

The Sherwood Forest News

"Come Home To Sherwood Forest"

FALL 2019

Annual Residential Meeting

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the St. Thomas More Church Activity Center on Dartmoor Drive

Mark your calendars for this special event. The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association will hold its' annual neighborhood meeting on **Monday, October 7, 2019 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. This meeting will be an open meeting for questions and answers directed to SFCA Board members and our guest speakers, **Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor President, Darryl Gissel, City Parish Government's Chief Administrative Officer, Fred Raiford, Director of Transportation and Drainage, Doctor Rubin Patel, CEO of Patient Urgent Care.** We look forward to seeing you October 7, 2019.

In Sympathy

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Board of Directors wants to express our sympathy to Sue Larisey on the unexpected death of her husband Mike. Sue and Mike were our Hospitality Committee, delivering important homeowner guidelines and deed restrictions to new residents. Mike was always eager to help and will be missed.

Legacy Property Development

By now the residents of Sherwood Forest know that the owner of The Legacy wants to sell off 80 plus acres to a developer for the purpose of establishing residential homes. This area of development will have an entrance off of King Richard from Old Hammond Highway into a privately owned area with public streets and its own Homeowners Association. The development was requested to be rezoned from A1 to A2.7 in order to accomplish a high density area. There could be 7.1 homes per acre instead 4.1 under the A1 zoning. The SFCA Board will fight this issue in front of the Planning and Zoning Committee, requesting that the property **stay at the A1 zoning**. In our opinion, this would enhance our area. Also the denser the property is, the more susceptible the area is to flooding, because the water has nowhere to go. There is also the issue of the entrance

off King Richard, where based on the number of proposed homes (277), there would be 2800 cars passing per day once the development is completed.

None of this development has a positive impact on our area and we will fight to keep the property zoned as it now stands. We all know that at some point the area will be developed and if done properly, our subdivision will benefit in a positive manner. The density of the homes, the proper property drainage, and adequate entrances and exits are very important considerations on the impact of not only Sherwood Forest but Fox Croft and Beauverde Subdivisions.

Deed Restrictions – Protecting you and our neighborhood

A little history! The first filing of the original Sherwood Forest Subdivision occurred in July 1955. There were 178 single family residential lots in that first filing bounded on the west by Sherwood Forest Boulevard, on the east by Little John Drive, on the north by Robin Hood Drive, and on the south by Mollylea Drive. The filing, recorded in the public records, includes deed restrictions, a common form of protection for homeowners. One of the important deed restrictions states:

“No building shall be erected, placed, or altered on any lot until the construction plans and specifications and a plan showing the location of the structure have been approved by the architectural control committee as to quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures, ...”

This restriction, and others, are intended to protect all property owners and property values.

Over the years, the Sherwood Forest neighborhood expanded west to Sharp Road, south to Old Hammond, and east toward Flannery. In 1994, a twentieth filing of the original Sherwood Forest Subdivision began selling residential lots near the intersection of Goodwood Boulevard and South Flannery Road. There are ten filings in the subdivision known as West Sherwood Forest developed from 1956 to 1992. And, there are other subdivisions with their own filings which are considered part of Sherwood Forest. Today all of the filings include approximately 3000 homes and Sherwood Forest’s boundaries are Sharp Road on the west, South Flannery Road on the east, Florida Boulevard on the north, and Old Hammond Highway on the south. It is one of the largest neighborhoods in the State of Louisiana. In each and every filing, from that very first filing in 1955 through all subsequent filings, the developers of Sherwood Forest have included essentially the same deed restrictions so that homeowners who built homes or modified them have to be in harmony with the surrounding structures.

In 1986, the Louisiana Supreme Court held this standard—**in harmony with surrounding structures**—to be an enforceable standard when applied by an architectural control committee reasonably and in good faith.

The Sherwood Forest Citizens Association, Inc. (“SFCA”) is a non-profit corporation formed in October 1957. It has been working for the neighborhood to help keep it an enjoyable place for the residents to live and

raise our families. The SFCA Board is made up of unpaid volunteers—currently 10 residents of the neighborhood. The Board does many things, but one of the most important Board functions is serving as the architectural control committee for the Sherwood Forest neighborhood and making residents aware of the deed restrictions, and enforcing those deed restrictions in court proceedings when necessary. The SFCA maintains a web site where the deed restrictions and other property guidelines can easily be found and reviewed by residents. <https://www.sfcabr.org/deedrestrictions.html>. SFCA is working on an easy-to-use index to correlate street addresses to filings and this will be put on the SFCA web site.

