

FALL EDITION



COME HOME TO SHERWOOD FOREST

Hello neighbors...

You did it! A BIG thank you to all our neighbors who wrote emails, called our Metro Council members and most importantly, attended the Planning Commission hearing to oppose the rezoning of the Aquatic Club property on Mollylea. The application was withdrawn. This was a huge victory for Sherwood Forest and YOU made the difference. Please stay involved; we can't do it without you.

My heart goes out to those of you who flooded in May and those who recently suffered damage due to Hurricane Ida. Your board members have spent many hours working with our city and state representatives regarding our flooding issues. Check out our FaceBook page for updates and resources. Also, **contact the Architectural Control Committee at jrjhgray@cox.net BEFORE you start to rebuild or elevate your home.** In many cases, we have been able to save our neighbors time, money, and frustration. In one case, the surveyor transposed the numbers. The home would not have been raised to the correct height. We caught the error!

Finally, please be a good neighbor and respectful of others. Keep your carport clean, repair broken shutters, edge the curb, don't blow your grass clippings into the gutters and take pride in your home. Sherwood Forest is a great place to call home!

Debra Simino, President



ANNUAL SFCA MEETING POSTPONED TO SPRING



Due to the recent surge in Covid 19 cases, our annual SFCA meeting will be postponed until spring. Our slate of Board Members to be presented are Debra Simino, Teresa Haralson, James Gray, Sue Larisey, Jackie Gray, Gary Smith, Tom Balhoff, Jim Murray, Phil Fetterman and Will Galloway. We are looking forward to safely meeting with our members face-to-face soon.

Phiên dịch tiếng Việt

Trước khi bạn đổ một con đường lái xe mới, xây dựng một nhà kho hoặc thêm vào ngôi nhà của bạn, hãy liên hệ với James Gray tại jrjhgray@cox.net. Người dịch tiếng Việt của chúng tôi có thể được gửi qua email trimethaphan@yahoo.com.

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WELCOME HOME

Congratulations and welcome back! After being displaced following the 2016 flood, home renovations are complete and it's Welcome Home Day for one of our own. Welcome back to all our residents who were displaced due to floods and Hurricane Ida. For those who are still dealing with repairs, we hope to welcome you home soon.



STAY CONNECTED ON FACEBOOK

We have a Facebook page! Find out what's happening in your neighborhood and share uplifting stories. Join this private group at:



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ARCHITECTURAL PRE-APPROVAL IS A MUST!

A city-parish inspector and the Architectural Control Committee will need to pay a visit to approve building construction or modifications. Be sure **BEFOREHAND** that what you are building, renovating, or altering meets the requirements of the city-parish and your filing's deed restrictions. Buildings have had to be removed within our borders in recent years. The cost to remove or change unapproved construction can be significant. Contact the city-parish permit office at 225-389-3205 and the SFCA at jrjhgray@cox.net before beginning work and save everyone a lot of heartache, time, and money.

You don't opt into deed restrictions, they run with the property that you purchased.



AUTUMN BEAUTIFICATION – LAWN & GARDEN



HOW MUCH IS YOUR GARDEN WORTH

When buying or selling a home, you might be surprised as to how advantageous quality landscaping and gardening really is to the perceived value.

A garden with detailed landscaping is a great way to make your first impression with a potential buyer. A well-landscaped home has a significant price advantage ranging from 5.5% to 12.7% depending on the type of landscaping. On a \$100,000 home, this could net you an extra \$5,000-\$10,000 when selling. Well maintained gardens/landscaping also sends a message to potential buyers that you take pride in where you live.

COOL SEASON ANNUALS

Cool season annuals will last through the winter; here is a list to get you started.

Violets are a favorite cool season annual, very cold hardy with a wide range of colors.

Pansies are a good choice for bold color and are equally cold hardy. Remember not to over water during the cooler weather.

Snapdragons come in a variety of sizes and colors, from shades of pink, red, orange, yellow and white. They are almost always in bloom during Easter and make great cut flowers too. Keep in mind these will need deadheading.

Petunias are easy to grow annuals but are slightly more cold sensitive. They will give you loads of colors through spring. Look for exciting variations of color and leaf type.

