

The Sherwood Forest News

FALL 2018

Annual Residential Meeting

Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the St. Thomas More Church Activity Center on Dartmoor Drive

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association will hold its' annual neighborhood meeting on **Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM**, at the St. Thomas More Church Activity Center on Dartmoor Drive. Come out and meet the members of the SFCA Board. This meeting will be an open meeting for questions and answers directed to SFCA Board members and our guest speaker, Fred Raiford. We look forward to seeing you October 1, 2018.

Questions can be submitted ahead of time to rlempson@bellsouth.net or at the door on the night of the meeting. Residents will have a better chance of receiving answers to their questions if they are submitted in advance.

Letter from the President

Richard Empson, President, Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

There have been many changes in our neighborhood over the last two years. If you drive the streets observing how many homeowners have reestablished themselves into updated homes, it is amazing to think that in August of 2016 our subdivision flooded with over 1500 homes having some sort of damage.

Sherwood Forest has been explored by many families looking for a good bargain but in turn they have also found that the structures were extraordinarily built by great carpenter craftsman using excellent materials. The investment these people were looking for has provided them with a much better built home than the new homes of today.

The SFCA Board of Directors has worked non-stop to help our neighborhood to retain the prominence it had in the mid-60's, with homes that have a desirable appearance and are in harmony with the surrounding areas.

We, as a board, cannot do this alone. We need the help of our residents who are interested, caring and vigilant about what is going on around them. To put this in simple terms, after something is done incorrectly, it is extremely hard to reverse the wrongdoing without the board having to spend money beyond our budgeted income.

The SFCA Board of Directors has fought hard to stop non-compatible businesses and night clubs from operating on our perimeters, objected to rezoning and building issues and addressed numerous violations of deed restrictions. We cannot monitor all activities within the subdivision and cannot be everywhere to observe events that are taking place. We are appealing to our residents to help us identify what you perceive as violations, no matter what type, so we can investigate and take action where necessary to correct these issues before they create a domino effect that justifies the excuse, “well so and so has one.” This will not stand up if the issue is in violation of the City Parish Unified Development Code, East Baton Rouge Parish Code of Ordinances, or the specific properties deed restrictions.

One of the best ways to create a desirable home is to first determine what you wish to do, observe what has been done in the past around you, contact the City Parish Government offices to research permits, and above all consult with your SFCA Architectural Control Committee to discuss your plans. This will save each homeowner time in making sure that what they wish to do is in compliance with all governing bodies before beginning work. Do not place yourself in a situation where legal action is necessary to correct an issue.

In order to alleviate the unnecessary negative action that could result, please follow the below guidelines when considering renovating, building additions or improving your property in any way:

- **First:** Review the deed restriction for your filing. If you do not know which deed restriction pertains to your home go to the East Baton Rouge Parish Assessors website, www.ebrpa.org, select the search by address and review details. This will give you the filing, lot number and location of your property within Sherwood Forest. Please note that any plans must be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee for approval.
- **Second:** Go to the Sherwood Forest Citizens’ Association website, www.sfcabr.org, and select deed restrictions. Find your particular restriction and review it as to what is allowed in your filing.
- **Third:** Go The East Baton Rouge Parish government website and review the Unified Development Code and The Code of Ordinances. The email addresses of these sites are www.brla.gov/706/Unified-Development-Code and www.brla.gov/1129/code-of-Ordinances. Either of these sites will clarify what the city will allow you to do.
- **Fourth:** Contact the Permit and Inspections Office once you have the approval of the SFCA Architectural Control Committee to obtain the proper permit to begin your modification or addition. Do not do this prior to the first three steps, because receiving a permit does not override your deed restrictions.

In following these 4 steps, everyone will be comfortable in knowing that all the avenues of compliance have been achieved.

Email Address Appeal

Communication between individuals and organizations is a must to maintain an environment where important information is properly disseminated on a timely basis. The reluctance of residents to furnish this information is a hindrance for the SFCA to communicate timely with our 3,056 residents. The use of your email is only for this purpose and is not passed on to other individuals. Because of this valuable source of communication, I am appealing to all residents who have not done so, to please provide your email address to the SFCA.

