

# *The Sherwood Forest News*

Fall 2014

## *Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Annual Meeting*

**Tuesday, October 14, 2014**

**7:00 - 8:00pm**

**St. Thomas More Activity Center**

Join Sherwood Forest residents and Board members as we discuss the business of Sherwood Forest. Learn the latest about your neighborhood as we discuss current issues and future plans. We look forward to seeing you at STM on Tuesday, October 14.

## *Deed Restrictions and Architectural Control*

As stated in the spring newsletter, enforcement of Sherwood Forest deed restrictions is a top priority of the SFCA. The Association does that through its Architectural Control Committee - ACC. Every property owner is bound by the deed restrictions of the filing they live in with no exception. When you purchase your home you legally agree to abide by those deed restrictions and any construction or accessory building has to be approved by the ACC.

We have many filings in Sherwood Forest and the common controlling language in each filing states "No construction or 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 ACC as to the quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures, and as to the location with respect to topography and finish grade elevation".

A permit issued by the city for construction does not supersede deed restrictions. The direct language on the permit card that has to be posted onsite states - "The permit issued for 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".

Further, each plot plan approved by DPW has the following language stamped on it – “This agency does not enforce private deed and/or subdivision restrictions. However, the issuance of this permit does not release the owner and/or contractor/builder from complying with any such restrictions that may be attached to the property mentioned in this permit”.

Our deed covenants also set other rules for homeowners such as “Enclosed garages shall not be used for bedrooms”, “Lot owners shall keep their respective lots mowed and free of noxious weeds. In the event that an owner fails to discharge this obligation, the ACC may, in its discretion, cause the lot (s) to be mowed, and the owner of such lot (s) shall be obligated to pay the cost of such mowing”, “No house trailers, commercial vehicles, tandem trailers, buses or trucks shall be kept, stored, repaired or maintained on any lot, servitude or right-of-way in any manner which would detract from the appearance of the subdivision”, “No building materials and no building equipment of any kind may be placed or stored on any lot except in the actual course of construction of a residence or other building thereon”.

Our deed restrictions are very specific covering a host of restrictions including accessory buildings, pitch of roofs, size of homes, solar panels, noxious or offensive activity, livestock, signs, business activity, type of building materials, fences and much more. Clearly the founders of Sherwood Forest sought to control what type of activity, construction and construction materials were to be allowed with the goal of maintaining reasonable “harmony” of design within the subdivision.

Architectural control and deed restriction enforcement has one purpose – to protect your property value. What is convenient for one property owner may devalue their neighbor’s property.

The ACC asks your help. Foremost, understand that any construction or accessory building has to be approved by the ACC. You can review a copy of your deed restrictions at [www.sfcabr.org](http://www.sfcabr.org). Secondly, understand that it is up to each property owner to help keep standards within the subdivision. Contact the ACC chair to schedule a review of construction plans or alert us of a possible violation – see back of newsletter for contact information.

Our property values are linked together and depend upon each property owner maintaining their property. Help us keep Sherwood Forest a strong neighborhood that has high property values and good neighbors.

## *From the President’s Desk*

*Ricky Shaffer, President, Sherwood Forest Citizen’s Association*

First and foremost, let me begin my last President’s message by saying, “Why have the last three years past so quickly?” At the end 2014, my tenure as president of the SFCA Board will be over. It’s really been a great experience and joy to have been president. There are so many people to thank for the kindness you have sent my way during this time. I want to thank the wonderful board who put in countless (unpaid!) hours working for the betterment of our fine neighborhood, and who worked so hard to help make the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention District become a reality. I want to thank all of the committee members and block captains who contribute their time. I want to thank all of the residents whom I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know during the past three years.

I want to thank Captain Gary Alford of the Baton Rouge Police Department for the fine job performed by his officers in our neighborhood. I would like to thank Sheriff Sid Gautreaux for the security patrols manned by deputies of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. I would like to thank the Louisiana State Police for their help enforcing the many school zones in our neighborhood.

Although my time as president will be ending, I plan to continue to work with the SFCA board in other capacities. Now, I have one final request. We need volunteers for committees and possibly new board members. We have several board members who have served 20 years or more and we need new recruits! I know that there are many new families who have moved into Sherwood Forest and I hope some of you will be interested in helping us work to keep our neighborhood safe and a great place to live.

God Bless,

Ricky Shaffer



## *Eyewatch Block Meet & Greet*

**St. Thomas More Church Activity Center  
Dartmoor Dr.  
Saturday, September 20, at 10 a.m.**

Attend the **Eyewatch Block Captain Meet and Greet** gathering on **Saturday, September 20 at 10 AM**. It's the perfect opportunity to mingle with the active block captain volunteers and to sign-up to be the block captain for your neighborhood.

The SFCA Neighborhood Blitz held May 10 was a success with 3 new residents joining the SFCA and 3 new block captain volunteers. There were 11 total volunteers who visited 160 residences covering Kay Drive, Wilton, Wingate, E. Robinhood, E. Parnell and Glenhaven. If you were not contacted in May, we will be having another "blitz" in October to continue the coverage of the northeast area of the subdivision. The next "**neighborhood blitz**" will be **Saturday, October 11**, with the alternate day being Sunday, October 12. Please be kind to our volunteers as they canvas your neighborhood.

