The Sherwood Forest News

Spring 2016

From the President's Desk

Richard Empson, President, Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

Welcome all new residents to Sherwood Forest Subdivision!! The foremost purpose of the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association (SFCA) is to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood and foster an environment that would attract new families to our subdivision.

The SFCA is a volunteer group that works hard at addressing issues brought to our attention by residents or situations we perceive to be an infraction to each filing's deed restriction or to city ordinances. The Association does not make irrational judgments nor are we malicious in arriving at decisions; but we will use all legal remedies available to rectify a specific situation. That brings me to the subject of yearly membership dues.

After the establishment of the Sherwood Forest Crime District (SFCD), the yearly SFCA membership dues were reduced from \$25 to \$15. The SFCA Board, by being more pro-active, has experienced an escalation in costs for the services of legal counsel, court costs, postage for mailing of certified letters to homeowners for compliance issues, postage to mail the yearly membership reminder letters to our 3000 residences, and an increase in printing costs for the two newsletters we provide each year. Beginning January, 2017, we will return yearly membership dues to the SFCA to \$25, to assist with these expenses.

We are a group of ten board members working on your behalf to maintain the beauty of our subdivision. In doing so, we are enforcing each filings deed restrictions and upgrading some to comply with the changing times and culture within our neighborhood.

Thank you once again for working with the Architectural Control Committee, the Zoning Committee and foremost our Security Committee to keep our subdivision a desirable, in demand, neighborhood.

Note to Residents

Richard Empson, President, Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

Over the years the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Board has held numerous clean-up days and the same 8-10 individuals show up to participate. This is very discouraging to the Board. Sherwood Forest Subdivision is the largest subdivision in the City of Baton Rouge, with 3000 residences. If you assume that each residence has 2 people living at the home that is a minimum of 6000 individuals living within the boundaries of the subdivision. The cleanliness of any area presents a positive or negative opinion.

The Board is asking homeowners to adopt a section of the subdivision that is most noticeable to the public and remove the accumulated trash that uncaring drivers toss out. Remember that your neighborhood is a reflection of you, where you live and how you live. There is an old saying that the first impression is the most lasting impression. SO LET'S CLEANUP THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

The two main arteries, Sherwood Forest Blvd. and Goodwood Blvd., are the most critical for these are driven by many who are just passing through. However, the street you live on is also important. Please help the SFCA Board to beautify our neighborhood and make it an inviting, clean place that anyone travelling through or living here would be most proud.

Note to All Pet Owners In our Neighborhood

THIS IS A SPECIAL APPEAL

To all the pet owners that walk their dogs throughout the neighborhood, <u>please be</u> <u>courteous to your neighbors</u> and bring a bag to pick up your animal's waste. There is nothing more discouraging than to see multiple spots with all size of dog waste deposits. The subdivision does not only have to deal with careless discards of litter deposits, but now animal deposits.

Unkept/Unmaintained Property

The Sherwood Forest Subdivision is zoned as "A-1 Residential." This means that homes are to be occupied by individuals that are blood related only. There are instances where the city, state, or federal governments allow homes registered as group homes, to reside in a neighborhood. These group homes can be half-way houses for drug or alcohol abuse, residences for the developmentally challenged individuals, or the elderly. The SFCA is compiling a list of these homes and will monitor their activities making sure the occupants comply with the subdivision's covenants and deed restrictions. Let it be known that if any infraction is reported to the board by a resident or if a board member sees an infraction, proper action will be taken through all legal means necessary.

The SFCA Board would also like homeowners to know that if they have rental property, the individual renting the property must abide by the A-1 residential zoning classification. This means no multi-non-related individuals are able to inhabit the dwelling nor is any type of business to be run out of the home. If these type of issues are brought to the attention of the SFCA Board all measures will be taken to correct the situation; which include, the BRPD, council members, the City of Baton Rouge, our attorney, city ordinances, and the court system. Both homeowner and renter will be held responsible.

Your elected SFCA Board members are diligently working to keep our subdivision desirable and a great place to raise a family. The Association will not tolerate actions by homeowners that will decrease the value of our property by doing what they please, ignoring deed restrictions or failing to confer with the board prior to construction/renovation of the existing home. I am hopeful that during this year we can eliminate the blight and willful neglect that has a tendency to plague older subdivisions.

Welcome New Neighbor

There are many lovely areas in the Baton Rouge area. It is an honor that you have chosen Sherwood Forest subdivision for your home. The Welcome Committee enjoys greeting our new neighbors. To those of you we were not able to personally greet, welcome! Everyone is encouraged to meet their neighbors through friendly waves and volunteering in our little community.