Varieties of cabbages and kales are also cool weather plants to use in your landscape. Choose plants that will fit the space that you are trying to fill.

SHERWOOD FOREST YARDS OF THE MONTH



Son Nguyen (May)



Martina Rowe (May)



Trish Boughton (June)



James & Jackie Gray (June)



Josulin Lee (July)



Bang Lee (July)



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 - Est. 1965

PARKING TO MAINTAIN PROPERTY VALUES

Nothing says "Declining Neighborhood" like cars parked on the street, in the front yard, and in the bike lanes. For most people, our home is our largest investment. Let's keep property values going up by parking vehicles in the carport and on the driveway. Parking in the bike lanes is very dangerous to the bikers who must swerve into traffic lanes to get around improperly parked vehicles. Wreckers, 18 wheelers and other large commercial vehicles are prohibited in the neighborhood unless providing picking up or delivering services. Commercial vehicles should not be parked overnight. Keep the neighborhood looking nice and avoid a parking ticket by following parking ordinances.

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HURRICANE IDA HITS

On the evening of August 29th, Hurricane Ida hit Baton Rouge with hurricane force winds lasting several hours. When the sun came up the following morning, the extent of the damage was clear to everyone - trees fallen, downed power lines, homes and businesses damaged. The storm's destruction and debris were everywhere.

As usually happens in South Louisiana, the cleanup started immediately. Many houses in Sherwood Forest suffered major damage but thankfully no injuries were reported. The sound of generators could be heard everywhere until electricity slowly began to be restored. Our subdivision owes a big thank you to all the electrical, cleanup, tree services and other utilities crews who worked overtime to bring services back online. Many were volunteers who braved the elements clearing trees, stacking limbs and debris, and assisting with the cleanup. A huge thank you from the residents of Sherwood Forest Subdivision to all who helped and are continuing to assist in the aftermath.



DEBRIS REMOVAL

Debris removal crews have completed the first pass in Sherwood Forest. To be picked up, woody materials (limbs) must be separated from construction materials. **Also, debris will not be picked up if it is located under a tree with low hanging branches.** Branches can only be burned in a fire pit for recreational uses. Otherwise, you need to obtain a permit. Leaves and construction debris should not be burned.



NEIGHBORS LENDING A HELPING HAND

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, metro council members Aaron Moak, Jennifer Racca and Lori Adams were joined by Sherwood Forest board members Teresa Haralson and Jackie Gray along with kind neighbors like Andrea Sides who graciously volunteered their time to distribute hot meals to people who were without electricity. We are especially grateful for the owners of Cajun Cowboy Kitchen, located at 8194 Plank Road for donating 500 delicious jambalaya and boudin meals to those of us who had eaten more than one peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Thank you all for your kindness and willingness to lend a helping hand to your Sherwood Forest neighbors.



**A BIG Thank You to Cajun Cowboy Kitchen for donating 500 hot meals.
Cajun Cowboy Kitchen is located at 8194 Plank Road.**

NEIGHBORHOOD EYE WATCH

The Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Eye Watch Program is a group of volunteers dedicated to helping maintain safety and security in our neighborhood. Presently, we have approximately 75 plus SFCA Eye Watch Block Captains. They volunteer a year at a time for their street/area.

You can make a difference. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Teresa Haralson at teresaharalson@gmail.com for more information.

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!

SHERWOOD FOREST CRIME DISTRICT

Let the Cameras Roll

As part of an innovative approach to neighborhood security, the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention District has implemented the Sherwood Forest Camera Pilot Program. To deter crime, security cameras have been installed at all sixteen entrances to our Sherwood Forest neighborhood. In addition, the cameras are connected directly to the Baton Rouge Police Real Time Crime Center making it possible to quickly react when a crime has taken place as well as preventing future crimes.

Does it work? Absolutely! While crime in Baton Rouge has steadily risen, in Sherwood Forest, crime on average has decreased. Since most of our crime involves unlocked cars, even these incidents could be reduced significantly if everyone would lock their car doors. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The cameras and our police patrol are made possible by the support of the citizens of Sherwood Forest. Sherwood Forest has a very active Eye Watch Program manned by volunteers. This three-pronged approach works and is making Sherwood Forest a safe and great place to live.

