



SHERWOOD
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

JUNE 2009

Kim Tandy
President
341-8044

John Corvino
Vice-President
861-0979

Marcia Baum
Secretary
862-1897

Sue McMillan
Treasurer
862-6366

Gail Rodwan
Editor
342-5827

Gary Brown
863-9659

Daniel Clarkson
864-2399

Robert Gold
861-3642

Valerie Leigh
345-1826

Catherine Mayberry
862-6342

Lois E. Primas
863-0167

Scott Wilson
Patrol Manager
341-2490

HOOD FAMILY WILL HOST JUNE 27 MEET AND GREET CELEBRATION

Neighborhood FUN is on this year's agenda, and you are invited.

As announced during our annual meeting last month, several residents have graciously volunteered to host Meet and Greets for us this year. The Hood Family (Michael, Deborah, and Micah)--newer residents in our neighborhood—are hosting our first event. With an Independence Day theme, it will be held on **Saturday, June 27th**, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please join us at the Hood home at 3396 Sherbourne Road, and bring a special food dish or treat to share! New neighbors who may not have attended a Meet and Greet before are invited to become a part of one of our happiest traditions: spending a couple of weekend hours visiting informally with other Sherwood Forest residents in the warmth of one of our beautiful homes.

There are Meet and Greets planned for September and December as well. We will communicate details about them closer to each event. If you have questions or would like to host one of next year's events at your home, contact Dan Clarkson at 864-2399 or events@sherwoodforestdetroit.org. It's not too early to begin planning a 2010 event for our neighbors!

See you on the 27th ...

AN UPDATE: HOW IS OUR COMMUNITY RESPONDING TO THE VACANT HOME PROBLEM?

We met as a community in March to formulate a strategy for dealing with vacant homes. At the annual meeting in May we updated neighbors on our progress. By way of this *Tattler*, we provide a second update.

1. Our home monitor system is now up and running. Every vacant home has a neighbor assigned to keep an eye on that home, report any changes in its status, pick up debris around the home, and make sure that the grass is cut (at least in the front yard) this summer. In the very few instances where neighbors have not been able to cut the grass themselves, your Sherwood Forest Association has paid a contractor to do so.

2. Under the able leadership of Luther Bradley, we are reestablishing the block captain network. Block captains are making sure we have current information, including email addresses, for all of our residents, and residents now know that they have a neighbor on the block to whom they can turn with neighborhood questions and concerns, not only about vacant homes, but about any community-related issue. We thank the many residents who came forward to volunteer to be block captains. There are just a few blocks that still are not covered. If you see your block on the list in the article below, please contact Luther at lutherbradley@gmail.com and let him know that you are ready to take on the minimal responsibilities involved in being a block captain.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF OUR BLOCK CAPTAIN COMMITTEE

3. We believe we have an agreement in place with the bailiffs at Thirty-Sixth District Court to not remove window treatments from foreclosed homes when the bailiffs are assigned to empty the contents of such homes.

4. We have tried to work to get distributor Valassis Communications to stop throwing weekly advertising circulars in yellow plastic wrappers on our front porches. Many residents have complained that these yellow wrappers have created a security problem, particularly around vacant homes. Valassis has proven to be a maddeningly uncooperative company. However, residents have been successful, through individual demands, in getting the company to stop delivery to their homes. We urge every resident who does not want to receive these weekly advertisements to notify the company in one of the ways described in the "Yellow Wrapper" article below. If enough of us stop delivery, we may be able to discourage distribution in our community generally.

5. Last, but certainly not least, we are trying to spread the word about what a good place Sherwood Forest is to live, and we think our message is being heard. At the general meeting in May, we were pleased to welcome several new families who spoke with great enthusiasm about being a part of our wonderful community. One couple we met at the meeting, Carron Pinkins and Kerlyne Alexis-Pinkins, was featured in an article in the June 14, 2009, *Detroit Free Press* called, "Families Moved to Michigan and Loved It." A big welcome to the Pinkins and to all our new families.