Please support your new neighborhood by joining the Sherwood Forest Citizen's Association. The current annual donation of \$15.00 is used to print and deliver our newsletter, pay for postage for mail outs, printing of flyers, and attorney fees, which may be necessary to enforce deed restrictions.

If you feel that you may be able to volunteer as a committee member on the SFCA Board, please contact Richard Empson, President (225-272-2372) rlempson@bellsouth.net or James Gray, Vice President (225-273-2930) jrjhgray@cox.net. Both of these gentlemen will be happy to discuss your involvement with the board's activities.

Blight Elimination

In the East Baton Rouge Code of Ordinances (UDC Code), Blight Elimination is defined in chapter 11, Section 12;651 as;

Conditions upon or affecting premises, which are hazardous to the health, safety or welfare of the public, and/or conditions which are detrimental to property values, economic stability, or to the quality of the environment. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following: The accumulation of junk, trash, garbage, litter, refuse, rubbish, appliances, debris, combustible materials, or junked inoperable vehicles (vehicles which are ten (10) years old or older, in such a state of deterioration that they cannot be profitably restored and which have a fair market value of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or less); illegal dumping; noxious weeds; overgrown vegetation; infestation of insects, vermin or rodents; animals running at large; dilapidated structures; condemned properties; abandoned adjudicated properties; criminal violations; weed liens; zoning violations; alcohol beverage control violations; health code violations; and other conditions which are hazardous to public health, safety or welfare.

When you are riding thru the neighborhood and see violations listed above please take action and call 311 or 389-3090. You DO NOT have to reveal your name when calling in a compliant. Once a complaint is filed you can call 311 and monitor the progress until the violation has been removed or resolved.

In order to keep our neighborhood healthy and safe, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Together we can make a difference. This information was taken from the District Six meeting Councilwoman Donna Collins Lewis held March 13th at St. Thomas More's Activity Center

Baton Rouge Potholes

The Ugly

Baton Rouge drivers already know how bad our potholes are. A Washington, D.C. report in July 2015 shed some data on how bad they really are. As reported, 38 percent of our roads poor, 27 percent mediocre and 35 percent in decent condition. According to TRIP's report, Baton Rouge drivers are paying a high price to drive on our roads. More than \$700 per year in additional vehicle cost are attributed to the poor roads.

The Good

Department of Public Works launched a new mobile APP in November 2015 that could speed up repairs for potholes, street signs, broken traffic lights, and debris cleanup.

RedStick311 will allow residents to snap a photo of a pothole or other road hazards and instantly send it to the DPW's complaint system (311) and use the app's GPS feature to locate the area in question. Through the app, users can see real-time updates on how the DPW is responding to your request.

Other features of the APP include traffic accidents, emergency updates, maps to the nearest police stations, libraries, post offices and garbage and recycling schedules. It's all a part of how our City-Parish government is working to use technology and digital tools to better engage with and more efficiently serve the citizens of Baton Rouge.

RedStick311 is available free for iOS phones, tablets and laptops on iTunes and the App store. Android users can find it on Google Play.

Spring Cleanup Day April 23

Join your neighbors for Spring Cleanup Day April 23.

All residents are invited to join the SFCA board for a Spring Cleanup Day Saturday, April 23. Volunteers should meet at 9:00am in the parking lot of the St. Thomas More Office Building at the corner of Goodwood Boulevard and Dartmoor Drive.

Jackie Gray (273-2930) said that plastic trash bags and water will be provided to volunteers. Please bring your own gloves and "grabbers" to pick up trash.

This is your chance to meet your neighbors and do something positive for the betterment of our subdivision.

Pay Attention to Our Neighborhood Signs



DRIVE SAFELY WITHIN OUR SUB-DIVISION. ALWAYS OBEY THE NEW SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.



CALL THE CITY POLICE IF SOME-ONE IS SEEN IN VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE

THE BLUE RIBBONS ON OUR ENTRANCE SIGNS SYMBOLIZE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE OFFICERS WHO KEEP US SAFE.





OUR NEIGHBORS ARE WATCHING AND KEEPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE FROM THOSE WHO WISH TO DO US HARM. WE NEED YOUR HELP

Garage Sale Season is Here...

And we ask that you kindly follow the law: The Unified Development Code, Section 16.12 B, states that in no case shall a single family dwelling or an individual unit of multi-family dwelling be permitted more than (3) events a year. In addition—we know that those signs help people find your sale, but PLEASE collect them the same day your sale ends! A tidy neighborhood helps everyone's property values and maintains pride in where we live!