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SFCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT — FALL 2021

To our New Members, welcome to SFCA. We are glad that you choose to live and raise your family in Sherwood Forest.

We encourage YOU to support your homeowners' association. When you receive this newsletter if you haven't done so, please mail in your dues for 2021. Our dues determine exactly what SFCA can and cannot do for the year. Our dues of \$25.00 a year are an important investment for your family. Due to rising costs, our dues will increase to \$50 in 2022.

Be sure to complete the membership form on the back page and include your email address so you can receive Email Blasts from SFCA on important issues.


Through August 2021, forty (40) Sherwood Forest homes were sold at an average price of \$211,630.00.



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DPW DRAINAGE ACTIVITIES 2021

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association has been working with the EBR Department of Public Works (DPW) on numerous drainage issues in the subdivision. Locations of catch basins that back up with water during a moderate to heavy rain have been identified. DPW has started work on cleaning out the catch basins and their stormwater drain lines. A DPW contractor has examined and assessed the condition of the catch basins and their stormwater drain lines while another has started cleaning out the catch basins. Stormwater drain lines are scheduled to be flushed out as well.

To improve the stormwater drain system, leaves and grass clipping should not be blown into the street where they will go into the stormwater drainage system. Over time, the buildup of grass clippings and leaves leads to drainage problems. In addition, if your property backs up to a drainage canal or ditch, we ask that tree branches be dragged to the front yard where they can be properly picked up.

We have also provided DPW with the addresses of those homes where nearby stormwater outfall lines have separated and caused sinkholes in our residents' yards. Currently, we are waiting for a response from DPW as to when these will be repaired.

The drainage canal weed spraying program is underway this year. DPW's weed spraying contractor sprayed Jones Creek in May. The contractor is scheduled to do a follow up spray of Jones Creek in October.



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STORM WATER CATCH BASINS

- **11442 Sheraton Drive** - There are actually five catch basins involved in this complex. Three are located at the northwest corner of 11442 Sheraton Drive and the other two are directly across the street from the three located at that address. Service order No. 728891 was opened up this past June for this work. The level of water at the five catch basins at the height of the May 17th rain, was the highest that it has ever been at this location in the past 20 years - except for the 2016 flood. As best we can tell, the catch basins have never been cleaned out. In fact, weeds are now growing out of one.
- **South Sherwood Forest Boulevard north entrance to Sherwood Forest going south from Florida Boulevard** - Service Order No. 728890 entered this past June. This catch basin is on South Sherwood Forest Boulevard southbound lane, at the north entrance to Sherwood Forest, right across from Sherwood Forest's north entrance sign. It has a long history of plugging during even a normal, reasonable rain. Once plugged, the catch basin cannot be seen under the flood waters.
- **672 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard** - This catch basin was cleaned out this past April under Service Order 705546. We observed that it worked fine during the 8-inch May 17th rain. However, July 3, water backed up during a two-inch rain. A new service request has been opened for this.
- **12272 Goodwood Boulevard** - This catch basin was cleaned out a couple of years ago. Whenever we have several inches of rain, the catch basin backs up. As far as known, a new service request has not been opened since it was cleaned out a couple of years ago. A new request will be opened.
- **11382 Ashbourne Drive** - Service order number 568570 was opened up October 2019. The service order involves the catch basin and also the corrugated metal pipe outfall into Jones Creek. The status is unknown but this request is in the data base for resolution.
- The catch basin in front of **St Thomas More**. As far as known, has not backed up since it was cleaned out after March 24th, (excluding the May 17th rain).

NOTICE: The DPW work order system is location specific so please DO NOT enter a request to 311 saying “Clean all of the catch basins in Sherwood Forest” as it will just be closed out as “Not a specific location.” An address with specific location will need to be given with any work requests.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO TEVISS CRAWFORD

Local Teen Becomes 100th Eagle Scout of Veteran Scoutmaster

BATON ROUGE – October 4, 2021. Teviss Crawford, of Sherwood Forest in Baton Rouge, has earned the Boy Scouts of America’s highest advancement award, the Eagle Scout Award.