The deed restrictions are important protections for you and our neighborhood and need to be enforced so that when homeowners choose Sherwood Forest, they have the assurance that their neighborhood will maintain harmonious integrity.

Your \$25.00 annual dues to the SFCA are necessary for enforcement actions since private property is involved. The Sherwood Forest Crime District, discussed elsewhere, can use its funds only for a public purpose. The SFCA cannot use the Crime District revenue. So, we rely on your annual \$25.00 dues. **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.** A Membership Form is included in this newsletter.

“The permit issued by the City Parish for a subject structure conveys no right to occupy any street, alley or sidewalk, or any part thereof, either temporary or permanently except that specifically provided for in the building code. The issuance of the permit does not release the applicant from the conditions of any applicable subdivision restriction”.

HOA's versus CPID's

As just explained in the previous article, the Sherwood Forest Citizens Association, Inc. (“SFCA”) is a non-profit corporation formed in 1957. It is what is known as a Homeowners Association (“HOA”). HOAs have been around as long as there have been residents who are interested in volunteering their “time” and “treasure” for the betterment of their neighborhoods. “Time” includes such things as serving on the SFCA Board as the architectural control committee for deed restriction enforcement, or serving as one of the many block captains in the SFCA Neighborhood EyeWatch program, or gathering and helping publish important information about the neighborhood the semi-annual newsletter, the Sherwood Forest News. “Treasure” includes paying the voluntary \$25.00 annual dues which support the SFCA activities.

Crime Prevention and Improvement Districts (“CPIDs”) are different from HOAs. CPIDs are special taxing districts created by state legislation. They have geographically defined boundaries. CPIDs are commonly used by the residents of neighborhoods who are unsatisfied with the amount or quality of crime prevention or beautification services, or both, which their local government is providing to their neighborhoods. They have become very popular in New Orleans and Baton Rouge within the past 20 years. There are at least 27 neighborhoods in Baton Rouge with their own CPIDs. An excellent article appeared in the Baton Rouge Business Report last year by Annie Landry which explains the popularity of CPIDs and their differences from HOAs. It can be found at <https://www.businessreport.com/realestate/crime-prevention-districts-baton-rouge>.

The Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District (“SFCPNID”) came into existence in 2014. Its boundaries are set forth in the statute and are roughly what we think of as the Sherwood Forest Subdivision. The annual parcel fee assessed and collected from each property owner in Sherwood Forest amounts to \$75, which is less than the \$100 average in Baton Rouge, and substantially below many of the CPIDs. The money is administered by a seven-member board. Monies can be used to aid in crime prevention and to add to the security of district residents by providing for an increase in the presence of law

enforcement personnel in the district and to serve the needs of the residents of the district by funding beautification and improvements for the overall betterment of the district. But because the funds are public funds, they can only be used for a public purpose, and cannot be used for private purposes. Deed restriction enforcement is considered a private purpose, so to emphasize once again, SFCA relies on and needs your annual \$25.00 dues. **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.**

Eye Watch

Our purpose is to work together to make our Sherwood Forest neighborhood a safe place to live.

We have approximately 109 Eye Watch Block captains and all are very much needed and appreciated.

In this article, I would like to highlight one of our block captains. She works tirelessly with her street and other streets in her quadrant. She has a very busy life with work and family, went through the flood and restoration of her home as well, and still finds time to help other people working as a block captain. She works wherever or whenever the need arises. She never meets a stranger.

It is this block captain, and all of our other block captains who make our Eye Watch system work.

Eye Watch Block captains not only keep an eye on what's happening around their area , but are also a vital resource and contact person when information needs to be passed on to the appropriate person or organizations.

Remember we can all do our part to deter crime.

- Always lock your cars and home.
- Report any suspicious activity.
- For emergencies or crimes in progress call 911 immediately.
- For suspicious activity or non emergency crimes call the non-emergency police number: 389-2000.

If you would like to volunteer as an Eyewatch Block Captain on your street, or if you have information to pass on to the neighborhood, please contact me at my email address: Teresaharalson@gmail.com, or private message me: -Teresa Haralson on the Nextdoor App. You can also send pictures and security video clips.

Sherwood Forest Crime and Neighborhood Improvement Camera / LPR Pilot Project

Gary Patureau, Chair

Soon our Sherwood Forest Crime District Security Camera and License Plate Reader (LPR) system will be operational. The system is a pilot project between the City of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Police Department and the Sherwood Forest Crime District.

