

The Sherwood Forest News

Fall 2015

Annual Residential Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM

**At the St. Thomas More Church Activity
Center on Dartmoor Drive**

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association will hold its' annual neighborhood meeting on **Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM**, in the St. Thomas More Church Activity Center on Dartmoor Drive. Come out and meet the members of the SFCA Board and members of the Sherwood Forest Crime District Board of Directors.

We will have a representative from the City Parish Department of Public Works to discuss the 311 call line and how this is a valuable tool for homeowners.

Also the Crime District Commissioners and Security Staff will update us on security and improvement strategies for 2015.

**We look forward to seeing
you October 13, 2015**

From the President's Desk

Richard Empson, President, Sherwood Forest Citizen's Association

A sincere "thank you" to all of the residents who have supported the homeowners association over the years and especially to those residents who took the extra step by notifying the Board of issues that concerned them. It takes the whole subdivision working together to maintain property values and make Sherwood Forest a beautiful and desirable place to live. Please do not ignore a situation in the hope that it will go away. Call the SFCA Board and ask for guidance on any matter of concern.

Two big issues that concern our neighborhood is the addition of out structures to your property and unmaintained property.

The addition of structures to your property without the Architectural Committee being contacted and giving its approval, could result in action from the Association, including legal action. There have been several cases that resulted in legal action by the Association and the cost to the homeowner to make revisions to the structure have been very high. Again I remind all homeowners that the desire to do any structural additions to their property, (fences, out structures, home additions, etc.), to contact the SFCA Architectural Committee to review your plans. This procedure will eliminate court cost, attorney fees and additional high dollar amounts to correct what is not compliant with your deed restrictions or what is not in harmony with the neighborhood.

The second issue, especially in the summer, is unmaintained property. The Association encourages you to address unmaintained property issues in your neighborhood before they get out of hand. Call the City-Parish 311 line to report the situation or contact the Association for direction.

Let's work on these issues by complying with your deed restrictions and homeowner guidelines, as noted on our SFCA Web site, (sfcabr.org). To print a copy of your deed restrictions first you must know your filing then go to the web site, (sfcabr.org), click deed restrictions and scroll down until you identify your information. Click on the heading and the information shown is easily printed. Once again, thank you for working with us in the past and the SFCA Association looks forward to serving you in the future to keep Sherwood Forest a desirable and safe place to live.