A member of Troop 478, chartered out of Broadmoor United Methodist Church, Crawford is one of only approximately 6 percent of all Scouts who attain the Eagle rank. Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community related service project to earn the Eagle rank. Crawford currently has 40 merit badges, and for his project he chose to address the needs of a local animal shelter, Companion Animal Alliance, by building new cat towers, hide boxes, and scratching boards. He also made a donation to the organization with the remaining project funds.

“Ever since I adopted a dog from Companion Animal Alliance, I have been inspired to help the shelter,” said Crawford. “They were a great organization to work with, and I am grateful for the opportunity they gave me. I even adopted a second dog while I was working on my project!”

Crawford, 15 years old, is also an active member of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s honor society. He recently earned his black belt in Tang Soo Do, and he participates in symphony band, geopolitical club, quiz bowl, and Mu Alpha Theta at Baton Rouge Magnet High School, where he is a sophomore. He is the son of Marianne Crawford of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

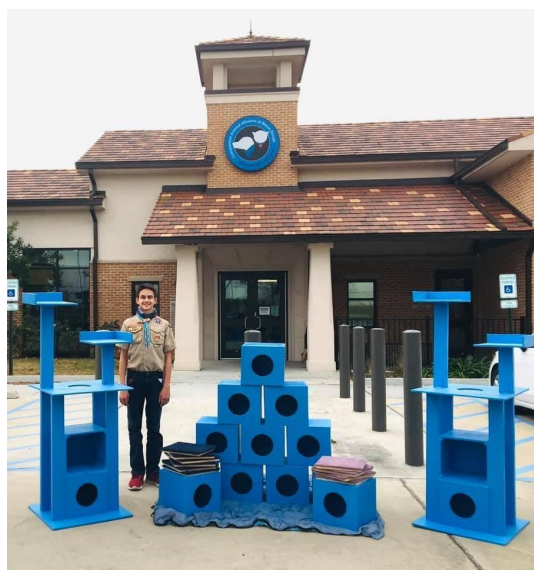
Teviss Crawford is not the only person celebrating a major milestone. Steve Beatty has served as the Troop 478 Scoutmaster for 40 years, and with Crawford’s achievement, has accomplished the rare feat of guiding 100 Scouts to the rank of Eagle under his tenure.

“Credit for the success of our Troop is shared among dozens of adults who have dedicated their time and resources to this great program,” said Beatty. As for his role, Beatty says it was best expressed by a former Troop Committee member who told him, “Mr. Beatty, you are the keeper of the flame.”

Crawford and Beatty were recognized at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony held at 2pm on October 24, 2021 at Broadmoor United Methodist Church, 10230 Mollylea Drive in Baton Rouge.

The Istrouma Area Council (IAC), Boy Scouts of America, along with over 2900 adult volunteers, serves more than 7600 youth in 285 Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, and Exploring Posts in 13 parishes in Louisiana and Wilkinson County, Mississippi. For over a century, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining lifelong

values and educational opportunities with fun activities. The BSA believes — and, through over a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.



CONGRATULATIONS

TEVISS!!!

PLEASE HELP US REPORT BLIGHT

The SFCA is working with the City to eliminate blight. Please assist in our efforts by keeping your carports and yards clean. Also, when you are riding through the neighborhood and see violations, please take action and call 311 or 389-3090. You **DO NOT** have to reveal your name when calling in a complaint. Once a complaint is filed, you can call 311 and monitor the progress until the violation has been removed or resolved.

What is considered blight? EBR (UDC Code), Chapter 11, Section 12;651 list 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, appliances, debris, combustible materials, or junked inoperable vehicles (vehicles 10 years 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.

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FROM THE LEGAL TEAM

Court orders storage shed to be removed which violated storage shed guidelines; orders payment of SFCA's legal fees and costs

In a victory for our neighborhood, Judge Trudy White of the 19th JDC, ruled in favor of the Sherwood Forest Citizens Association ("SFCA") which had taken a homeowner to court who had failed to submit plans for a storage shed to the SFCA architectural control committee for approval ahead of time. The shed violated the homeowner guidelines adopted by SFCA in 2014 which permits a maximum shed size of 10 feet x 12 feet by 8 feet high.

