of volunteers that operate as People for Palmer Park, the park would likely have been allowed to languish as an enormous parcel of unusable

and dangerous acreage. Instead, People for Palmer Park as done the following:

- Built a nationally recognized tennis academy for young people and adults of all ages
- Convinced city leaders to invest in new tennis and handball courts
- Constructed apple orchards in and near the park
- Hosted seasonal festivals that attract hundreds of people to the park
- Supported the construction of a spray and splash area for children
- Restored the historic log cabin that sits within its boundaries and opened it to the community
- Restored its long-forgotten spring art fair
- Installed art at key locations in the park
- Made the park a haven for families as opposed to a refuge for vagrants

The park's fairs and festivals are important vehicles for attracting donors. We view the Sherwood Forest Association's contribution to this event a tiny but necessary subsidy of the organization's support for this section of our city. We invite every resident to become a member of this incredibly important organization.



Sherwood Forest Association Picnic

**June 15,
2019**

Neighbors Work Together To Reduce Traffic Congestion At Warrington And St. Martins

By Gail Rodwan

Two years ago, Sherwood Forest neighbors eagerly anticipated the opening of a Bucharest Grill on Livernois, and when the primarily carry-out restaurant finally opened on the east side of the street south of St. Martins, patrons flocked to purchase its popular pita-wrapped sandwiches. That was a good thing. We need more food options on Livernois. However, the very success of the restaurant created a problem for Sherwood Forest. Bucharest patrons were choosing the streets of Sherwood Forest as the preferred place to park, and residents who live in the area of Warrington and St. Martins and around Sherwood Park began finding unwanted cars in their driveways or

blocking the bottoms of their driveways. The situation became dangerous when residents trying to exit the neighborhood via St. Martins were met by cars of restaurant patrons and employees trying to enter the neighborhood from Livernois to park on narrow St. Martins and other nearby streets.

Concerned neighbors met with Sherwood Forest Association Board President Phillip Caldwell II, Caitlin Marcon and District Two Manager Kim Tandy to discuss the challenges and consider possible solutions. They also met with City Council member Roy McCalister Jr.

The Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association formed the Ad Hoc Committee on Traffic Calming, consisting of Stephanie and Jerry Esters and Harford Smith. Neither the Esters nor Mr. Smith are members of the board, but rather concerned neighbors who were directly affected by a

problem and willing to give time and energy to try to solve it.

The ad hoc committee met with representatives of the Livernois Business Association, and they also hope to explore possible parking solutions with representatives of New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church on Pembroke, which owns parking lots on Livernois. Jerry Esters took the lead in meeting with representatives of multiple city departments. As a result of his efforts and the efforts of others, four new traffic signs were erected on St. Martins between Livernois and Warrington, two on each side of the street. The signs prohibit parking between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily.

Stephanie Esters reports that the situation has improved since those signs were installed. Although neighbors sometimes have to call our police precinct to request traffic enforcement, ticketing by police is becoming more routine as everyone, including traffic enforcement officers, becomes conscious of the new signs. And Ms. Esters no longer finds the cars of strangers blocking her driveway.

The signs were not a total solution, however. After the signs went up, more motorists began parking on Warrington, a street where speeding and excess traffic have long been a problem. In recent months, three parked cars were sideswiped on Warrington and one was totaled by motorists who were driving too fast for conditions. The Ad Hoc Committee on Traffic Calming, the Board of Directors of

the Sherwood Forest Association and representatives of the City of Detroit continue to work to address these lingering concerns.

Neighbors have discussed possible solutions that include speed bumps and restricted parking on Warrington, as well as closing access to Sherwood Forest streets by motorists turning from Livernois onto St. Martins. At this point, none of these suggestions have been approved by the City of Detroit, but Kim Tandy reports that the City is well aware of the problem.



One of four new traffic signs installed as a result of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Traffic Calming.

The City currently is working with Sherwood Forest, Bagley, University District and Green Acres on possible street calming strategies. What we know for certain is that Livernois/McNichols streetscape construction is slated to begin in April of this year with removal of the Livernois median from Clarita to Eight Mile Road. Once the median is removed, crews will begin removing and rebuilding sidewalks.

Our hats are off to Stephanie and Jerry Esters and Hartford Smith. In an age when too many people are quick to say, "Somebody ought to do something about

that," but fail to take action themselves, the Esters and Mr. Smith saw a problem and got to work. They sought the assistance of the Sherwood Forest board, but they did not depend on the board alone. As residents affected by what had quickly become a traffic nightmare, they acted to protect the tranquility and safety of their homes and our entire neighborhood. We owe them our thanks. Let's join them as they continue to work on the Warrington traffic issue and other issues that may arise in our wonderful neighborhood. Clearly, the "can do" attitude of our own residents is one of the secrets of our success.



SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION

Improving security and engaging our community



[Click here to take our one question survey](#)



This survey was authored by Steven Perkins, board member and security chair, Sherwood Forest Association

Congratulations To Our University District Neighbors

By Gail Rodwan

The University District Community Association (UDCA) has just announced that nearly 60% of the homeowners there support becoming a Special Assessment District (SAD). University District now joins Sherwood Forest, Palmer Woods and the Golf Club in becoming the first Detroit neighborhoods to take advantage of legislation creating SADs.

As Sherwood Forest residents know, a Special Assessment District authorizes homeowner funding for three supplemental neighborhood services: security, snow removal and mosquito abatement. The cost of these supplemental services is shared equally by all homeowners in a defined neighborhood through a special assessment that appears annually on a homeowner's summer tax bill.

Now that they have expressed support for becoming a SAD, the next step for our neighbors to the south will be a public hearing and a Detroit City Council vote to approve the SAD designation. In March of 2016, the members of City Council voted unanimously to approve SAD for Sherwood Forest, Palmer Woods and the Golf Club, and there is every reason to believe it will do

so for University District. However, this project has been much bigger for the UDCA than it was for the Sherwood Forest Association and the other two neighborhood associations because University District has so many more houses than the other neighborhoods - more than 1,200. Every homeowner had to be educated on the meaning of SAD and given the opportunity to sign a SAD petition. A group of dedicated residents worked for more than two years to reach everyone in the community.

University District was established as a residential community in the mid-1920s. The neighborhood was carved from a larger parcel of land that was then known as the Golf Club District. Father John

McNichols, of the Jesuit Order, relocated what is now the University of Detroit-Mercy to the corner of McNichols (then called Palmer Boulevard) and Livernois, and the neighborhood surrounding the school became known as the University District.

As is true in Sherwood Forest, most of the homes in the University District were built in the 1920 and 1930, an era known as the "Golden Age" of home building. Homes in the two neighborhoods are similar in architectural style.

Sherwood Forest sends congratulations to our University District friends and neighbors on the latest of their many accomplishments.

UDCA Leadership

Lucius Gunn - President
Kimberly Gunn - Vice President
Roger Short - Treasurer
Michael Carmona - Secretary
Sidney Bailey, III - Parliamentarian

Sherwood Forest Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 8, 2018

MINUTES

Board Members Present: April Alford, Austin Black, Phillip Caldwell II, Tiffany Franklin, Perry Griffith, Chaundra Haynes, Herbert Hill Jr., Christine Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Caitlin Marcon, Steve Perkins, Lauren Rivers, Maurice Telesford, and Karen White

President Caldwell called the meeting to order at 7:41pm in the home of Chaundra Haynes.

Board welcomed new member Perry Griffith to the board.

Nominating Committee Note: Shirley Jackson facilitated a 30 minutes New Board Member Orientation prior to the board meeting. Christine Jackson and Karen White were present.

Review of Group Norms:

Group Norms reviewed.

2018-2019 SFA Snow Removal

Contract Terms and Vote:

Tabled. Board requested the Snow Removal Committee to submit snow removal contracts prior to the next board meeting for review. Board also requested the Snow Removal Committee to provide board a comparison chart, outlining the number of times

sidewalks and streets were actually plowed; and the cost for the per push method. Steve Perkins volunteered to assist.

2018-2019 Election of

Officers:

Maurice Telesford conducted the Nomination of Officers as a slate. The entire slate was accepted with no opposition to recognize April Baker (Treasurer), Christine Jackson (Secretary), Tiffany Franklin (Vice President), and Phillip Caldwell (President) as 2018-2019 Officers of the Sherwood Forest Association.

Approval of September Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:

After review, it was moved by Maurice Telesford and supported by Tiffany Franklin to approve the September 10, 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion passed.

Approval of September Treasurer

Report:

Treasurer April Alford presented a detailed treasurer report for review and approval. After discussion, it was moved by Shirley Jackson and supported by Austin Black to approve the September Treasurer Report.

Motion passed.