## *Flags 4<sup>th</sup> of July*

Thanks again Marti Ledwidge for placing hundreds of American flags in residents yards in your quadrant of Sherwood Forest. Marti has been responsible for commemorating Independence Day by having flags placed in yards for many years. It is quite a heartwarming site when you see all those flags flying.

## *Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Needs Your Help*

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association invites all homeowners to participate in association activities; such as, neighborhood clean-up, Eyewatch, door –to- door canvassing for informational purposes, or to help with any other association activities. Remember the association is acting on behalf of all residents in trying to maintain the beauty and stability of Sherwood Forest. The Board of Directors struggles to attend to all areas of concern with only eight individuals. We are in need of volunteers for any amount of time you can give. Please contact Richard Empson at 272-2372, to express your desire to volunteer. Additional information will be given at that time.

## *Sherwood Forest Citizens Association Defeats Rezoning at 201 Little John*

In June a rezoning request was made to change the zoning from Heavy Commercial to Commercial Alcoholic Beverage Two at 201 Little John located in the Sherwood Village Shopping Center. If the rezoning had been granted it would have permitted the owners to open a bar serving alcohol.

The rezoning request was defeated due to the quick action by Sherwood Forest Citizens Association and residents.

Over 500 flyers asking homeowners to oppose the rezoning were hand delivered to homes in the general area. Email blasts were sent out and over 100 area homeowners were prepared to attend the Planning & Zoning Meeting on July 21st. Hundreds of phone calls and emails were made to the Planning & Zoning Members and Metro Council Members asking them to deny the rezoning request.

As a result of the quick action of volunteers and residents, the rezoning was pulled before it went to the Planning Commission. These actions demonstrate how coming together of our residents help keep Sherwood Forest a wonderful neighborhood. Thanks to all of you for your time and effort to help defeat this zoning change.

## *Criteria for Calming Ramps Outlined*

1. The street shall be a residential street with average daily traffic not exceeding 2,000 vehicles per day.

2. A study made prior to any decision must show that problems exist and correction is possible by traffic control devices (stop signs, speed limit signs, etc.) These problems are: excessive speed, excessive cut-through traffic, excessive uncontrolled street length. An engineering study requires before and after measurements of speed and volume for a minimum at least one weekend day.

3. A City-Parish Neighborhood Traffic Control Program petition (available from the city) indicating that 75% of the property owners on that street support the installation needs to be submitted to the Director of Public Works. In the case of rental property, both the owner and tenant must support the project.

4. The petition should include letters of no objection from the affected Fire Dept., EMS, Police Dept. and Sheriff's Office.

5. The Director of Public Works has the authority to utilize other temporary types of traffic control and calming devices prior to a final decision being made.

6. Funding for the studies and installation shall be from a separate fund designated for such purposes.

There are many streets in Sherwood Forest that could/would benefit greatly from Calming Ramps. If you live on one of these streets would you be willing to take on this project for your street? If so, contact the Council person for your area and get started!

## Security

Sherwood Forest had a number of home and vehicle break-ins over the summer. Crime typically goes up during summer months and holiday seasons. We always look for a lesson to try and prevent more crime. Always lock your cars even in your carport. Do not leave bicycles, lawn equipment or other valuables unlocked for thieves to steal. Quality, monitored alarm systems are the best way to protect your home. Alarms systems with cameras are even a better deterrent and give the opportunity to identify a criminal.

SFCA has teamed with Custom Security Systems to offer our members a 25% discount on any installation and 10% off monitoring. This is an outstanding offer for our member residents. This offer ends at the end of the year so if you are interested don't wait too long.

**As a benefit of membership in the Sherwood Forest Citizens Association**

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## *EBRSO Tips to Avoid Auto Theft*



- Park in well-lit areas with pedestrian traffic.
- Roll up the windows, lock your doors, and take your keys with you.
- Never leave your vehicle running while unattended.
- Hide valuables in a secure location such as the trunk, under the seat, or any place out of view.
- Consider using a steering-wheel locking device to help secure your vehicle.
- Consider installing a security alarm system for your vehicle.
- Consider installing a tracking device in your vehicle to aid law enforcement if it is stolen.
- Consider VIN etching\* the windows of your vehicle.
- **NEVER** leave your keys in an unattended vehicle.
- **NEVER** leave your title in your vehicle.
- **NEVER** allow any unknown person to borrow your vehicle.

## *EBRSO Tips to Prevent Burglaries*

- All residents should immediately report any and all suspicious persons or vehicles that are observed in their neighborhoods.
- Valuable items should be kept out of view from public access as items easily observed invite crimes of opportunity. Windows that can be observed from public access should have the drapery or blinds drawn to prevent valuables from being observed.
- Any residence with an alarm should have the alarm activated when unoccupied. The residence should also have posted signs or window decals indicating that it is protected by an alarm system.
- When a planned absence from the residence occurs, mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped.
- Residents should cooperate with neighborhood watch programs when established. If a neighborhood watch program is not in effect, the neighborhood association should contact EBRSO and establish one.
- Motion detection lighting can be used on the exterior of the residence.
- All locks should be activated when the residence is unoccupied or when residents retire for the night.

