

THE TATTLER

Your Neighborhood Chronicle of Events

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Sherwood Forest Association ANNUAL MEETING

May 8, 2019
6:00 PM

New Prospect Baptist Church

Association Board Sets Date For Annual Gathering of the Community

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Sherwood Forest Association. The meeting is set for Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 PM at New Prospect Baptist Church,

6330 Pembroke Avenue, corner of Livernois.

Neighbors can support our signature potluck dinner by preparing your favorite dish and

bringing a portion that will serve 8 - 10 of your fellow neighbors.

The annual meeting is a tradition that our neighborhood has held for most of the 102 years Sherwood Forest has existed. The yearly gathering stands as a time-honored way of solidifying the unique bond that underscores our status as an exemplary Detroit community. Each year we take time during the meeting to greet one another, to welcome new neighbors who have chosen this corner of the city to raise their children and to celebrate the almost unmatched camaraderie enjoyed by all of us. We invite residents to bring their dishes a few minutes before 6:00 so that we can keep to our schedule and begin on time.

Parking is available on the street or in a fenced lot at Stoepel and Pembroke just west of the church.

The Agenda

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6:00 - 6:45 | Welcome, Invocation, Potluck Dinner |
| 6:45 - 8:00 | Business Meeting |
| 8:00 - 8:20 | Questions and Answers |
| 8:20 | Adjournment |

Time to Begin the Annual Winter to Spring Transformation

By Shirley Jackson

Many years ago when the majority of Detroit children attended the city's public schools, March 20 marked the beginning of a yearly campaign to Clean Up, Paint Up and Fix Up. Students at every elementary grade level created signs using a variety of media and their best penmanship to remind neighbors that the season of renewal had arrived. Our teachers lined us up and out into the community we went with our colorful signs marching up and down streets. It was a ritual embedded in fond remembrances



of a time when schools saw their mission as one that sought to address all the facets of personal development, academic, cultural, to some extent, and civic.

Although movements such as the one described don't take place any longer, tradition guides most of us in seeing spring as the optimal season to renew our efforts to polish up our yards and make needed improvements to our homes.

Grabbing a rake and push broom and collecting the residue of dead leaves left in yards since last winter is a good first step. This is the perfect time, as well, to investigate possible damage to sprinkler systems in preparation for attractive lawns and gardens.

Structurally, April is the perfect time to inspect your roof and to check that gutters are free of obstructions and winter damage. This is also the time to make decisions about painting exterior parts of your home and garage or replacing damaged shutters. Please be reminded that any repairs or changes to your home must honor our historic designation and property restrictions.

Aside from structural repairs, warmer weather affords us the opportunity to clear garages of

items stored over the winter. Higher temperatures facilitate window washing along with other chores we may deem inappropriate for the chilly winter climate.

Importantly, taking part in spring maintenance demonstrates our understanding that keeping our own property in good condition shows respect for those who live alongside us and is our way of ensuring that Sherwood Forest remains the aesthetically pleasing community we call home.

Spring Maintenance Checklist



Gutters



Snow and ice can wear on your gutters during the winter. Make repairs if necessary and clean out any leaves, branches and other debris from your gutters.

Summer tools

Now is the time to make sure all your summer tools are all working properly. Make sure you inspect all your lawn tools and make any necessary repairs now before your grass is 10 feet tall!



Dips in the yard



After winter, it's common to have low areas in yard and even near the foundation. These low areas will cause flooding in your yard this spring so be sure you fill them with compact soil.

Roof

Inspect roof for missing shingles and other signs of damage. You don't want any leaks in your ceiling during the annual spring showers!



A/C tune-up



Now is the best time to have your air conditioning unit inspected, before you really need it most. Schedule an appointment with a licensed HVAC technician and get prepared for warm weather.

Decks and porches

Check your deck and porch for rotting wood and make any repairs. Get out the presser washer and give the wood a nice cleaning.



New White Linen Restaurant Opens on Livernois

By Shirley Jackson

For many years the tiny building at the northwest corner of Livernois and Clarita was home to a restaurant that served southern-style food. There was nothing fancy about this establishment that was run by two elderly African American women. Their restaurant has been closed for more years than I can remember. I recall that my husband, Jim, often visited the eatery to happily satisfy his insatiable appetite for turnip greens and short ribs when he couldn't convince anyone (me) to cook those delicacies at home. Over the years the little restaurant that began as a well-kept food emporium deteriorated to such an extent that I declared it unsafe and successfully persuaded my spouse to appease his desire for down-south cuisine elsewhere.

