



# TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2007

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## YEAR-END REPORT: A TIME FOR ASSESSMENT

As 2007 draws to a close, I want to thank the many residents who have worked so hard this year on behalf of our community. My special thanks go to Michele Davis, the very able vice-president of our Sherwood Forest Association, and to all the members of the Board of Directors who carry out the work of our various standing committees, as well as to non-board members who have taken on special assignments. Among those are Charlie Primas, who contributes to the smooth day-to-day operation of our security patrol by serving as patrol manager, and Gordon Rodwan, who keeps the financial records and sends out the billings for the patrol service. Our board alone cannot begin to accomplish all that needs to be done, and we are most grateful for the special help we get from neighbors like Charlie and Gordon.

I was pleased to see so many neighbors at our potluck supper and annual meeting in May. We heard from City of Detroit Ombudsman Dorene Brown, who explained that the Ombudsman's Office is a valuable resource in solving problems and communicating with various city departments and agencies. Ms. Brown invited us to call her office at 224-6000, and she promised that we will not get a recording! We also heard from Sherwood Forest Association board member Kim Tandy, the Program Manager for University Commons, the nonprofit community organization that is working to implement the Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative in the Seven Mile-Livernois area. Anita Goff

Foster from the Mayor's Office also spoke briefly about this initiative (see more about the Next Detroit Initiative below).

In September, Sherwood Forest participated in the second annual Crain's House Party, an evening when Detroiters across the city open their homes to residents of the metropolitan area who want to learn more about living in our city's many vibrant neighborhoods. The event is sponsored by *Crain's Detroit Business*, and this year three homes on Berkeley were open to those who may be interested in living in the "D." Our thanks to Michele Davis and Shannon Munn, Lana and Carl Hardin and Dave Vanstone and Dan Clarkson for opening their beautiful homes for this event.

During the spring and summer months, many, but not all of our dead ash trees were removed from the parkway areas, and Sherwood Forest was fortunate to be one of the Detroit neighborhoods selected for a reforestation program sponsored jointly by the City of Detroit and the Greening of Detroit. On a beautiful Saturday morning in October, dozens of volunteers from the Greening of Detroit descended on our neighborhood to plant almost 100 new trees. Although the trees are small, they are hearty, and with tender loving care from our residents they will contribute to keeping Sherwood Forest a true forest. Much credit goes to John Corvino, the chair of our reforestation committee, for making sure that Sherwood Forest was included in this tree-replacement program.

At the end of November, our contract began with Gallagher Security, Inc., our new private patrol service (see article below). Many of you have told us that you look forward to a patrol service that will better meet the needs of this community, and we are convinced that with Gallagher we have found that service. Please let me know whether you agree.

I am happy to report on the progress of the Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiative, a five-year strategy for enhancing and rejuvenating Detroit's neighborhoods. Sherwood Forest is one in a cluster of neighborhoods which form one of the six areas chosen for inclusion in the program, which is emphasizing basic quality of life issues like safety, cleanliness, beautification and commercial development. There is not a harder-working or more enthusiastic member of the community's implementing organization, University Commons, than Sherwood Forest's Kim Tandy. One of the successes of the organization this year was attracting Mike's Market, the fine grocery store that has taken over the space that was vacated by Farmer Jack.

There were several spirited meetings this year about the Livernois median, and we are mindful that many residents are unhappy with the median. We have met with representatives of the city about our concerns. Kim Tandy was instrumental in getting some new landscaping added to the median this fall. We are working to assure that more will be added in the spring.