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program (SOS)

Flannery Rd-Florida Blvd Area Rehabilitation Project (Phase 1)

Streets involved in Sherwood Forest:

Glenhaven, Archery, Robinhood, Little John, Sylvan and Mollylea

Work on these streets will likely take place between now and the end of the summer (weather permitting)

Sewer improvements in our neighborhood will include cleaning, inspecting, repairing and replacing sewer pipes and manholes. These upgrades will help alleviate chronic Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and improve the environment. Work is expected to be completed around 2nd Quarter of 2017.

- Construction crews often access the sewer system through manholes in sidewalks, streets, yards
 or in the public-right-of-way. WORKERS NEVER ASK TO ENTER YOUR HOME.
- Work may be required in sidewalks, driveways, yards, public-right-of-way or adjacent servitudes.
 If you have outside pets, please confine them while crews are working in your area.
- Your private sewer line may be inspected up to your property line and a cleanout may be installed.
 Smoke testing may be done to identify defects.
- Once construction is complete, all sidewalks, driveways, streets and yards will be restored.

Restoration typically begins a minimum of 4 weeks after work is completed in the area.

You will be notified with door hangers before work begins near your property.

Mosquito Problems Start at Home

As a localized approach to mosquito control, chief entomologist with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Americans' backyards tend to offer plenty of dank breeding spots. It is imperative for residents to clean up standing water in their yards/property.

- 1. Throw away old bottles and cans
- 2. Empty water from flower pot dishes
- 3. Cover or put screen over rain barrels
- 4. Change water in birdbaths frequently (about twice weekly)
- 5. Fill holes in ground
- 6. Properly dispose of used tires
- 7. Repair leaky faucets
- 8. Clean leaf clogged gutters
- 9. Clean overgrown ponds and stock with fish
- 10. Neglected swimming pools
- 11. Pet bowls
- 12. Children's toys
- 13. Crumpled tarps
- 14. Address anything that can hold water for more than a couple of days

The urgency to control standing water in yards is that mosquitoes that spread the Zika virus are tough to fight because they breed close to peoples homes not roadside ditches or swamps.

Reminders Never leave valuables in plan sight and ALWAYS lock your vehicles!

Be A Good Neighbor



It's grass-cutting time again and whether you tackle it yourself or hire someone else to do it, be a good neighbor. We have received complaints from residents where grass is blown into the street after the yard has been cut. Where does that grass end up? In our sewer system, in neighbors' yards or in the gutters to be swept up by street sweepers which come around every once in a while. It doesn't take a lot of time to bag your clippings and put them at the curb. Better than that, buy a mulching attachment for your mower and let nature take its course. No more time spent bagging, less waste in our landfill and a beautiful lawn.

Violators of parking restrictions are subject to ticketing

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 the street, on the grass (particularly in the front yard), on medians (neutral grounds), 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 consecutive hours.

Relevant ordinances, including these and others, are spelled out in the EBRP Code of Ordinances. Title 11, Chapter 28, "Traffic Code," online at http://search.municode.com/html/10107/MCC TOC. html.

8 Tips For Selecting an Arborist

The Louisiana Horticulture Law states that no person shall receive fees, advertise, or solicit business in a regulated profession (examples, arborist, landscape horticulturist, irrigation contractor) or occupation unless he holds the appropriate license or permit, or has a regular employee who holds the appropriate license or permit, or is employed by a person who holds the appropriate license or permit. For specifics on what each license or permit authorizes, see Section 3808 of the Horticulture Commission Law. All licensees are required to place at least one of their license numbers on all business related vehicles that have advertisements on them (Section 115 E of regulations).

EIGHT TIPS FOR SELECTING AN ARBORIST

- 1. Beware of door-knockers. This is especially common after storms when non-professionals see a chance to earn some quick money.
- 2. Never let yourself be rushed by bargains such as, "If you sign an agreement today, I can take ten percent off the price..."
- 3. Ask to see his/her arborist's license. All practicing arborists must be licensed by the State of Louisiana through the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The license should be in the following format. Year-License number. Ex: 09-1234
- 4. Ask for certificate of insurance including proof of liability for personal and property damage, and workman's compensation. Then phone the insurance company to make certain the policy is current.
- 5. Ask for local references-other jobs the company has done. Take a look at some.
- 6. Have more than one arborist look at your job and give you estimates. Don't expect one to lower a bid to match another's, and be willing to pay for the estimate if necessary.
- 7. A good arborist will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape.
- 8. Beware of an arborist who is too eager to remove a living tree.