Roosters



Over the past year the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association has had numerous complaints of residents having roosters. The City Parish Code of Ordinances specifically states that these animals are not allowed within a subdivision. If you have a neighbor that has a rooster please follow the below guidelines:

- First contact the East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control Office 225-774-7700 and ask for an enforcement officer that you can correspond with. This person will instruct you to forward a written complaint to them or you will be given the option to formulate your letter in email form and address it to a specific individual. The address of the Animal Control Office is located at 2680 Progress Road Baton Rouge 70807. The written complaint must have the resident's name and address where the rooster is located. It also must have your name, address, and phone number, as the complainant, with a brief description as to what is going on.
- Once this information is received, the Animal Control Office will contact the resident either by mail or in person giving them 72 hours to remove the rooster. If the resident does not comply, the officer will return and remove the rooster.

Sec. 14:224. - Chickens, other fowls, and birds.

The keeping of more than three (3) chickens within a recognized residential subdivision on a lot of less than one (1) acre is prohibited.

- The keeping of **roosters**, geese, guinea fowl, ducks, turkeys, or peacocks is similarly **prohibited in recognized residential subdivisions** on lots of two (2) acres or less.
- The provisions of this section shall apply upon receipt of written and signed complaint by the director of the animal control and rescue center. When a violation is determined to exist, the owner or keeper shall be ordered to correct the violation within seventy-two (72) **hours** of receiving such notice. Failure to correct the violation may result in the
- Owner or keeper being issued a summons to appear in court for the violation(s). Each day a violation of this section is continued shall be deemed a separate violation.
- **Deed restrictions trump City Parish Ordinances and most deed restrictions prohibit chickens and/farm animals.**

Sec. 14:225. - Penalties.

- Any person who violates any provisions of the sections of this chapter or who shall hinder or molest or interfere with any officer or agent of the animal control and rescue center in the performance of any duty provided for by this chapter shall, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined any amount up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not more than one hundred- eighty (180) days, or both fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court.

Parking Violations

Many residents have started parking wherever they choose, regardless of the City Parish Code of Ordinances that directly states where you should or should not park in a residential A1 subdivision. The security patrol constantly has to issue warnings or tickets to the many residents that continually violate these regulations. These parking violations create an undesirable appearance to the subdivision and in many instances they become a noxious nuisance to those residents that value their home and neighborhood.

Sec. 11:415. - Stopping, standing or parking prohibited; general rules.

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, or permit a vehicle registered in his name to be stopped, standing or parked, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a law enforcement officer or traffic-control device, or parking-control device in any of the following places:

- On a sidewalk
- In front of or blocking a public or private driveway
- Within an intersection
- Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant
- On a crosswalk
- Within thirty (30) feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway
- **On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street**
- At any place where official signs prohibit such
- **On the driver's left-hand side of any two-way street or highway**
- Any place where the curb has officially been painted red
- Within any zone or officially marked place designated as a fire lane at all schools, hospitals, churches and other places of public assembly, as well as commercial and shopping facilities, and apartment complexes
- **Alongside a neutral ground curb**
- **In your front yard**

Oversized trucks or 18 wheeler cabs are not allowed to park in the subdivision

Residential Group Homes Committee Follow-Up

The committee that was formed in the spring of this year to gather information concerning the establishment of group homes in both Broadmoor and Sherwood Forest Subdivisions has not fully completed their study. The next major step is to present information to our senators to discuss major issues and how legislative action can protect the integrity of our subdivision.

Membership Form

To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2018 dues to:
Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association
P.O. Box 45142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2018 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!

2018 Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- Dec. 31): \$25.00 **TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** _____

Membership Notes Fall 2018

For the residents who have paid their 2018 dues, the Association greatly appreciates you. Sherwood Forest has over 3,000 residents. This year and last year membership has declined to below 650 residents. This is the lowest membership in the last 12 years. During 2010-2014, membership was well over 1,100, peaking in 2008 with 1,386 members. I suppose there are reasons, excuses, etc. that many residents decide not to support Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association.

Sherwood Forest has maintained a very desirable place to live and raise your family. Property Transfers from January 10, 2018 thru July 29, 2018 listed 64 homes sold with over \$11,697,215.00 in sales, that's an average of \$182,769.00.

Sherwood Forest is blessed to have many local churches and retail business conveniently located within our area. I urge each of you to support our local businesses, churches and become involved in neighborhood community activities. Each of these are a vital part of your subdivision.

If you are not sure if you paid your dues please contact James Gray @ 273-2930.