The Judge's Written Reasons for Judgment, which were issued on May 28, 2021, and which are available for any Sherwood Forest resident who would like a copy, states in part:

SFCA has strongly urged that it be allowed to enforce building restrictions when a homeowner erects structures without first securing SFCA's approval. They urge further that the volunteer SFCA Board members would be discouraged from enforcement activities; that the neighborhood would be harmed; and the character of the subdivision may be destroyed over time if they were not able to enforce building restrictions. In the instant case, Defendant violated Building Restriction No. 2 by not submitting his plans for review and approval. The Court finds that SFCA has the discretion and authority to enforce the building restrictions and the homeowner guidelines for property owners who do not submit their plans for review and approval.

The actual Judgment, signed by Judge White on June 22, 2021, reads as follows:

THE COURT FINDS that Plaintiff, Sherwood Forest Citizens Association ("SFCA"), as the architectural control committee, has the discretion and authority to enforce the deed/building restrictions and homeowner guidelines ("Homeowner Guidelines for Out Structures in a Resident's Yard) for property owners who do not submit their plans for review and approval;

THE COURT FINDS that Defendant violated Building Restriction No. 2 when he did not submit his plans to SFCA for review and approval;

THE COURT FINDS that Defendant's Quonset Hut-style metal shed is not in harmony with the surrounding structures and not in harmony with the Sherwood Forest neighborhood at large;

THE COURT FINDS that the SFCA "Homeowner Guidelines for Out Structures in a Resident's Yard" was not waived, abandoned or unenforceable; and

THE COURT FINDS that Plaintiff [SFCA] is entitled to the issuance of a mandatory injunction enjoining and ordering that the Quonset Hut-style storage shed and lean-to structure on Defendants' property be removed.

In light of the forgoing findings:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Defendant, is in violation of the building restrictions and homeowner guidelines applicable to the Quonset Hut-style storage shed and lean-to structure described in this Court's Written Reasons for Judgment;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the injunctive relief sought by the Petitioner, Sherwood Forest Citizens Association, Inc., is hereby granted in accordance with Louisiana Civil Code articles 775-783, without regard to the limitations found in La. C.C.P. art. 3601, and the Defendant is ordered to remove from his property the Quonset Hut-style storage shed and lean-to structure that is the subject of this litigation.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 12nd day of June, 2021.

HONORABLE, TRUDY M. WHITE
19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Following the ruling, Judge White ordered the Defendant to pay the SFCA's attorney's fees and costs that had resulted from bringing the suit.

The deed restrictions for every filing in Sherwood Forest Subdivision require property owners who wish to construct or modify structures on their property to submit written plans for approval of the architectural control committee. Louisiana courts have ruled that a homeowner's association, such as SFCA, functions as the architectural control committee and can bring an action to enforce the deed restrictions on behalf of the residents. As Judge White ruled, SFCA has the discretion and authority to adopt and enforce homeowner guidelines for storage sheds erected in a resident's yard, and thus requires that plans for storage sheds be submitted for SFCA's approval.

We strongly encourage homeowners to review their deed restrictions and the SFCA homeowner's guidelines before constructing or modifying structures on their property. The deed restrictions can be found at <https://www.sfcabr.org/deedrestrictions.html>, and the homeowner guidelines can be found at <https://www.sfcabr.org/guidelines.html>. These deed restrictions and guidelines are for the benefit of all residents because they help maintain harmonious surroundings.

2021 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Number--273-1353

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

OFFICERS:

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Vice President: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com
Treasurer: James Gray, jrgray@cox.net
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SFCA Board of Directors meetings are held the third Monday of each month, except October and December. Notify Debra Simino four days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item.

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Emergency	911
Police - non emergency	225-389-2000
City-parish Call Center	311
Department of Public Works	225-225-389-3090
SFCA	225-273-1353



To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2021 dues to:
Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association
P.O. Box 45142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142
SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2021 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!

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

Due to the increase in postage and other expenses, 2022 annual dues will increase to \$50.

**** Any SFCA donations above yearly dues are welcomed & appreciated ****