SFA Mission Statement: It was moved by Tiffany Franklin and supported by Caitlin Marcon to accept the mission statement as last drafted. **Motion passed.**

SFA Committee Restructure: President Caldwell requested board signatures on documents titled as "Charters" that described the three umbrella Committees: Historic Property Preservation, Communication and Outreach, and Executive Committee. After discussion, board agreed that President Caldwell resubmit the documents with "charter" extracted from the language. Board participated in a 30 minutes break-out session that included the functions, planning and the selection of Chairperson and Vice

Chairperson for each umbrella committee.

Open Board of Directors Meeting

November 12th: This meeting is scheduled to take place at Gesu School, 17139 Oak Drive, Detroit MI 48221. Board raised a discussion related to the logistics for the meeting. Board recommendations: Shirley Jackson recommended not having the meal catered, as proposed, unable to determine a head count. Karen White recommended that we create and approve an agenda (now) to include in an email blast to SFA residents. Christine Jackson recommended that the

agenda include a discussion on how the board of directors should proceed with a neighbor complaint regarding the noise and traffic congestion on Warrington Road related to Livernois Avenue revitalization. President Caldwell gave a brief response that: he, the Zoning Committee Chair, Caitlin Marcon, selected neighbors, and a City of Detroit department, are currently working together regarding this issue. Caitlin Marcon gave a brief response concerning her and a City of Detroit department involvement. After a brief question and answer session, the board requested a detailed written report to be submitted to the entire board, describing the two board members involvement and any actions taken.

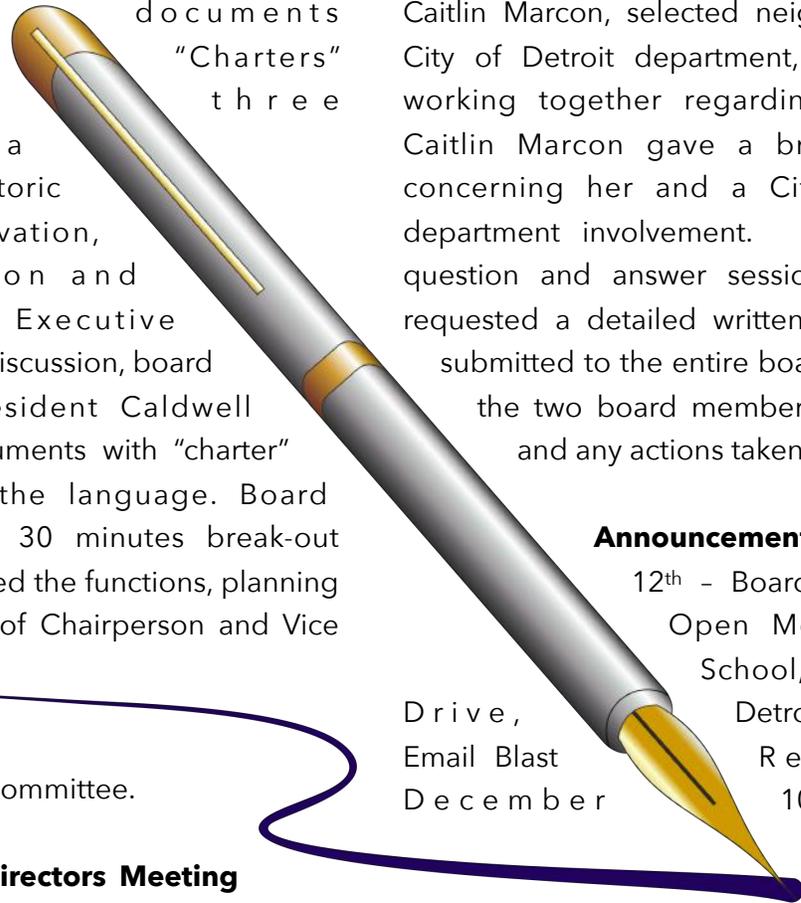
Announcements:

November 12th - Board of Directors Open Meeting, Gesu School, 17139 Oak Drive, Detroit MI 48221- Requested; December 10th - Board of Directors holiday gathering at the home of Shirley and James Jackson

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Jackson
SFA Secretary



Sherwood Forest Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 12, 2018

MINUTES

Board Members Present: April Alford, Austin Black, Tiffany Franklin, Perry Griffith, Chaundra Haynes, Herbert Hill Jr., Christine Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Caitlin Marcon, Steve Perkins, Lauren Rivers, Maurice Telesford, and Karen White

Non Board Members Present (*Including Special Guests*): Forty-eight (48)

Special Guests Present: Gary Brown (DWSD), Bryan Valrance (Manager, Gas Renewal Project), Kelly M. Fedele (Regional Manager, DTE Energy), Dale Brown (Threat Management), Kim Tandy (City of Detroit Neighborhood Manager, District 2), Sargent Bledsoe (Detroit Police Department 12th Precinct), James Hamilton (Chair, Detroit Historic Commission), and Roy McCalister Jr. (City of Detroit Councilman, District 2)

In the absence of President Phillip Caldwell, Vice President Tiffany Franklin called the meeting to order at 6:35pm in Gesu School, 17139 Oak Drive, Detroit MI 48221.