**James Gray, Vice President
Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association**

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality/Welcome Committee has delivered **56 packets** to new homeowners within Sherwood Forest from January, 2018 to present. The packets contain critical information regarding City Parish Codes, your property's deed restrictions, contact information for SFCA Board Members, as well as, information pertaining to recycling, landscaping, etc. It is important to take the time to read through the information. We want Sherwood Forest Subdivision to be a beautiful place for families to live, play and grow in a safe, healthy environment. If you did not receive a packet or have misplaced the information and would desire a new one, please send an email to the following address and the committee will deliver a new one to your doorstep. Forward your request to suelarisey@cox.net.

Eye Watch

Thank you, 2018 SFCA Block Watch Captains, for your service this year.

We have seen numerous incidents reported with your help. Your reports and pictures of security camera footage have been relayed to our patrol to aid them.

Our purpose is to work together to make our Sherwood Forest neighborhood a safe place to live. We do this by being aware of our surroundings and reporting crime and suspicious activity when we see it.

Who we are:

We are approximately 100 volunteer SFCA Block Captains representing our streets and all areas of Sherwood Forest. We have decided to be a part of the solution to make our community better.

How Block Captains Interface with SFCD:

Block Captains work together with SFCD by reporting crimes and suspicious activities in real time. When an incident is observed, Block Captains contact the non-emergency police number (suspicious activity) or 911 (crime). The Block Captains also pass the information of the incident to the SFCA Block Captain Coordinator and SFCA Security. They will send this information to the SFCD. A real time network of communication involving emails, texts, and phone calls has proven to be helpful.

If you would like to be a Block Watch Captain for your street, you can contact me at my email address: teresaharalson@gmail.com or private message me : Teresa Haralson on the NextDoor app, or call the SFCA number 225-273-1353, and leave a message .

Sherwood Forest Yards of the Month

Yards Of The Month For June 2018



Son Mgyuen at 12432 Goodwood Blvd.



**Marion East AT 640 HAVENWOOD
WINNER OF A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE**

Yards Of The Month For July 2018



Joyce Matherne 428 Locksley



Polly Wills 12360 Sherbrook

Yards Of The Month For August 2018



Karen Wetzel 358 Dunstan Circle



Kenneth Lee 808 Trammell

Cool Season Bedding Plants



The time is now to start adding flowers for the fall. The Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia is one of the best petunias to plant in your landscape. The flowers are bright pink and one of Louisiana's most durable varieties a (Super Plant). It can grow 16 to 24 inches tall with a 3-foot spread when mature. Plant in full sun an well-drained soil from September through early November.

This petunia grows well in containers and hanging baskets with the shoots falling over the edge. The Supertunia Vista Bubblegum is self-cleaning of old flowers. Deadheading (removing of old flowers) is not needed to maintain continued bloom but a light pruning after each bloom flush is recommended.

Apply a two to three month controlled release fertilizer at planting and fertilize regularly with a water soluble type fertilizer.

Other cool season Louisiana Super Plants are swan columbine, amazon dianthus, sorbet violas, redbor ornamental kale, and mesa gaillardia to plant in your landscape this fall & winter.

Make Garbage, Trash and Recycling More Efficient

- **DO NOT** bag your recycling items
- Bag your garbage. **DO NOT** throw loose items in your black garbage container
- **DO NOT** have items extending out of the garbage cart. The lid **MUST** be able to close
- Call **311** if you need a new container or top for your container
- **DO NOT** put heavy items such as bricks, concrete or grass cuttings in your garbage cart
- Bag grass cuttings and put your bagged grass near, not touching, your cart next to the street
- Bag loose leaves
- Put aluminum in the recycle cart
- Carts should be at least 2 feet apart and **NOT NEAR** any other objects
- You may put up to 4 tires next to the street in front of your house for pickup.
- Tires are picked up by a different truck and taken to a different location from recycle and garbage

To Edge or Not To Edge

\$100 FINE MIGHT BE THE DECISION MAKER!!!!

Within the city limits, The East Baton Rouge Code of Ordinances Title 12, Section 401 provides:

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 parish"** or to "allow any material to remain in any public street, gutter, ditch or drain adjacent to the property where such persons resides whether the material be leaves, branches or other debris of whatever nature." Violations of this section are punishable by a fine of \$100 per occurrence.

