

SFCA NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

APRIL 2024 ~ SPRING EDITION

ENTRANCE SIGNS REFURBISHED



Thanks to the Sherwood Forest Crime District, all four main neighborhood entrance signs have been cleaned, repaired, and fully restored. Mr. Lionel Kabel from Denham Springs did a wonderful job bringing the signs uniqueness back to life. Brighter colors were used which make the signs more vibrant. All four signs are sandblasted redwood and they have been welcoming people into our neighborhood since 1993 – 30 years!

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL PRE-APPROVAL IS A MUST!

Homes in Sherwood Forest are under deed restrictions according to filing. You can find your deed restrictions on our website at www.sfcabr.org. The deed restrictions are to ensure that changes to the home, property and accessory buildings are in harmony with the homes in that filing. In accordance, the erection of **sheds, buildings, fences, and improvements to the home must be approved** by the **Architectural Control Committee** of Sherwood Forest Citizens Association **BEFORE** you start the project. The cost to remove or change un-approved construction can be significant. Contact the city-parish permit office and the SFCA **BEFORE** beginning any construction and save everyone a lot of heartache, time, and money. Contact James Gray at jrjhgray@cox.net

AVA HUGGINS IS SHERWOOD FOREST PROUD

In February, a drunk driver ran into our entrance sign at Florida Blvd. Volunteers from the neighborhood, including Ava Huggins, helped pick up the debris, making our roadway safe again and gathering the bricks so the sign could be repaired to its original splendor. Ava Huggins, along with James and Jackie Gray are Sherwood Forest Proud!



Vietnamese Translator: tramthuyphan@yahoo.com

COME HOME TO SHERWOOD FOREST!

NEW CITY ORDINANCE — CLEAN UP OR FACE FINES

New ordinance passed by the metro council gives property owners 72 hours to clean up or face fines. Debris and junk can no longer be piled in the right of way and left as an eyesore. A sign will be placed stating the person responsible has 72 hours to resolve before fines are issued. Please report violators to 311. This can be done anonymously or online.



OUT-OF-CART SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

- Maximum of 10 out of cart items per collection day.
- Maximum weight of 40 pounds per item.
- Tree limbs must be no more than 6 inches in diameter and 5 feet in length.
- Brush and lawn debris does not need to be bundled or bagged, but it is encouraged.
- Commercial tree removal companies are required to properly dispose of all tree debris.
- Maximum of 3 Bulk Waste Items, such as furniture, mattresses and box springs, carpet, etc., will be collected.
- Hazardous Waste, construction items, and eviction furniture are the responsibility of the home owner or commercial service company.
- Complaints and service issues, call 311 or 225-389-2070.

HOA & CRIME DISTRICT WORK TOGETHER

Do we need both? **YES!** Together, we keep Sherwood Forest a great place to live.

HOA (Established 1956):

- Funded by \$50 HOA dues paid directly to SFCA, renewed each January.
- **Presently, only 375 of 3000 have paid dues.**
- **Board members are volunteers** who give personal time for Sherwood Forest.
- HOA must exist to have a Crime District.
- Enforces Deed Restrictions, can file suit and funds any legal action.
- Approves or denies requests for home additions and improvements through the Architectural Control Committee to ensure neighborhood harmony.
- Meets with the Mayor, Metro Council and Planning Commission.
- Operates the Eye Watch Block Captains.

CRIME DISTRICT (Established 2013):

- Funded by tax assessment paid to the sheriff's office.
- Cannot exist without an active HOA.
- **Board members are volunteers.**
- Cannot enforce deed restrictions and cannot pay court costs.
- Purchases and operates neighborhood cameras.
- Employs and coordinates officers for neighborhood patrols that enforce the city ordinances.
- Patrols are not 24/7
- For police assistance call 225-389-2000 or 911, if our patrols are on duty, they will answer the call.
- Maintain flower beds and entrance sign maintenance.

FACIA BOARDS SUPPORT HOME AND ADD TO CURB APPEAL

When was the last time you checked your homes fascia? Fascia boards serve as a support structure for rain gutters and help to protect rafters, siding, and the foundation of your home from water infiltration and pests. Damaged or rotten fascia boards can cause problems such as mold, algae, rot and pest infestation. Materials to replace a fascia board runs anywhere from \$7 to \$12 a linear foot. A relatively cheap repair can add curb appeal and value to your home.

SHARP ROAD ENHANCEMENTS (Old Hammond Highway to Florida Blvd)

This project includes a multiuse path on the east side of Sharp Road along with intersection improvements at various locations, including a roundabout at the intersection of Sharp Road and Mollylea Drive. The project will also consider lighting and landscaping improvements. The proposition budget for this project is \$11,000,000 and the design consultant is GOTECH.


ENTRANCE SIGNS REFURBISHED

The Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Eye-Watch Program is a group of neighbors dedicated to helping maintain safety and security in our neighborhood. Presently, we have approximately 75+ SFCA Block Captains. They volunteer a year at a time for their street/area. If you are interested in volunteering, please email teresaharalson@gmail.com.