Many neighbors are working tirelessly to keep our vacant homes looking well maintained. A special thank-you to Eric Blount, who discovered that plywood had been put over the windows at a vacant home near his own home and responded by painting all the plywood the same color as the brick on the vacant home, improving the appearance of that home about 200%. This is the kind of can-do spirit that is helping us respond successfully to the challenges of vacant homes in our community. We have had many such examples of neighbors making extraordinary commitments to this community.

We encourage **all** residents who observe a vacant home situation that needs attention to report it to vacanthouse@sherwoodforestdetroit.org.

Dear Neighbors,

In our effort to improve communication with our residents, we are extending an invitation to you to become a block captain volunteer. Frankly, I believe that this is a vital effort to maintain the quality community that we all love and cherish. I believe that our efforts will be a difference maker! So please join us in making our community the best that it can be!

Block Captains are responsible for contacting the neighbors in their block to make sure Sherwood Forest has current information on every resident and to encourage everyone's involvement in Sherwood Forest activities. Any contact information you provide to your Block Captain will be kept confidential and will be used only for Sherwood Forest business. We do not share our lists with any organization.

Please contact me at 313.863.6669 or lutherbradley@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our dynamic group of block captains. I have listed below the six blocks where we still need Block Captain volunteers:

Block 5 - Cambridge between Canterbury & Parkside
Block 8 - Canterbury between Cambridge & Chesterfield

Block 9 - Canterbury between Chesterfield & St. Martins

Block 10 - Canterbury between St. Martins & Pembroke
Block 22 - Sherbourne between Warrington & Berkeley
Block 30 - Warrington between St. Martins & Pembroke

If you live on one of these blocks, let me know today that you are ready to become Block Captain for your block. To the many neighbors who already have volunteered and begun work on their blocks, my heartfelt thanks.

Luther Bradley

Chairperson of the Block Captain Committee

RID YOURSELF OF YELLOW WRAPPERS

Many residents have expressed concern about the advertising circulars that are left on our porches in yellow plastic bags every week. When those bags pile

up on a porch, it is a clear tip-off that the house is unoccupied, presenting a real security concern for our neighborhood. Your board has contacted the distributor, Valassis Communications, and learned that homeowners must make individual requests to stop deliver. Individual request can be made in three ways: 1) Call Kris Collin at 734-957-0255. If you do not reach her, you may leave a voice mail message; 2) Email klcollin@valassis.com; 3) Send a letter to Valassis Communications, Att. Kris Collin, 8200 Haggerty Road, Belleville, MI 48111. If you would like those yellow bags to disappear from your porch, call, email or write today. Although we tried sending a group request, the company would not honor it.

A FORMER RESIDENT REMEMBERS GROWING UP IN SHERWOOD FOREST

Editor's note: The article below was written by Linda Dorfman, who grew up at 19500 Canterbury. Ms. Dorfman recently contacted me after discovering our Sherwood Forest webpage. I asked her if she would share with us some of her memories of growing up in Sherwood Forest. Here is what she wrote.

I lived at 19500 Canterbury in a home built in 1950 by the Spoon Brothers, Max and George Spoon. My family moved into the home in 1951. I have great memories of riding my bike for hours on Canterbury. I adored a brick playhouse in our neighbors' backyard. My friends and I would sweep and clean the spider webs from all the windows and play with our dolls.

Every fall, at Pasteur Elementary School, we were required to make a leaf collection. There were so many beautiful leaves in Sherwood Forest. We would ride our bikes and collect leaves of every variety. I still have leaves from 50 years ago. They remain in the dictionary I used for pressing my collection.

We walked back and forth to school every day, and we always had lunch at home. It was a very special day when we students invited our teacher to come home with us for lunch. We had the greatest respect for our teachers, and so did our parents.

My father, Harry Dorfman, was a pharmacist for 40 years. He owned Dorfman Drugs in Detroit and Oak Park.