# Membership Fall 2014

**James Gray, Membership Chairman**

As the year begins to wind down membership numbers are still trending below last year & past years. As of August 15<sup>th</sup> our membership stands at 1,023 paid members. As I've reported before, a third of you are paying for services benefiting 100% of the homeowners.

Everyone is probably aware that the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District passed by an overwhelming majority. Beginning in 2015, this responsibility will be shared by all. Also the city collects the first 1% of the \$75.00 as payment for collecting the assessment.

The Crime District will not replace Sherwood Forest Citizens Association. As a result, next year (2015) the Sherwood Forest Citizens Association dues are being reduced to \$15.00 and will no longer ask for a security donation. SFCA will need your \$15.00 to support activities that include – representing the neighborhood at the City/Parish government level, architectural control issues, planning & zoning, public works and help with DPW issues, hospitality, publishing & mailing our newsletters, postage, maintaining the website, 24 hour a day telephone, email hotline system, neighborhood watch program, and yards of the month.

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

<u># Homes Sold</u>	<u>Property Transfers as of 8/10/14</u>	<u>Total \$\$ Sales</u>
2014 = 61	<u>Average Sale Price \$</u> \$163,512.00	\$9,974,213.00

\*\*\*\*\*

**To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2014 dues in the enclosed envelope to:**  
**Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association**  
**P.O. Box 45142**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142**

## SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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!

2014 Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- Dec. 31): **\$25 + Security Donation: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

# *Yard of the Month Winners*



May-Tom & Sharon Mann  
12748 Goodwood Blvd.



June-Lynn Rayburn  
1737 Belfort Dr.



July-Rosemary Smith  
1863 N. Bellrose Dr.



August-Beverly Rabalais  
11735 Archery Dr.

Yard winners of the Month receive a \$50 gift certificate from Louisiana Nursery.

## **Please Support Our Sponsors.**

\*\*\*\*\*

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



# *The Legacy at Bonne Esperance*

Members of the SFCA Board met with the Dornier family and staff recently to discuss their plans for the old Sherwood Forest Country Club. The Board was pleased with the initial plans to create a state-of-the-art tennis center. They are in the process of resurfacing courts, giving lessons and holding tennis events. The Legacy will offer more than just tennis in the future. We encourage you to attend the grand opening to learn more.

The Legacy at Bonne Esperance  
Grand Opening  
September 12- September 14

Come see all we have to offer!! We have lots of tennis events coming up for both juniors and adults. Please email us at [events@bonneesperance.net](mailto:events@bonneesperance.net) if you would like to be added to our email list. You can also like us on facebook to stay up with the latest upcoming events!

For more information call 225-246-2917



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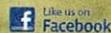
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## Call the right number for assistance

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, nuisances such as stray pets or barking dogs, 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.

### 2014 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: Ricky Shaffer, [roostert80@cox.net](mailto:roostert80@cox.net)

Vice President: Gary Smith, [security@sfcabr.org](mailto:security@sfcabr.org)

Treasurer: Ralph Dupuy, [ralphdupuy@gmail.com](mailto:ralphdupuy@gmail.com)

Secretary: Jackie Gray, [irjgray@cox.net](mailto:irjgray@cox.net)

#### **DIRECTORS:**

Marcia Empson, Richard Empson, Jackie Gray, James Gray, Gary Patureau. Gary Smith, Emmeline Ross and Ralph Dupuy

#### **COMMITTEES:**

Architectural Control: Gary Patureau, [zoning@sfcabr.org](mailto:zoning@sfcabr.org)

Beautification: Jackie Gray, [irjgray@cox.net](mailto:irjgray@cox.net)

Emmeline Ross, [eross55@cox.net](mailto:eross55@cox.net)

EyeWatch: Marcia and Richard Empson, [msempson@bellsouth.net](mailto:msempson@bellsouth.net)

Federation: Gary Patureau, [zoning@lasie.org](mailto:zoning@lasie.org);

Hospitality: Mary Heuchert [lmh2010@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmh2010@bellsouth.net)

Membership: James Gray, [irjgray@cox.net](mailto:irjgray@cox.net);

Newsletter: Gary Patureau, [zoning@sfcabr.org](mailto:zoning@sfcabr.org)

Public Works: Jackie Gray, Gary Smith, Emmeline Ross

Security: Gary Smith, [security@sfcabr.org](mailto:security@sfcabr.org)

Zoning: Gary Patureau, [zoning@lasie.org](mailto:zoning@lasie.org)

Webmaster: Gary Patureau, [zoning@lasie.org](mailto: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 5 of the St. Thomas More Activity Center. Get in touch with Ricky Shaffer at least four days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item to the board.