The system will consist of the installation of a camera and license plate reader at 16 of our entrances. Every vehicle that enters Sherwood Forest will have their license plate and a video of their car recorded. We hope to be operational by October.

The pilot portion of the project entails using the same equipment and technology that the City of Baton Rouge Police Department uses. We will be the first crime district to have its system connected directly to the soon-to-be-operational East Baton Rouge Real Time Crime Center (RTCC).

The reality is it becomes harder for criminals to not be identified if they commit a crime in Sherwood Forest. This is the third component that the crime district has been developing to combat and catch criminals within the subdivision. Our security patrol and neighborhood block watch programs are one of the strongest in the parish. The new camera/LPR system will not only enhance our security, but it will take it to a level that does not exist in EBRP. In fact, it will almost be unique in the country in a residential subdivision.

Another component of the pilot project is the Community Camera Share Program. Homeowners can choose to have their public/street facing cameras listed in the RTCC directory so the police will know where those cameras are located. If a crime were to occur, the police could ask permission from the homeowner to review camera footage. Some homeowners may also want to connect their public/street facing cameras to the RTCC. This will allow for real time investigatory support.

Continue to read more about the RTCC. You can envision how the Sherwood Forest Crime District Camera and LPR System will make Sherwood Forest an even safer neighborhood. It has been an honor to serve with my fellow Commissioners to develop our security program and manage the Crime District these past five years.

East Baton Rouge Real Time Crime Center (RTCC)

Sergeant Jim Verlander, Operational Services Bureau, Real Time Crime Center, BRPD.

The East Baton Rouge Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) represents a 21st century approach to public safety. This concept leverages existing technical and data assets from partnering departments and creates a collaborative public/private partnership to:

- ✓ Strengthen Officer, Citizen, and Community Safety
- ✓ Enhance situational awareness
- ✓ Amplify investigative support and resource allocation
- ✓ Provide live monitoring of video, LPR (license plate readers), shot spotter, etc.
- ✓ Maximize Law Enforcement efficiency and improve decision making
- ✓ Yield crime analysis and risk based strategies for crime reduction operations

Mission:

The mission of the East Baton Rouge RTCC is to utilize staff, technology and investigative tools to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of police services throughout the Baton Rouge Capital Area to rapidly respond to community needs and public safety concerns.

Objectives:

- To provide frontline and investigative personnel immediate access to advanced technology, information systems, and analytics. Real time actionable intelligence will reduce response time to crimes in progress while enhancing officer safety through situational awareness.
- **To provide real time investigatory support and intelligence during preliminary investigations, review/recovery of video from departmental technology and a proposed public/private camera share program.**
- To apply state of the art, data-driven analytics to create “precision enforcement” strategies designed to enable a strong community presence that supports crime reduction, increases public trust, and reduces fear of crime.

Highlights:

We have set aside several thousand square feet of finished office space in the East Baton Rouge Public Safety Complex (BRPD Headquarters) to create this RTCC.

Over the past year we have invested many hours of research and site visits to understand the best way to approach a public/private camera and LPR share program. This program will allow law enforcement to look at specific exterior (public facing) cameras owned by homeowners and commercial businesses. Analysis of crime trends will dictate which cameras are monitored live.

The department's video management systems are capable of providing the necessary management tools to take on many thousands of cameras.

The RTCC will house the department's real-time analytics platform, providing law enforcement supervisory personnel data driven information to gain a more expedient and accurate analytical perspective of crime within the patrol districts they supervise.

This will enable police supervisory personnel and crime analysts to instantly assess the volume of criminal activity in order to distribute valuable police resources accordingly and in an efficient manner to prevent crime.

Integrated Camera Share Program

Community Camera Share Program is collaboration between the private sector and the Baton Rouge Police Department to increase public safety and reduce crime using existing and new public facing- cameras and LPR's. The program is founded on the philosophy that police are not solely responsible for public safety and crime reduction in a community. The Community Camera Share program establishes an affordable and effective method for citizens, Crime Districts, and business to provide HD camera resources that are accessible by police within the structure of their organizations. Any citizen, Crime District, or business can choose the option to share their video streams or simply provide the location of their cameras so the police department can review footage in the event of criminal activity. Cameras in the area can be quickly located and reviewed by police. Critical information related to the criminal activity can be immediately provided to responding officers and detectives conducting an investigation.