I attended Mumford High School and became a teacher

myself. Currently, I live in West Bloomfield, where I remain actively involved in the Pasteur School Alumni Foundation.

Sixty years later, I am still friends with many of the children I grew up with in the beautiful and stately neighborhood of Sherwood Forest.

Linda Dorfman Feldman

MUMFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI PICNIC ON JULY 18

**6th Annual Picnic & Scholarship Fundraiser
Saturday, July 18, 2009
10:00am to 7:00pm
Samuel C. Mumford High School
(on the Football Field)
17525 Wyoming Ave
Detroit, MI 48221**

**Vendor Tables Available
*Class Reunion & Networking Opportunities
Sponsorships are welcome

For more information about vendor registration, or to make a donation to the scholarship fund, contact:

Denise Chapman Cunningham, *Picnic Chairperson*

Mobile# 313-673-2026 *or* email:
mumfordhs_graduate@yahoo.com

Thank you.

Denise Cunningham

Communications & Picnic Chair

Mumford High School Alumni Association

A 501c3 non profit, tax exempt organization

P.O. Box 211188

Detroit, MI 48221-1188

REMINDER: REMAINING BULK COLLECTION DATES FOR 2009

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Yard waste will be collected on regular Thursday trash days (not on bulk days) until the beginning of December.

PAMER PARK ART FAIR

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2009 • 2~7 PM

AROUND THE PALMER PARK LOG CABIN POND

North of Merrill Plaisance or Covington & Second Ave. • Major cross streets:
four blocks north of McNichols (Six Mile) & Woodward

The City of Detroit's First Ecology Fair:

More than 20 Environmental & Governmental Groups

A Community Art Fair

Entertainment: Gospel, Jazz, Blue Grass, Crab Grass and Folk

Children's Arts & Crafts with the Friends of the Belle Isle Aquarium

Bring your own picnic lunch, chairs & blankets



For more information: Michael Whitty, 248-723-0105

This is an activity of The City of Detroit – Green Task Force Initiative

A BARGAIN AT LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR A DAY

You recently received in the mail a bill for your patrol dues for the fiscal year that runs from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. While approximately 100 residents responded immediately with their checks, we have not yet heard from many others. Membership cost \$360 a year. You can make your \$360 payment now or you can make a \$190 payment now and a second \$190 payment in December.

Sherwood Forest has had a private security patrol for more than 35 years. During that period, Sherwood Forest has been, and continues to be, one of the safest neighbors in metropolitan Detroit. These facts are not unrelated. Our security service is an important contributor to the safety of our neighborhood.

In difficult economic times, we all look for a bargain. What better bargain than spending just under a dollar a day to help keep our homes secure and our families

safe. Please return your patrol form and your payment today. We are eager to expand the hours of patrol coverage that we provide, but we cannot do that until a substantial majority of our residents begin supporting financially the patrol service from which we ALL benefit.

Remember: at less than one dollar a day, you will not find a better bargain anywhere.

If you have questions about the status of your patrol membership, contact Gordon Rodwan at www.rodwan@sbcglobal.net.

REPORTING WATER EMERGENCIES

The Water and Sewerage Department has a 24-hour emergency number for reporting flooded streets, missing manhole covers and water main breaks. The number is 313-267-7401.

**SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 13, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gail Rodwan, Gary Brown, Scott Wilson, John Corvino, Catherine Mayberry, Bob Gold, Kim Tandy, Dan Clarkson, Valerie Leigh, Susan McMillan and Marcia Baum

Call to Order at 7:40 p.m. by President Tandy at the home of Robert Gold.