- Please pay attention to the gutters in front of your house. If leaves, grass growing into the street, a buildup of dirt, etc. impedes drainage the standing water could damage the road bed. So please be a good neighbor and address these issues as well as avoiding a fine.



TO LOOK LIKE THIS

OR



TO LOOK LIKE THIS

Servitude

DIGGING IN SERVITUDES – FENCES, WALLS, & CONCRETE

- Indiscriminate digging in servitudes has the potential for life-threatening episodes, delay of project if underground involvements are encountered or unnecessary expense.

PREVENTING EXCAVATION PROBLEMS

- All excavations, particularly those in servitudes, are covered by many federal, state and City Parish regulations. In order to make certain you have done everything in your power to prevent excavation problems, you should call Louisiana One Call at 1-800-272-3020.
- This call should be made at least 48 hours before any excavation work is done. This call will result in all underground lines being marked except sewer and storm water lines.

CITY-PARISH APPROVAL

- Fences, walls, and concrete placement in or over servitude may require prior approval from City Parish. Call Engineering Services at 1-225-389-3222 for approval.

RESTRICTIONS

- No part of a building shall be built upon or overhang any part of the servitude. Driveways are not allowed over sewer manholes or drainage inlets.

IF THE SERVITUDE IS PART OF YOUR PROPERTY PLOT PLAN, THEN IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THE AREA.

Sherwood Forest Crime Prevential and Neighborhood Improvement District

Sherwood Forest Facts:

Sherwood Forest is the largest neighborhood in the state. We have 3,100 homes, 20 entrances and over 80 miles of roads. Sherwood Forest has the lowest crime per capita of any subdivision in the parish. If we could get all residents to lock their car doors we would almost have no crime at all.

Unlocked car burglaries are our most committed crime. Unfortunately, residents create the opportunity by leaving their cars unlocked AND leaving valuables in plain sight. We average two to three car burglaries a month – **ALL UNLOCKED CARS**. It is a very simple solution – even if you have to go back outside at night, make sure all the vehicles at your home are locked.

The Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention Program is a multi-tiered, dynamic platform with three major components:

- The **first tier** is our Block Watch Captains program coordinated by the SFCA. Over 100 captains report information to a central coordinator that reports to the crime district. This program has become so successful that we have caught criminals on a real-time basis. We would be better able to prevent crime and catch criminal if we had more block captains. Block watch captains are only observers that report. They do not intervene in any activity. If you have the ability to observe and report, please contact our coordinator as listed in this newsletter.
- The **second tier** is our security patrol. These are Baton Rouge city police officers working off duty details. They have been extremely effective in preventing crime and catching criminals that commit crimes within our borders. Our patrol officers follow up on all events working with the different department divisions to try to solve any incidents.
- The **third tier** will be our security camera system. We are creating a defensive perimeter with the installation of cameras and license plate readers at each entrance of the subdivision. This is monumental task that has not been done in any subdivision on the scale we are trying to achieve. The camera system will serve to deter and catch criminals. Our goal is to have the system operational in 2018.

Security Tips - http://www.sfcabr.org/Documents/SFCABRSecurityBrochure_Version2.pdf

- Always lock your home's doors, windows, garage doors, sheds and your CAR DOORS.
- Don't leave invitations for thieves.
- Know your neighbors – you watch out for them and they watch out for you.

- Have packages delivered at your office or only when you are home.
- Home alarm and camera systems are one of the best preventive measures a homeowner can take. FYI - Not all alarm companies are equal.

If you see suspicious activity, call 289-2000. If you see a crime being committed call 911

For concerns related to the Crime District go to their website at sherwoodforestcrimedistrict.org and select the CONTACT heading for information on how to email them or write to them.



Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program Update

Though some dates published in the spring newsletter have slipped in completing the city-parish's SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow) Program in Sherwood Forest, the SSO Program is still targeting to complete by the end of the year all work that makes the system operable.

Installation of the last major sewer line, which goes from the intersection of Goodwood Boulevard and Westbrook Drive (near Christa McAuliffe) to a tie-in location on Little John Drive between East Robinhood Drive and Archery Drive, was finished early June. Restoration work - rebuilding curbs, sidewalks and driveway entrances and landscaping - for the areas affected (Westbrook, Mollylea and Little John Drives) is underway and is targeted to be complete by the end of September. Plans are to re-asphalt that portion of Goodwood Boulevard in front of the Christa McAuliffe pump station and Westbrook Drive before or during October.