SFCA GOES TO COURT AND WINS JUDGEMENT

Although SFCA attempts to resolve issues out of the courts, recently, SFCA undertook court action in the 19th Judicial District Court regarding a resident who has not maintained his property according to deed restrictions and has repeatedly ignored blight court authorities' efforts to get him to clean up his property. On November 17, 2023, Judge Donald Johnson granted summary judgment in favor of SFCA ***and ordered the resident to pay legal fees of \$14,814.00 and court costs of \$1,710.00.***

Your SFCA board continues to follow this matter closely as the resident continues to be a blight problem in our neighborhood. We will be back in court in May to make sure the Judge is aware of our concerns regarding the lack of progress by this resident. Everyone needs to be aware that enforcement of deed restrictions can only be pursued through the HOA. **Crime District funds are not available for suits to enforce deed restrictions.** Your \$50.00 annual dues to the SFCA are extremely important. Your dues are the only source of funds available to go to court on your behalf, or your neighbors' behalf involving deed restriction lawsuits. **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.** A Membership Form is included in this newsletter or you can join online at www.sfcabr.org.



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11331 Old Hammond Hwy, Ste B, Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Corner of Sherwood Forest and Old Hammond Hwy

OLD HAMMOND GETS ROUNDABOUT & NEW FLANNERY BRIDGE

A roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Old Hammond Highway and Flannery Road. You may have noticed that clearing and relocation of utilities has begun. In addition, the roadway from the roundabout to Millerville will be widened. The proposed budget for this project is \$18,000,000 and the design consultant is Forte & Toblada.

The project has two phases. Phase A: Construction of a new **S. Flannery Road Bridge**, was advertised for construction in August 2023, but a contractor was not awarded the project. The project will be readvertised in 2024. Right-of-way acquisition has been completed for Phase B. Clearing and utility relocations have begun along Old Hammond Highway for Phase B construction.

RED STICK 311 REPORTING

REPORTING ISSUES TO RED STICK 311

<http://311.brla.gov/> Call: 311 or (225) 389-3090 After hours call (225) 389-2070.

YES! YOU CAN REPORT PROBLEMS TO THE CITY. Call or submit a service request online with pictures for blighted property, building/zoning codes, drainage, sewer, potholes/street repairs, overgrown lots, flooding, dumping and other city related problems. The department also handles complaints such as missed garbage or recycle pickup.

All emergencies and requests during after-hours (M-F, 3pm-11:00pm), (Sat, Sun, and Holiday, 7am-11pm) should call (225) 389-2070. You can also download the Mobile App: RedStick 311 in the App Store or Google Play Store. See the website for more details.

<http://311.brla.gov/request-for-service/index.html>

WHO DO I CALL?

Noise Ordinance Violation: Call non-emergency police number, 225-389-2000.

Suspicious Activity: Call 225-389-2000 or 911 if an emergency, also email chiefmorse@brla.gov with your concerns.

Before You Build or Pour: Email James Gray at jrjhgray@cox.net

Dog Issues: Animal Control at 225-774-7700, SFCA cannot call on your behalf.

SFCA phone: 225-273-1353

2024 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Number: 225.273.1353
(Note: All officers, directors and committee members are volunteers.)

OFFICERS:

President: Debra Simino, sfcabrboard@gmail.com
Vice President: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com
Treasurer: James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net
Secretary: Sue Larisey, lariseysue@gmail.com
DIRECTORS: James Gray, Jackie Gray, Thomas Balhoff, Teresa Haralson, Sue Larisey, Anna Magazine, Debra Simino, Gary Smith, Will Galloway

COMMITTEES:

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Beautification: Jackie Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net,
Eye Watch: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com, Jim Murray, jwmurray36@gmail.com
Federation: Debra Simino, sfcabrboard@gmail.com
Hospitality: Sue Larisey, lariseysue@gmail.com
Membership: James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net
Newsletter Ads: Jackie Gray, Patty Domingue
Newsletter Production: Will Galloway wagallo032959@gmail.com
Security: Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.org
Zoning: James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net
Legal Advisor: Thomas Balhoff
Vietnamese Interpreter: Tram Phan tramthuyphan@yahoo.com
Other Committees: Kathy Balhoff, Tram Phan



venmo

*To join SFCA, join online at WWW.SFCABR.ORG with Venmo or Zelle or complete the form below and mail your 2024 dues to:
Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association
P.O. Box 45142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142*

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

_____ *I would like to be an Eye Watch 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!



Zelle

Time to Get Back in the Garden

Remove winter protection. It's important to remove mulch and leaves from around the base of trees, shrubs etc. Mulch acts as an insulator and will heat your plants.

Watering. With warm weather, start ramping up watering. Check the soil by sticking your finger in the soil near the plant base. If the soil is dry, time for some water.

Pruning. Summer flowering shrubs set their flower buds starting in spring, so early spring pruning is ok. Spring-flowering trees and shrubs like lilacs, magnolia, azalea, flowering crabapples, and serviceberry benefit from pruning right after flowering.

Fertilizing. Apply fertilizer in early spring when you start to see new growth. For trees and shrubs, use a well-balanced, slow-release granular, or spike-form fertilizer. For container plantings, use a water-soluble type following the application instructions.