- II. Reading / Distribution of the Minutes of March 9, 2009. It was moved by Gail Rodwan and supported by Catherine Mayberry that the Minutes of the Board of Directors of March 9, 2009 and the Vacant Home and Security Meeting of March 28, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion passed.
- III. Treasurer's Report. Sue McMillan presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved by John Corvino and supported by Catherine Mayberry that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Motion passed.
- IV. President's Report/Correspondence
- A. President Tandy thanked Gail Rodwan, Gary Brown and Scott Wilson for their Vacant Home, Security and SFA Patrol Service reports at the 12th Precinct meeting. The Board agreed that meeting objectives were met and that the May Neighborhood Meeting will build on the projects and plans introduced at the 12th Precinct meeting.
- B. Correspondence: A public hearing regarding the future of the Michigan State Fair will be held on April 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the State Fairgrounds. It has been suggested that a new use be identified before the Fair leaves this location. Kim Tandy will attend.
- C. The City of Detroit Planning and Development Department is conducting a series of forums to present a newly-funded HUD program for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program [HPRP]. The City of Detroit is designated to receive an allocation of \$1.2 million.
- V. Committee Reports:
- A. Real Estate/Community Representative
- The Board discussed a number of realtor/prospective buyer issues including the practice of prospective buyers visiting vacant homes without the presence of a realtor. Valerie Leigh will contact the Detroit Board of Realtors to discuss the problem.
 - Valerie also distributed the April 2009 Listing of Active, Pending Sale and Sold Residential Properties Multi-Listing System.
 - John Corvino submitted an article for the *Tattler* explaining why our property taxes may have gone up even though assessments may go down.
- B. Communication Information/Tattler/Crime Reports
- Gail Rodwan reported that she will publish a *Tattler* this week. She will include an article about the Detroit Motor City Makeover's annual spring event scheduled for May 16, as well as a notice about the SFA May Neighborhood Annual meeting.

- Annual SFA May Neighborhood Meeting planning: The meeting will focus on current security and vacant home issues, strategies, activities as well as a follow up of the Vacant Home and Security meeting of March 28, 2009, held at the 12th Precinct. New residents will be recognized and welcomed. Representatives from the 12th Precinct will be invited as well as a representative from SFA Security Patrol who will be asked to speak briefly about the benefits of the patrol service. He will also distribute a survey giving neighbors an opportunity to list the services that are important to them. Catherine Mayberry will contact neighbors to help with the preparation of the dinner. The buffet dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Neighbors will be asked to bring a food or beverage to contribute to the buffet dinner.
- C. Meet and Greet Dan Clarkson volunteered to chair the Meet and Greet event program. He will confirm the home selected for the next event.
- D. New Residents/Welcoming Catherine Mayberry reported that she took a welcome tray to new neighbors on Canterbury.
- E. Block Captains New SFA Board member, Luther Bradly, will serve as chair of the Block Captain Committee.
- F. Public Safety & Patrol Scott Wilson presented a neighborhood security update.
- G. Property Maintenance/City Services President Tandy recognized Gary Brown and Scott Wilson for organizing Sherwood Forest Property Maintenance/Vacant Home Spring Clean Up. Neighbors volunteered on an April Saturday morning. They worked in teams, clearing landscapes of fall leaves and debris. A second clean up day is planned for May 16.
- H. Parks and Reforestation/Historic John Corvino reported that he is hopeful that the City will maintain the Forest's passive parks including planting spring flowers. Given the current economy, this may not occur. In that case, John will hire landscapers to do the job.

VI. New Business

- University Commons Update: Kim Tandy reported that the Livernois Neighborhood Parade will take place on June 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Farmers' Market will reopen on Livernois between Fenkell and the Lodge.
- Baker's Jazz Club. The greater Detroit community is coming together on May 17, 2009, in a joint effort to prevent the closing of Baker's Keyboard Lounge. The Sunday event will be a fundraiser to help with needed renovations, façade improvements and retirement of an unexpected City of Detroit water bill.

There being no further business, it was moved by John Corvino and supported by Catherine Mayberry that the meeting be adjourned; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Baum, Secretary

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SATURDAY, JUNE 27,
MEET AND GREET AT THE SHERBOURNE HOME OF THE HOOD FAMILY**