Sherwood Forest Association Board of Directors introduced themselves.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

After review, it was moved by Lauren Rivers and supported by Caitlin Marcon to approve the October 8, 2018 meeting minutes. **Motion passed.**

SFA Committee Restructure Finalized:

After review of the revised SFA committee restructure description documents, it was moved by Chaundra Haynes and supported by Caitlin Marcon to approve the SFA Committee Restructure: Communication and Outreach, Executive, and Historic Property Preservation Committees. *Note: "Charter" is extracted from the three umbrella committees' description and language.*



2018-2019 SFA Snow Removal Contract Terms

and Vote: Chaundra Haynes, Snow Removal Committee Chairperson presented *Kutting Edge Property Service, LLC* Snow Removal Contract for approval. After review, it was moved by Maurice Telesford and supported by Karen White to approve *Kutting Edge Property Service, LLC* Snow Removal Contract for the amount of \$21,000. **Motion passed.** Board was concerned with the contract beginning

December 9th and possible snow accumulation prior to that date. Chaundra Haynes will contact Cutting Edge should snow accumulates.

New Ad Hoc Committee Request - Traffic Calming Committee and Livernois Special Event Committee: After discussion, it was moved by Maurice Telesford and supported by Chaundra Haynes to approve the Ad Hoc Committee Request. **Motion passed.**



Board clarified that the committees are temporary and will dissolve when mission is completed as determined by SFA board. Caitlin Marcon, Zoning Committee Chairperson responded to traffic calming in Sherwood Forest, as related to Warrington Road. Caitlin described the short term solution will include a pilot speed cushion on Warrington Road during Livernois street construction; and a long-term solution will require a resolution from the Detroit City Council to allow traffic calming in Sherwood Forest.

--20 Minute Dinner Break--

Approval of November Treasurer's Report: Treasurer April Alford presented detailed treasurer report for review and approval. After discussion, it was moved by Shirley Jackson and supported by Austin Black to approve the November 2018 Treasurer Report. **Motion Passed.**

Treasurer responded to questions from the floor related to SFA spending plans.

Question and Answer Session: Shirley Jackson facilitated with assistance from Tiffany Franklin, Steve Perkins, and Maurice Telesford. The eight special guest panelists introduced themselves and responded to neighbors' questions, comments, and concerns related to the following topics:

Kelly Fedele responded to questions related DTE Renewable Energy solar panels (*will share a web link with SFA board relating to Renewable Energy*)

James Hamilton responded to questions related to how solar panels conflict with historical communities' standards.

Kelly Fedele and James Hamilton responded to questions related to sidewalks: repairs, uneven discolorations, and the required preapprovals. Per Kelly Fedele, sidewalks that have been repaired by DTE will not be replaced.

Bryan Valrance and Kelly Fedele responded to questions related to DTE contact information for lawn repair and gas meter location.

Kim Tandy responded to questions related to the new sign on Palmer Park Golf course "Detroit Exploration and Nature Center"- PGA Home Lease Committee - Palmer Park Tennis Court replacement - Traffic Calming and residential parking stickers

Sargent Bledsoe responded to questions related to car theft and increased police visibility request.

Dale Brown responded to questions related to public safety.

Gary Brown informed audience of Detroit water and sewage installation of separate water meter on sprinkler system, his willingness to schedule a meeting relating to drainage issue, and that replacing home sewage lines that have outlived the property is the homeowner responsibility

District 2 Council Member Roy McCalister encouraged residents to

contact him and/or **District 2 Neighborhood Manager, Kim Tandy** for help and/or assistance.

District 2 Council Member Roy McCalister:

313-340-2073
1000 W. McNichols Road, Suite 117

District 2 Neighborhood Manager Kim Tandy

(313)236-3494
TandyK@detroitmi.gov

Board Member Maurice Telesford

responded to comments, questions, and concerns that required clarification.

Announcements:
December 10th - Board of Directors holiday gathering at the home of Shirley and James



Jackson

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Jackson
SFA Secretary