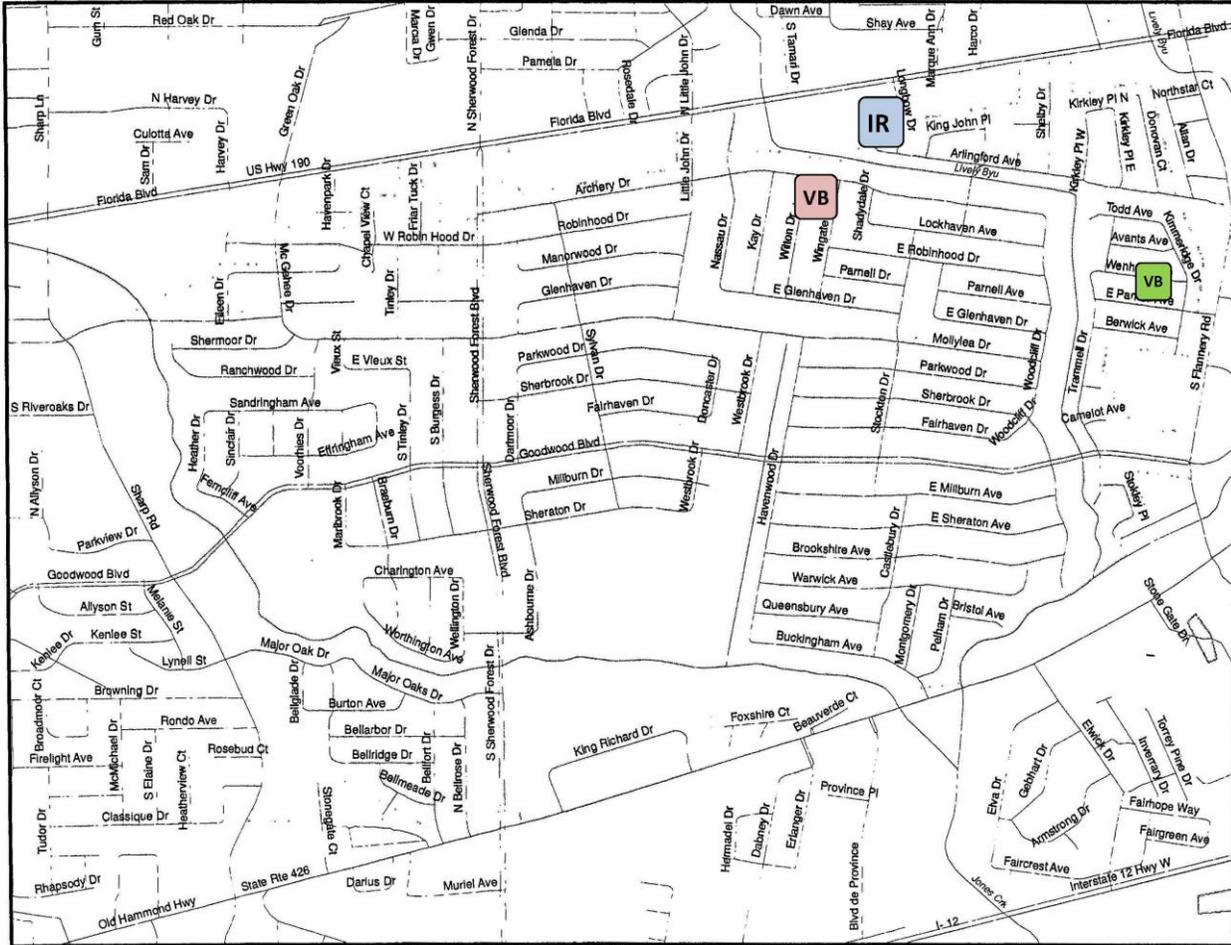
The Association wants to acknowledge our newest addition to the Sherwood Forest neighborhood, **The Legacy Bar and Grill and it is open to the public.** All of us need to support The Legacy, because it is a positive addition to our Sherwood Forest neighborhood. Be a good neighbor and have lunch at the bar and grill tomorrow.

Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District

Crime Map Apr—June 2015

VB—Vehicle Burglary IR—Individual Robbery
SB—Simple Robbery

Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District



Apr 2015

May 2015

June 2015

Gary Patureau, Chairman

Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District

We have seen positive results in our efforts to prevent crime during the first half of the year. As part of our reporting process we will be giving quarterly crime updates in the newsletter on an ongoing basis.

We had no residential burglaries for the months of April, May and June. We had two vehicle burglaries, one in April and one in May. Both vehicles were unlocked. Vehicle burglaries are almost 100% preventable if residents would just lock their vehicle doors. We

did have another attempted vehicle burglary that turned into an individual robbery. A homeowner walked outside as a thief was trying to burglarize her car. The thief took the wallet she was carrying and left the scene. Police were able to catch the thief and he is in jail.

As we move into the fall, we will use the data we have developed to maximize our resources for the rest of the year. We anticipate a higher crime period during the holiday / shopping season. Please remind all family members not to leave visible items in a vehicle even in your carport – purses, packages, computers, phones, etc. Visible items make thieves check for unlocked doors. If they see an item they deem valuable then they might break a window to steal it.

Make sure you schedule package deliveries when you will be at home or when someone can receive them for you. You could even have packages delivered to your work so they don't end up sitting on your front porch till you get home. We had stolen package incidents last year. With proper planning this can be avoided.

Please go to www.sfcabr.org to review the Top 10 Safety Tips brochure to keep your home safe. Each measure is designed to help you protect your family and your property. Our goal is to send a strong message to would be thieves that security is a top priority in Sherwood Forest.

