

FEBRUARY 2010

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Allen Lewis  
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Lois E. Primas  
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863-0167

## SHERWOOD FOREST SNOWSTORM FEBRUARY 10, 2010



Pembroke and Warrington



Parkside



Renfrew

## CHARTER COMMISSION UPDATE

I attended a meeting of the Detroit Charter Commission on January 26 at the Northwest Activities Center. All Commission meetings are public, and members of the audience have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Check the meeting schedule for the rest of this year by going to [www.ci.detroit.mi.us/departmentsandagencies/citychartercommission](http://www.ci.detroit.mi.us/departmentsandagencies/citychartercommission) and click on "Meeting Schedule."

At the January meeting, the Charter Commission was still very much in the process of getting organized. There was much discussion of the budget, the staff, the need to buy or rent office equipment, etc. However, this was more than a business meeting. A guest speaker, William Mathewson, General Counsel for the Michigan Municipal League, presented an overview of some of the important issues the Commission will address during a term that can extend as long as 3 years.

Michigan is a home rule state, meaning that individual local governments determine the forms of government they want (strong mayor and weak council, weak mayor and strong council, city manager, etc.) Whether Detroit wants to alter its current strong mayor form of government is one of the first questions for the new Charter Commission. Other important questions are: Do we want partisan or non-partisan city elections? Currently, only 3 cities in Michigan elect their mayors and council members in partisan elections. Do we want term limits

for elected officials, and, if so, how long should the terms be? Do we want members of Detroit City Council to be elected at large, as they are now, or do we want election by district? If by district, what should the districts look like?

Once the Commission has a proposed charter ready to submit to Detroit voters, it must be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office. If it is not approved by the Attorney General, it still can be submitted to voters on a 2/3 vote of the Commission members.

If Detroit voters do not approve the proposed charter on the first vote, it can be submitted to the voters twice more during the 3-year period of the Commission's existence. If the proposed charter does not pass on the first vote, it becomes increasingly unlikely that it will pass at all. Once it passes, it becomes the "constitution" for our city.

Audience comments at the meeting I attended reflected a strong sentiment in favor of a new charter and a strong desire to use the charter to avoid mistakes of the past. However, it looks like there will be some contentious issues, especially surrounding the question of election of council members by districts.

Sherwood Forest residents need to be a part of the process. Please attend these meetings and make your views known.

Gail Rodwan  
Editor

### **STREET SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER**

Because we know that winter isn't over yet, we again want to remind everyone not to leave vehicles parked on the street in snowy weather. Snow removal on the morning of February 10 went smoothly, but some cars were left on the street and they posed a problem. Part of that problem may be due to the fact that the snow plow driver came a bit earlier than expected, and we did not have time to send out our normal email reminder about removing cars from the street. Nonetheless, whenever we have a snowfall of 4 inches or more, all vehicles should be removed from the streets in anticipation of plowing. It is impossible for our private contractor to do effective curb-to-curb snow removal when there are vehicles in his way. The snow plow driver will not

remove snow from the end of your driveway. Your Association dues pay for snow removal service, but we cannot pay to have snow removed from the ends of more than 400 driveways. Please do not ask the driver to provide that service.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Marcia Baum  
Snow Removal Committee

### **GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBORS**

Our good neighbor of the month is Luther Bradley of Stratford. The person who nominated Luther noted Luther's work in breathing new life into our long moribund block captain network. We once again have a structure where every block has a block captain who serves at the "go to" person for answering questions and disseminating information to our residents. When Luther agreed to work to revive the block captain network last year, neighbors found it hard to say no when he asked them to serve. That's probably because we know how willingly Luther works on behalf of Sherwood Forest and how enthusiastically he expresses his love for our community at every opportunity.

Although Luther was nominated for his work with the block captains, that is hardly his only contribution. He is one of the newest members of the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association (and we are so glad to have him), he is a house monitor for a vacant home on Stratford, and he was sought out by local and national media twice last year to discuss the vacant home problem and how our community is addressing it.

A big thank you to Luther Bradley. He is making a real difference in our community, as are many others residents whom we would like to feature in "Good News About Good Neighbors." If you want to nominate a "Good Neighbor" for the next *Tattler*, please send information about that person to: [editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:editor@sherwoodforestdetroit.org).

## WELCOME TO AL LEWIS

We are pleased to welcome Stratford resident Al Lewis to the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association. Al has agreed to assume major responsibilities as the chair of the Property Maintenance/City Services Committee. Although we encourage residents to call 311 or contact the appropriate city department directly with city services issues such as malfunctioning street lights, potholes, traffic signs that need replacement, etc, you can enlist Al's help if you get an unsatisfactory response from the City. On property maintenance issues within the neighborhood, especially where you may not want to speak to a neighbor directly, provide Al with the name and address of the homeowner and a description of the problem. Common complaints involve violations of our Sherwood Forest property restrictions, and, particularly, violations concerning collection and storage of yard waste and other refuse. Send your concerns to Al at: [bluelewis78@att.net](mailto:bluelewis78@att.net).

Thank you, Al, for taking on this important job in Sherwood Forest!