The much smaller length sewer line that is being installed between the pump station on Major Oak and the intersection of Ashbourne Drive and Sherwood Forest Boulevard should be finished this fall, including restoration work for those areas that have been affected by the sewer line installation. The portion of the line that goes under Jones Creek has been installed. Abandonment work on the old sewer line should be finished by year end.

Wharton-Smith, the pump station contractor for the new Sherwood Forest pump stations, continues to progress their construction. Updated completion dates for each of the pump stations are as follows:

- The one to the east of Christina McAuliffe is targeted to be functionally complete this September.
- The one on Major Oak is targeted to be functionally complete by the end of this year.

- The small one on Shelby Drive, just to the south of Miller RV, is targeted to be functionally complete this September.

Target completion dates for each of the pump stations take into account a reasonable amount of time for weather related events, etc. Wharton-Smith plans to demobilize early 2019 and complete any non-operating deficiency items, if there are any, before it finishes demobilizing.

We continue to work with the SSO Program Manager, Jacobs Engineering, and the city-parish on Boone Services' demobilization from its laydown yard at Goodwood Boulevard and South Flannery and its completion of its remaining punch list items.

In addition, we continue to work with Jacobs Engineering and DPW on the popping manholes that have been happening during heavy rains in Sherwood Forest. We know about the ones on Trammell Drive, Woodcliff Drive, Stokley Place and the Sherwood Forest Boulevard/Ashbourne Drive/Sheraton Drive area. If there are others in your neighborhood, please let us know so that they can be added to the follow up list of sewer lines/manholes requiring further work. Jacobs Engineering continues to do additional investigation of storm water intrusion, performing smoke tests to locate intrusion sources.

Road Resurfacing in Sherwood Forest Subdivision

The East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council at its July 25th meeting approved awarding a contract to repave a number of streets in the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Forest. On the far east side of Sherwood Forest, Trammell Drive and East Parnell Avenue will be paved. Other streets in the Northeast quadrant that will be paved are bound by the following streets:

- Fairhaven Drive east of Havenwood Drive on the south side
- Woodcliff Drive on the east side
- Archery Drive on the north side
- Little John Drive on the west side

Mollylea will be paved from Woodcliff Drive to Sherwood Forest Boulevard, except for maybe that portion that was paved under the SSO Program. Havenwood Drive and East Robinhood Drive have not been identified as streets to be repaved.

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"Neighbors do business with people they know."
- Est. 1965

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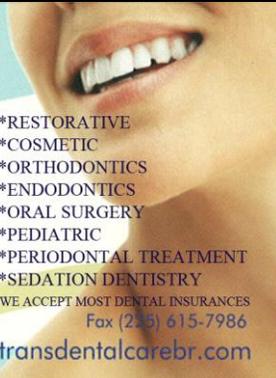


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ochsner.org/appointments.



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://brla.gov/416/Maintenance>.

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

2018 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

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

OFFICERS:

President: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net
Vice President: James Gray, jrjgray@cox.net
Treasurer: James Gray, jrjgray@cox.net
Secretary: Marcia Empson, msempson@bellsouth.net

DIRECTORS:

Richard Empson, Marcia Empson, James Gray, Jackie Gray, Thomas Balhoff, Teresa Haralson, Sue Larisey, Jim Murray, Emmeline Ross, Gary Smith

COMMITTEES:

Architectural Control: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net, James Gray, jrjgray@cox.net
Beautification: Jackie Gray jrjgray@cox.net; Emmeline Ross eross55@cox.net
EyeWatch: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com, Jim Murray, jwmurry36@gmail.com
Federation: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net
Hospitality: Sue Larisey, Mike Larisey, slarisey@cox.net
Membership: James Gray, jrjgray@cox.net
Newsletter: Jackie Gray, Patty Domingue
Public Works: Jackie Gray and Emmeline Ross
Security: Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.org or call 273-1353
Zoning: Richard Empson and James Gray
SSO Program: Phil Fetterman, psfetterman@yahoo.com
Legal Advisor: Thomas Balhoff
Webmaster: Jason Young, jysites@gmail.com

SFCA Board of directors meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, except October and December, in Room 3 of the St. Thomas More Activity Center. Notify Richard Empson four days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item to the board.