Community Camera Share Programs across the country have proven to reduce crime and increase public safety by providing immediate access to HD quality video when police services are needed. The program improves situation awareness and dramatically reduces the time and complexity associated with the effort to collect useful video data during an investigation. Thus, responding officers have more useful information available while on the scene, which increases the opportunity to address the issue and close the case immediately.

Baton Rouge Crime Stoppers and Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District

Crime Stoppers and the Sherwood Forest Crime District are partnering to announce a reward for new information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person(s) responsible for the homicide of Mrs. Janessa Hartley.

- The District’s contribution shall be used for an additional reward, separate and independent of the Baton Rouge Crime Stoppers reward, upon arrest and indictment of the person(s) responsible for this crime in order to increase the likelihood of receipt of new information which could lead to the arrest and indictment of the person responsible for this crime.
- To be eligible for the Crime Stoppers reward and the advertised reward funded by the Crime District the following must be met. The person(s) must contact Baton Rouge Crime Stoppers prior to any arrest made. This is the only way Crime Stoppers can protect the identity of that person(s). The information must be new information. All tipsters will be issued a code number for their identification. No code numbers, no reward. No names will be exchanged.
- There will be no identification as to who receives any reward pertaining to this investigation. All tips to Baton Rouge Crime Stoppers are anonymous. Baton Rouge Crime Stoppers will follow the same method of paying the reward offered by the District to an eligible recipient(s) to protect the identity of that person(s).

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Program

Each of the three new sanitary sewer pump stations in Sherwood Forest were started up by the end of last year. The construction contractors are finishing their remaining punch list items, and they should be complete by this September. There are some punch list items that will be handled under the road rehab work being done in Sherwood Forest subdivision. Those items should be finished by this December.

There are nine sanitary sewer manholes that pop when we have a heavy, intense rain. Investigative work will start in September to determine what may be causing them to pop. DPW/Jacobs are targeting to have the popping manhole issue corrective by March/April 2020.

The nine sanitary sewer manholes are located on the following streets - Stokley Place, Trammell, Woodcliff, Montgomery, East Glenhaven, Glenhaven, South Tinley, and Manorwood Drives, and the intersection of Sheraton Drive and Sherwood Forest Boulevard.

If you know of any other popping manhole locations, please let us know so that we also can get those taken care of.

Road Rehabs in Sherwood Forest and the Area:

The status of the various road rehabs that have been happening in or bordering Sherwood Forest and when they will be complete is as follows:

- Micro-surfacing of various streets within the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Forest was completed early June.

- RJ Daigle - the contractor rehabbing Arlingford Avenue and several streets that feed off of it, Sylvan and Havenwood Drives north of Goodwood Boulevard, and Woodcliff Drive between Goodwood Boulevard and Fairhaven Drive - has completed its major work. Punch list work will be complete by December (it will be combined with the punch list work RJ Daigle may have for its work areas outside Sherwood Forest subdivision).
- Coastal Bridge - the contractor rehabbing Goodwood Boulevard between Stockton Drive and Airline Highway and Sherwood Forest Boulevard between Florida Boulevard and Old Hammond Highway - should complete its concrete work in September and the asphalt work by November. Priority will be given to Goodwood Boulevard followed by Sherwood Forest Boulevard.
- Repaving Sherwood Forest Boulevard between Old Hammond Highway and Airline Highway started in August. The stretch of Sherwood Forest Boulevard between Airline Highway and I-12 will be done first, followed by that stretch between I-12 and Old Hammond. Asphalt is being laid at night and striping and joint sealing will be done during the day. The work should be finished by November 2019.
- **The South Flannery Road bridge that is between Goodwood Boulevard and Old Hammond Highway failed a bridge inspection and is currently out of service. It will be out of service until early 2020. DPW is soliciting bids from engineering firms to specify the bridge repair scope of work. Repair work will start later this year. This bridge is a major thoroughfare in our neighborhood, and its closure has dramatically increased traffic problems, especially at the intersection of Buckingham Avenue and Old Hammond Highway. If you do not need to use that intersection, please find another route. If you do need to use that intersection, as many of us do, please be courteous as the wait time to turn left onto Old Hammond Highway can be very long.**

5G Cell Tower's

The 5G Task Force was created when 5G cell towers started to spring up in neighborhoods. Sherwood Forest currently has six of these towers with more planned. Under the current ordinance, AT&T has erected approximately 170 towers throughout the parish with 36 being in neighborhoods. While the goal of the 5G Task Force is not to stop 5G technology, its mission is to ensure the responsible rollout of the technology. The Task Force has focused its efforts in two phases.