Membership Spring 2016 - James Gray, Chair

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION SPRING 2016 MEMBERSHIP James Gray / Membership Chairman

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

As of (3/17/16) SFCA has 584 paid members compared to 561 same time a year ago so we are on pace compared to last year. 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 and other office related expenses.

Several residents have taken time to comment when paying their dues, here is a sample of their comments. Thanks for establishing SF as a no solicitation neighborhood, litter is an issue, cars speeding & running stop signs, I see more of the police patrolling than before thank you, stop writing tickets and patrol more, enforce the deed restrictions, cars parking in front yards on the grass,

the flower beds at the entrances look great, and thank the board for all that you do for SF.

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 2016 vs. 2015

Homes sold = 26 - \$ Sales = 4,156,042.00 / Average Sale \$166,241.68 VS

MARCH 2015: Homes sold = 29 - Avg. Sale Price \$ 164,334.48

To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2016 dues in the enclosed envelope to: Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

> P.O. Box 45142 Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s):		
Phone:		
Address:		
Comments:		
I would like to be an EyeWato	•	

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!

2016 Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- Dec. 31): \$15

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

Support Our Sponsors





The Legacy at Bonne Esperance

(Old Sherwood Forest Country Club) 1655 Sherwood Forest Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815 (225) 246 - 2917

50% off appetizer with the purchase of one entree. Limit one per table. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.

Bar & Grill Hours of Operation:

Monday (Bar Only) - 3:30 pm - 8 pm Tuesday - Friday - 7 am - 8 pm (Breakfast Buffet 7 am - 10 am) Saturday & Sunday - 7 am - 2:30 pm (Brunch Menu)

Offer Expires: 5/15/2016



Shaffer Cabinets, LLC

Custom Built Cabinets, Cabinet Refacing Bathroom Remodels, Bookcases Entertainment Centers

No job too small!

Free Estimates

Ricky "Rooster" Shaffer

(225) 273-3758

roostert80@cox.net





Adrían Francoís, Owner, CMT, CES

Master Trainer • Nutritionist

Group Instructor

" Specializing in Total Body Makeovers" 11127 / 11137 Muriel Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70816 (225) 772 - 4352

www.bodystyletraining.com



J & R Renovators, L.L.C.

Residential & Commercial Renovation Kitchen & Bath Specialists

Roy Cobb

General Contractor

 1412 Florida Street
 Bus: 383-4036

 Baton Rouge, LA 70802
 FAX: 389-0909

 Email: jrrenovators@yahoo.com
 Cell: 413-2997

www.jrrenovators.org

Support Our Sponsors (cont'd)

Law Enforcement Dealer for Glock



Second Chance Body Armor • 5.11 Tactical • Streamlight Blackinton Badges • Safariland • ASP

9530 Cortana Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70815 • (225) 924-4948 Fax (225) 924-4947 • (800) 259-4948 • www.brpolicesupplies.com



Louisiana Concealed Carry Permit Classes

9530 Cortana Place Baton Rouge, LA 70815 225-924-7499

www.elitetraining-la.com



Jennifer Michelle

Store Manager NACE 308992

The Sherwin-Williams Company 10910 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70815 sw7132@sherwin.com www.sherwin-williams.com

Ph: 225-275-3780 Fax: 225-272-3473







LOUIS S. RUFFINO, JR

www.sherwoodtvandappliances.com

11756 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Phone: 225-275-6900 Fax: 225-275-6926

SHERWOOD CAR CARE

JOE GILES Manager

Michelin Bridgestone

Firestone

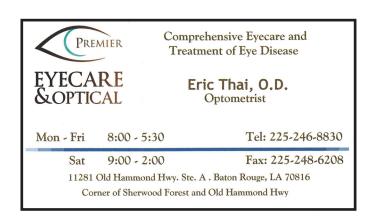
11467 N. Harrells Ferry Rd. 225-272-7637 Baton Rouge, LA 70816











Support Our Sponsors (cont'd)

Todd A. Hymel, CFP®, AAMS®

Financial Advisor

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



11281 Old Hammond Highway Suite C Baton Rouge, LA 70816 Bus. 225-272-5736 Fax 877-898-7431 TF. 877-272-5736 todd.hymel@edwardjones.com www.edwardjones.com





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
P.O. Box 46142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142
225-273-1353
http://www.sfcabr.org

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter please contact Jackie Gray at jrjhgray@cox.net

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

2016 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, jrjhgray@cox.net

Treasurer: Ralph Dupuy, ralphdupuy@gmail.com

Secretary: Emmeline Ross

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, jrjhgray@cox.net

Beautification: Jackie Gray, jrjhgray@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, jrjhgray@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.