Neighborhood improvement is also one of our major goals. A well maintained neighborhood with good curb appeal ensures high property values for its residents. In the coming months you will see seasonal banners along Goodwood and Sherwood Forest Boulevards. As part of the plan to unite Broadmoor and Sherwood Forest neighborhoods, we will use the same design for both neighborhoods. The banners will be visually pleasing and welcoming. We believe it will generate interest as folks are looking for homes in Baton Rouge.

The Crime District Commissioners will give an update and take questions at the SFCA Annual meeting on October 13th. We hope to see you there.

GREAT NEWS!!!

After extensive renovations, The Legacy Bar and Grill on Sherwood Forest Blvd. (old Sherwood Forest Country Club) has recently opened. I can personally attest that the food is wonderful and served fresh daily by Chefs Joseph and Eric. Everything from steak, grilled chicken breast and fish entrees to poboy's, burgers and the most delicious salads, including one of the best shrimp remoulade salads I have ever eaten.

Most importantly, you do not have to be a member to dine or to use the driving range. The Bar and Grill is open Monday thru Saturday for lunch and dinner, with daily lunch specials Monday thru Friday and just recently they added a Sunday brunch from 9:30 until 2:30.

So come join friends and neighbors for a great meal and/or cocktail at The Legacy. I will see you there!!

Chinch Bugs

Due to extreme heat and dry conditions chinch bugs have been a big problem for some homeowners. St. Augustine and Zoysia grass are two of their favorites. They suck the juices out of the blades and at the same time inject a poison that causes the blades to turn brown and die. These insects are heat loving and can move across a lawn within several days.

Chinch bugs can be identified by an hour glass pattern on their back. To check for chinch bugs cut both ends off of a tin can. Push the end of the can 2 – 3 inches into the soil in a sunny area where the brown lawn is spreading. Fill the can with water and wait 10 minutes. If you see brown insects with white wings to ¼ inch long, then you have chinch bugs.

Use Chinch Bug Killer with Arena granules by Greenlight or 38 Plus Insect Control by Hi-Yield to get rid of these insects.

City Ordinance For Homeowners That Blow Grass Clippings Into The Street/Gutter

Title 12 (nuisances), section 401 of the baton rouge code of ordinances provides that within the city limits it is a nuisance to “impede or obstruct the passage flow of water of any street, gutter, ditch or drain on any property either owned by the city or the parish or on any servitude or right-of-way of whatever nature under the possession or control of the city or parish” or to “allow any materials to remain in any public street, gutter, ditch or drain adjacent to the property where such person resides whether the material be leaves, branches or other debris.” Violations of this section are punishable by a fine of \$100.00 per occurrence.

Title 6, public health-anti-litter regulations that it is forbidden to throw, sweep or deposit litter, including yard clippings and leaves, into any gutter, street, sidewalk, or public place in the city parish except if the litter is in receptacles to prevent scattering. Violations of any of the litter regulations are punishable by a sliding scale of fines and/or garbage collection, ranging from a \$100.00 to \$400.00 fine or 16 to 40 hours of collection for a first offense; \$300.00 to \$500.00 fine or 40 to 120 hours of collection for a second offense, and \$400.00 to \$500.00 fine and 120 to 200 hours of garbage collection for a third offense.

Finally, inside and outside the city limits, baton rouge code of ordinances title 6, public health-collection and disposal of garbage and other waste matter, provides that “it shall be unlawful and a violation of this part, for any person to scatter, throw, deposit, drop, allow, or to permit or allow to be scattered, spilled, thrown deposited or dropped, any garbage, trash and other waste material, dead animals or fowls, industrial waste or refuse from erection, repairing or remodeling buildings, or any other substances which may be unsightly, offensive to smell

or injurious to health in any private yard, lot, room or building, or on any sidewalk, street, alley, wharf, levee, public parkway, public right-of-way, or any other public place, or in any gutter or drain within the parish, other than in the type of container, in the manner, and at the places specified in (sections 6:406 or 6:381 and 382, which specify garbage receptacle types and sizes).” (code of ordinances sections 6:376/city, 6:402/parish) violations are punishable as a misdemeanor, with a fine of not more than \$500.00, imprisonment of not more than 180 days, or both. (code of ordinances sections 6.395/city, 6:420/parish).