Phase I –

- (a) provide a legal memorandum surveying the law as it applies to locating and permitting small cell towers, with particular focus on what the City-Parish can control, as well as brief survey of the local laws adopted by other communities to address this issue; and

Phase II –

- (2) a draft of an amendment to the existing small cell tower ordinance with a primary focus of providing
 - (1) real and adequate notice to property owners within the vicinity of the proposed towers, with a procedure for those landowners to be heard by the City-Parish, IN ADVANCE of any issuance of a tower permit; and
 - (2) a set of criteria or issues that the City-Parish must take into consideration prior to issuance of any tower permit (among the criteria that might be included could be
 - **(a) the aesthetic effect of the tower on the neighborhood or target location;**

- (b) effects of tower location on adjacent property values;
- (c) alternative location opportunities in the same target area;
- (d) opportunities for co-location on already existing structures;
- (e) potential requirements for mandatory co-location in areas where the avoidance of tower proliferation is imperative.

Phase I is finished. The memorandum details the background of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and subsequent FCC Rulings. It goes into detail on the regulation and authority within the FCC Third Ruling of 2018. It breaks down the issues that any metropolitan council should consider when they develop their local ordinance. It helps to clarify for the EBRP Metro Council, the issues that we have raised. It also incorporates issues addressed by other metropolitan councils across the country.

We are now working on Phase II – the actual redrafting of the current EBRP 5G ordinance. We are meeting with the Mayor’s Office, Parish Attorney’s office, and other city leaders. The projected deadline is mid-September.

Go to the Task Force website to learn more about the 5G initiative in EBRP. www.responsible5g.org.

Parking Restrictions

This is a reminder to all homeowners that the City Parish ordinance related to parking in the front yard parked facing the wrong way on the street, and parking between the sidewalk and the curb, will be **ticketed**. The security patrol will not issue warnings at all. **If you are in violation of this ordinance, you will receive a ticket.**

This is a reminder of city-parish parking ordinances that, when violated, can result in a traffic ticket. To keep streets clear for emergency vehicles and to maintain the beauty of the neighborhood, residents’ cars should always be parked in the carport or garage or on a paved driveway.

Parking is not permitted on a sidewalk (or blocking a driveway sidewalk), in the area between the sidewalk and street, on grass, including medians, or close to intersections. Wreckers, 18 wheelers, and other large, heavy trucks are not permitted in the neighborhood, except while providing pick-up or delivery services. On-street parking is limited to nine hours consecutively.

The relevant ordinances, including these and others, are spelled out in the EBRP Code of Ordinances, (brla.gov/1129/code-of-ordinances)

Membership Form

To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2019 dues to:
Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association
P.O. Box 45142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2019 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!

Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- Dec. 31): \$25 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Membership Notes Fall 2019

At the end of July, our paid members totaled 672- an increase of 26 vs. July 2018. Can you help the SFCA reach its goal of 700 paid members? Please fill out the form above!

Property Transfers (Homes Sold)

Seventy-two homes have been sold so far in July, totaling \$12,610,251. That's an average of \$175,142.38. At the same time last year, 59 homes were sold, totaling \$10,810,215 for an average of \$183,223.98.

This information taken from the weekly property transfers published in The Advocate.

Yards of the Month

JUNE AND JULY



**Josyilin & Bill Lee 12346 Parkwood Dr.
"WINNER"**



Janie Allen 12525 Fairhaven Ave.



Lawanda Jackson 12462 Queensbury Ave.



**Brandon & Roselyn Whitley
542 Trammell Dr**

AUGUST



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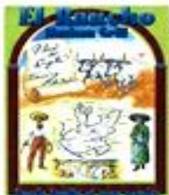


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Call the Right Number for Assistance

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 carpools 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.

2019 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: James Gray, jrhgray@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, Debra Simino, Gary Smith

COMMITTEES:

Architectural Control: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net,
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Federation: Debra Simino
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Membership: James Gray, jrhgray@cox.net
Newsletter: Jackie Gray, Patty Domingue
Public Works: Jackie Gray
Security: Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.org
Zoning: Richard Empson and James Gray
SSO Program: Phil Fetterman, psfetterman@yahoo.com
Legal Advisor: Thomas Balhoff
Other Committees: Kathy Balhoff, Nick Simino, Emily Ringelman, Anh-Dung Nguyen "Zoom"
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.