I can't remember what business occupied that spot after the soul food restaurant closed its doors, but it seems appropriate that a new eatery, owned by two African American chefs, identical twins Omar and Shimar Mitchell, is now open and operating at the very spot where the little soul food restaurant once served the community.

The new restaurant is called Table No. 2 and is located at 18925 Livernois. It opened last week.



Articles in *The Detroit News*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Crain's Detroit* and *The Metro Times* describe the spot as a white linen establishment. Reservations can be made on Open Table. Reviews on that site describe an attractive restaurant with tasty food and good service.

I was hungry when I learned of its opening, and so, I jumped online to view the menu. To say that I was impressed is a monumental understatement of my reaction.

The menu listed a delectable variety of some of my favorite foods. I must admit that I salivated as I perused pictures of mouthwatering offerings such as Caribbean Jerk Chicken Satay, Caesar Salad prepared table-side, A burger topped with seafood, Sesame Crusted Ahi Tuna, Rack of Lamb and Bananas Foster, among other food choices. There was even my husband's favorite, Lobster Bisque.

The next day, thoughts of those tantalizing food items so close to us, in fact, practically around the corner, persuaded the two of us to reserve a table and head to Table No. 2. We were not disappointed..

We were greeted warmly by two well-dressed hostesses who confirmed our reservations and seated us near a rolling glass door, complete with a screen to discourage insects, During warm weather, it opens onto Livernois. The room reminded us of New York restaurants where tables are placed close to one another. The drab little eatery we remembered had been almost magically transformed into a high-

end dining establishment complete with beautifully set tables covered in white linen and topped with candles and peach-colored floral arrangements. Walls are covered in tiles that resemble draped fabric. The lighting was perfect, and soft jazz played in the background.

We found ourselves seated next to Norman Silk and Dale Morgan, the owners of Blossoms, floral designers with stores in Detroit and Birmingham. Norm and Dale live in Palmer Woods and selflessly support Detroit, particularly the neighborhoods near Palmer Park. We noticed others from our neighborhood, as well.

Jim and I decided to try the lobster bisque which Executive Chef Omar prepared table-side using a decanting process that infused the base with his special seasonings. He then poured the base over generous chunks of fresh lobster. It was delectable. He also prepared a scrumptious Caesar salad at our table. Our entrees were Rack of Lamb Chops, cooked to medium perfection, with baked potato for me and Seafood Pasta Alfredo for Jim. Both were delicious. At a table near ours, the chef carved a Tomahawk Rib-eye into easy to serve slices. We were in awe. At 32 ounces, it is easily the biggest steak I've seen served at a restaurant. I plan to return to sample the steak that is meant to be consumed by two diners.

An impressive bit of information about Chef Omar is the fact that he was featured on The Food Network's "Chopped!" One of the articles I referenced earlier mentioned that he and his brother, Shimar, who handles operations, use locally-sourced foods to prepared menu items.

The brothers have made the most of this location by adding an attractive fenced patio with outdoor seating for additional guests during summer. We peeked through the fence and were pleased with what we saw.

Chef Omar trained at the fabled Golden Mushroom Restaurant. Our experience at Table No. 2 convinced us that he knows his way around a kitchen. The new restaurant is a welcomed addition to businesses along the Livernois strip. I can't help thinking that the two women who served delicious soul food years



ago would be pleased to know that their old spot is now in the hands of a new generation of creative and talented food aficionados.

[Click here to view a segment on WDIV TV, Channel 4 that features the new restaurant.](#)



REMINDERS: Coming Events

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Cleanup Saturday, May 4, 2019

All residents are invited to take part in this annual event. We will meet at the home of Al and Celeste Lewis, 19660 Stratford Road. Children are welcome. Refreshments and bags to collect yard debris will be provided. Please bring your rakes, shovels, gloves and any other items you think might be useful.

Annual Meeting of the Sherwood Forest Association Wednesday, May 8, 2019 New Prospect Baptist Church, 6330 Pembroke at Livernois

Bring a dish to share during the traditional Potluck Dinner. How much should you bring? Enough for 8 - 10 people. Everything else will be provided.