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Traditionally, the Sherwood Forest Association has had one general meeting per year preceded by a potluck supper. We have almost always had a guest speaker, as well as a discussion of general neighborhood concerns. Last year we had two meetings, one in March at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct and one in May at All Saints Church.

Many residents have told us that we ought to have two or more all-neighborhood meetings *every* year, so we are planning to have two meetings this year. The first is scheduled for **May 11** at All Saints (look for details in the next *Tattler*). We have not yet picked a date for the second, but it will be in the fall.

We would like to hear from you about meeting topics. Do you like a guest speaker? If so, should we have a guest speaker at both meetings? Would you like to hear from one of the new members of City Council or from a member of the Charter Commission? Do you think it is important for us to talk as neighbors without a guest speaker? What are the most crucial topics we should talk about?

We want to hear from you! Please send your ideas to

our Association president Kim Tandy at [president@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:president@sherwoodforestdetroit.org) or to Dan Clarkson at [events@sherwoodforestdetroit.org](mailto:events@sherwoodforestdetroit.org). Dan is in charge of planning the May meeting.

## SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION ELECTION NOTICE

The Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association is comprised of 15 members, with each member serving a 3-year term. The terms are staggered so that the terms of 5 of the 15 members expire each year.

It should come as no surprise that our board is busier than it has ever been. In the past few years, we have had to deal with issues we never dealt with before in Sherwood Forest. Probably our biggest challenge has been that of home foreclosures. Learning the true owner of a piece of vacant property, getting the realtor who is handling a piece of property to work with the mortgage-holder and the neighborhood to maintain that property, attracting new residents who understand what it takes to maintain our homes consistent with historic guidelines, protecting vacant homes from strippers and vandals – all of these are challenging and time-consuming endeavors. We are pleased with what we have accomplished, and we can see that the housing market is starting to turn around in Sherwood Forest. We need a board member to take on vacant homes as his or her special assignment. We also need members to take over the public safety and the parks and reforestation committees. As our responsibilities expand, we need fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasm.

According to our by-laws, nominations for board positions are made in the following ways:

1. By recommendation of the nominating committee.
2. By any 5 members of the association nominating a candidate by the following procedure:
  - a. Obtain the consent of the candidate to serve.
  - b. Furnish a letter with the name of the candidate to a member of the nominating committee no later than

April 15, 2010. The letter must be signed by at least 5 association members and should include a candidate's address, occupation and a brief statement of his or her interest and aspirations for Sherwood Forest.

Candidates must be able to attend monthly meetings and participate in committee work. Each board member has at least one committee assignment.

Only members of the Sherwood Forest Association may participate in the election. Call treasurer Sue McMillan at 862-6366 to verify that your dues are paid.

Please consider becoming a candidate for a board position.

Marcia Baum and Gail Rodwan  
Nominating Committee

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by board president Kim Tandy at the home of Scott Wilson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Valerie Leigh, Kim Tandy, Robert Gold, John Corvino, Gail Rodwan, Scott Wilson, Sue McMillan

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were accepted as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kim reported that we have spent our entire \$1,525 grant from the Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative's "Neighborhoods in Bloom" program. The money was used not only for raking and general fall cleanup in our passive parks and other public areas, but also to remove the unsightly metal barrier and build a brick wall at the Chesterfield-Livernois walk-thru. There is a possibility that more grant money will be available next summer.

Kim also reported on behalf of University Commons that 12 new businesses moved onto Livernois in 2009, and that University Commons has been awarded a grant for facade improvement of businesses north of Seven Mile Road on Livernois.

We discussed the possibility of introducing more residents to the new 1917 American Bistro by holding a January social event at the restaurant. A late afternoon gathering on a Sunday was suggested. Kim will check with the restaurant owner, and Gail Rodwan will inform social committee chairman Dan Clarkson of this suggestion.

SNOW REMOVAL: The contract for this season has been signed.

PATROL: Gail Rodwan reported that to date we have received five second-payment checks. Sue McMillan has determined that we have collected sufficient dues to make our payment through the end of the fiscal year. Scott Wilson reported that patrol drivers reported no crimes in Sherwood Forest during the past month.

TATTLER: The *Tattler* will be published this week. It will include a year-end report to the community from Kim.

HISTORIC: John Corvino reported that he notified one Shrewsbury neighbor of the procedure for securing Historic District Commission approval for a change in exterior paint color.

REALTOR RELATIONS: Valerie Leigh presented the multi-listing system list of active, pending sale and sold residential properties in Sherwood Forest for the 60-day period through this date.

OLD BUSINESS: We have had three complaints of vicious dogs and/or dogs running loose in the neighborhood. Valerie Leigh reported that the Animal Control Department is no longer in operation. Kim will speak to someone at the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct about how best to proceed with these cases.

We have obtained additional information in response to a complaint of a possible group home on Chesterfield. Kim will have a realtor assist her in checking the ownership status of that home as well as a vacant home on Shewsbury and then follow up as appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The January meeting will be held at the home of Lois Primas.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Rodwan (acting in the absence of secretary Marcia Baum)