The Effect Of Trees On Property Values

*The Effect Trees Have On Appraisals: The value of trees increase as the tree grows. The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers puts values of mature trees from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

*The Effect Of Trees on Property Values: Landscaping can add 10% to 20% more value to a property especially if mature trees are included

*The Effect of Trees On Resale Value: A well-chosen tree adds curb appeal and makes the home appear more established. According to The Arbor Day Foundation's research, most realtors believe that mature trees have a large, positive impact on property values.

*The Effect Of Trees On Energy Efficiency: Depending on how your home is sited on your property, trees can provide shade during the heat of the summer and give protection from winds and the cold in winter. According to The U.S. Forest Service, trees properly placed can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and cut energy used for heating up to 50%.

*In short, trees clear the air and conserve topsoil. They help slow climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. They cool our neighborhoods and shelter our homes so we use less energy. They add value to our homes and to our lives. In other words, Think before you Cut. In recent months Sherwood Forest has lost many large/old Live Oaks, a sad loss to our neighborhood and city.

Reminders

Never leave valuables in plain sight and ALWAYS lock your vehicles!

Mark Your Calendars

Everyone is invited to join SFCA Saturday, Oct. 17th to help pick up trash in the neighborhood. Our meeting place will be in the parking lot of St. Thomas More's office building located at the corner of Goodwood and Dartmoor at 9:00am.

Plastic bags and water will be furnished. Please bring your own gloves and "grabbers" to pick up trash. This is your chance to meet neighbors and do something worthwhile for the betterment of our neighborhood. We are usually finished by 10:30 or 11:00. It is a fun filled couple of hours! We hope to see you there.

Eyewatch

Marcia Empson - Chair

A special thank you to all the residents who have recently become block captains for their neighborhood.

A "Meet & Greet" gathering will take place on Saturday, October 24 from 10-11 AM at the St. Thomas More Church Coffee Shop, located on Dartmoor Drive. Enter through double door under covered drive, and turn right to get to the coffee shop.

All current block captains and anyone interested in becoming a block captain are encouraged to come to this gathering.

Litter Pick Up on July 18th



Litter Pick Up Crew (Left to Right Courtland Cross, Gary Smith, Jackie Gray, Richard Empson, Emmeline Ross, Marcia Empson, Carol Ware, James Gray Not Shown)

Thank You Note of Appreciation

Sherwood Forest Citizens Association would like to thank Mr. Fa-Kouri, owner of Fa-Kouri Construction, for building the beautiful wood and brick fence at the corner of Flannery and Goodwood Blvd. The fence is a nice asset to our neighborhood. The Black Granite (Sherwood Forest Sign) is under repair after several of the broken pieces were found. The Granite Sign should be finished soon. Thanks again Mr. Fa-Kouri.



Gone But Never Forgotten



Membership Fall 2015 – James Gray, Chair

Welcome New Members! SFCA is glad you chose Sherwood Forest to live and raise your family.

Significant, positive changes have begun this year. The Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Improvement District is now providing security patrols which far exceeds the number of hours patrolled last year. Also, SFPCPD has taken over funding of beautification, another positive benefit. The Crime District will not replace Sherwood Forest Citizens Association.

Sherwood Forest Citizens Association reduced the dues from \$25 a year to \$15 a year. As of (8/15/15) SFCA has 983 paid members compared to 1,023 at the same time a year ago. Dues in SFCA are still needed to support our mission – keeping Sherwood Forest a great and desirable place to live. Your \$15.00 dues helps pay for the printing of dues notices, 2 newsletters, postage, mail box, legal fees, phone line, website, neighborhood watch programs and other office related expenses.