Sherwood Forest Association Picnic in the Park Saturday June 15, 2019 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Sherwood Park (Near Warrington/Canterbury and Pembroke)

Current and Former neighbors along with their families are invited. There will be music, food trucks, activities for children and the opportunity to connect with Sherwood Forest neighbors, past and present.

What Is Community?



“A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It’s about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role.”

Yehuda Berg

The City is Changing In Ways One Might Never Imagine

By Shirley Jackson

Whenever anyone begins to talk about how much Detroit has changed compared to the way it was 20 years ago, we know, almost immediately, that they will describe the racial makeup of the people who live here. But those of us who live near Palmer Park realize that the changes are not limited to people.

On a rare bright and sunny morning, a few days ago, I sat in my breakfast room with a bowl of oatmeal and a cup of tea spiked with lemon juice. I had the New York Times spread out in front of me and was reading a long article about the theatre scene in

New York. A momentary glance out of the window took my attention away from the newspaper and planted it firmly on a bluejay and a squirrel who were involved in a fascinating dance that involved a fence and a huge blue flower pot that sits in my yard. Whenever the squirrel ran to the fence separating our yard from our neighbors', the Jay would fly toward him and he would

scamper to a nearby object. His favorite spot seemed to be a huge bright blue planter that sits in my side yard. The bird would fly at him and force him to move, yet again, back to the fence. I couldn't detect any predatory intent on the part of the Blue Jay (Jays can be aggressive). It looked like nothing more than a game but was intriguing to watch because it went on for a few minutes until the Blue Jay grew tired and retreated to the branch of a towering oak.

Although I've lived here for more than 40 years, I can't remember observing that kind of animal-play even as I recall my two sons charging into the house after being chased by angry blue jays when they got too close to the birds' nesting areas.



What are new, as well, are the wild turkeys that have taken up residence in Sherwood Forest. They've been around for a while. This past winter, though, they could be spotted leisurely strolling along my street as a non-monogamous threesome - a rooster and two hens. They

stopped traffic, refusing to move quickly across the street as they posed for pictures taken by drivers who seemed stunned to see the huge birds in a Detroit neighborhood. The birds have become such a common presence that my little neighbor, Cadence Vassar, age 4, named the "ginormous" male bird, "Doc." I'm anxious to hear what she'll call the female birds.

I've only had one sighting of Doc and his two unnamed queens this spring, but I'm confident that his penchant for long, unhurried saunters through the neighborhood will ensure that he and his ladies are soon out and strutting about.

Two summers ago, while planting flowers in my front yard, a noise from overhead that sounded like a tussle was taking place on my roof startled me. I dashed away from the spot where I was working just in time to see a large bird crash to the ground with something in its talons near the area where I had been planting. The big gray and white bird pinned a black squirrel to the ground for a moment, gave me look that said, "I dare you to intervene," and then flew over my neighbor's house with what was certainly dinner. I couldn't identify the bird, but my son, a lover of animals since childhood, thought that it was likely a peregrine falcon. In fact, once I looked at pictures, I was convinced that he was correct.

One last change that has come to this part of the city was made apparent to me on an afternoon several months ago as I drove west on 7 Mile Road between Lincolnshire and Canterbury/Parkside. I was thrilled to be almost home after spending the day working in Flint. It was the middle of the afternoon and I was listening to NPR programming when seemingly out of nowhere, three deer bounded across the street just ahead of my car and galloped into Palmer Woods. There would have been a horrible collision had I been driving any faster. I screeched to a stop



along with cars on both sides of the street. We all sat there for a second or two and then continued on our way.

My heart was pounding and I took a few seconds to contemplate that people are not the only beings moving back to the city from more remote areas. We now share our neighborhoods, particularly this one, with turkeys, deer, rabbits, raccoons, possums, geese and several kinds of rodents like gophers and nutrias who are migrating because of human encroachment into their habitats. We'll have to remain alert in order to preserve our safety (A collision with a herd of deer is no joke.) but also so that we continue to appreciate the wonder that is mother nature, our important place among these creatures and our responsibility to preserve all that encompasses the planet.

*Don't
Forget!*

**Trash and
Refuse Are Not
Decorative
Accessories**

Place them at the curb the evening before their scheduled collection

Remove containers once collection has occurred and place them OUT OF SIGHT.