We encourage you to volunteer in your neighborhood whether it's picking up litter on your street or the main boulevards or serving on a committee.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS 2015 vs. 2014

As of 8/15/15 a total of 84 homes have sold vs. 61 homes sold same time last year. The 2015 average sale is \$173,295.00 vs. 2014 of \$163,512.00.

Members of SFCA thank you for your continued support of your homeowners association. We serve to keep Sherwood Forest a safe place to live, play and call home.

To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2015 dues in the enclosed envelope to:

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

P.O. Box 45142

Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

I would like to be an EyeWatch block captain.

I would like to volunteer for the following committee(s):

Volunteering for a committee is open to all Sherwood Forest residents. Please consider giving of your time and talent for the betterment of our neighborhood!

2015 Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- Dec. 31): \$15

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Yards of the Month

Yards of the month winners of the \$50 gift certificates. May, June and July.
No yards were selected in Sept. or October.



May - Tommy Jones - 1436 Pelham Dr



June - Harvey Pryor - 11860 Parkwood



July - Thomas & Teresa Haralson - 12345 Goodwood



**See the New and improved SFCA Web Page
Be sure to check it out at
<http://www.sfcabr.org>**

The Sherwood Forest News

A publication of Sherwood Forest Citizens'
Association

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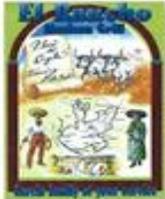
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Call the right number for assistance

Virtually everyone knows to phone **911** in an emergency. However, there are other numbers you can use to register complaints or seek action to solve a vexing problem.

Use the City-Parish Call Center (311) to report suspected zoning violations (deviations from A-1 code), public safety hazards like potholes and fallen tree limbs, egregious or repetitive parking violations, junked cars, unsightly carports and many more. **REMEMBER: YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS WHEN USING THIS SERVICE!**

The number for Baton Rouge City Police is **389-2000**. To report suspicious situations that are not time-sensitive call the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Line, **273-1353**. Leave a call-back message, and include your email for online communication.

Specific questions about streets, drainage and sewerage, construction and building codes or the environment should be directed to the EBR Department of Public Works (DPW) at **389-3090, 380-2070**, or online at <http://brgov.com/DEPT/dpw/>.

To receive up-to-date information about your subdivision, **PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** on your membership form, or call a member of the board of directors. Names and contact numbers are listed below

2015 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Number — 273-1353

(Note: All officers, directors and committee members are volunteers.)

OFFICERS:

President: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net

Vice President: James Gray, jrhgray@cox.net

Treasurer: Ralph Dupuy, ralphdupuy@gmail.com

Secretary: Jackie Gray, jrhgray@cox.net

DIRECTORS: Marcia Empson, Richard Empson, Jackie Gray, James Gray, Mary Heuchert, Gary Patureau, Ricky Shaffer, Gary Smith, Emmeline Ross and Ralph Dupuy

COMMITTEES:

SFCA Board of Directors: board@sfcabr.org

Architectural Control: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net

James Gray, jrhgray@cox.net

Beautification: Jackie Gray, jrhgray@cox.net

Emmeline Ross, eross55@cox.net

EyeWatch: Marcia and Richard Empson, msempson@bellsouth.net

Federation: Gary Patureau, zoning@lasie.org;

Hospitality: Mary Heuchert lmh2010@bellsouth.net

Membership: James Gray, jrhgray@cox.net;

Newsletter: Gary Patureau, zoning@sfcabr.org

Public Works: Jackie Gray, Gary Smith, Emmeline Ross

Security: Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.org

Zoning: Gary Patureau, zoning@lasie.org

Webmaster: Gary Patureau, zoning@lasie.org

SFCA Board of directors meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except October and December, in Room 1 of the St. Thomas More Activity Center. Get in touch with Richard Empson at least four days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item to the board.