Vacant homes continued to be a problem throughout the year, and I want to let you know what your board has done to address the problem. Under the able direction of Walter Shapero, we had a title search done on every vacant piece of property in Sherwood Forest, and then sent a letter to each listed owner reminding the owner of his or her obligation to maintain the property during the period of vacancy. This is not a static situation, and the ownership of some properties changes quickly, so our success has been limited to date. Neighbors have volunteered or been recruited to mow and rake many of the vacant properties, and we thank each of you who has shouldered this extra responsibility. Valerie Leigh of our real estate committee is constantly monitoring and updating a list of properties for sale in Sherwood Forest and tracking the listing and selling prices. The national problem of home foreclosures and vacancies obviously will not be solved overnight, but we are working hard on this issue, and we invite your input for helping us find solutions for Sherwood Forest.

Please let me remind you that I value your comments and suggestions for making our community the very best place it can be. If you have never been involved with a Sherwood Forest committee or project, please resolve to make 2008 the year to become involved. I am always looking for talented volunteers, and I eagerly await your call. What more satisfying commitment than a commitment to contribute your talents, whatever they may be, to the betterment of the place you call home?

My warmest wishes to every member of our Sherwood Forest family. Let us look forward together to a happy and healthy 2008.

Lois E. Primas  
President, Sherwood Forest Association

### **LAST BULK COLLECTION OF YEAR: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10.**

Our last bulk collection date for 2007 is **Monday, December 10**. The city has not yet published the bulk collection schedule for 2008. Last year, collection of yard waste placed at the curb in paper bags ended around the second week of December and did not resume until spring of this year. That meant that from December to May the only trash that could be put out on our regular Thursday collection day was trash that was placed inside the courville containers. The only exception was for Christmas trees, which were picked up on Thursdays during the first two weeks in January.

We do not know whether the DPW will follow the same schedule during the upcoming year. Just in case, it would probably be a good idea to put fall leaves and other yard debris at the curb on the first Thursday of December, unless we receive some contrary schedule before then. All current trash collection rules are published on the Sherwood Forest web page at [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org). That web page contains a link to the City of Detroit web page, and we encourage residents to check there for any new information about trash collection, particularly disposal of yard waste. As soon as the bulk collection schedule for 2008 is published, it will be printed on the Sherwood Forest web page. In the meantime, remember that **December 10** is our last bulk collection date this year.

**FROM THE EDITOR: THE ALL-ELECTRONIC TATTLER MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY.**

About half of our residents have been reading the *Tattler* on-line for years. The electronic *Tattler* reaches readers more quickly and inexpensively than the *Tattler* delivered by “snail mail.” The money not spent on printing and postage is used to fund other services and neighborhood activities.

Like many organizations that publish newsletters, Sherwood Forest is moving in the direction of an all-electronic publication. We have been slow to do this only because we wanted to make sure that we had email addresses for all or almost all of our residents before discontinuing the paper version of the *Tattler*. Perhaps some residents have not yet sent their email addresses due to oversight or inertia. Perhaps some are concerned that we will share their email addresses with other organizations, something we absolutely **never** do. We realize that there are a few residents who do not have access to email, but we presume that they can arrange to have a neighbor print out copies for them. If not, we will have hard copies available to be picked up.

We will publish six *Tattlers* in 2008. All six will be published electronically, and will be sent as separate attachments to all residents on our email list. They will also be accessible through our web page, [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org). Three of the six will be mailed to resident for whom we have no email address. One of those three will contain a copy of the “This Old House” list, a continuously updated version of which is always available on the web page. In 2009, we will cease publication of the paper *Tattler*.

The *Tattler* and the web page are our two official means of neighborhood communication. We think that communicating with one another is so important that we historically have sent the *Tattler* to every household, regardless of whether the residents paid their Sherwood Forest Association dues. We do not want anyone to lose this vital link to the community. Therefore, we urge all residents who have not sent us their email addresses to do so today. Become part of the growing list of neighbors who will not miss one edition of the *Tattler* as we transition to an all-electronic newsletter. Send your address today to [rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodwan@sbcglobal.net).

**PALMER WOODS ASSOCIATION INVITES SHERWOOD FOREST RESIDENTS TO SPECIAL CONCERT SERIES**

The Palmer Woods Association extends a special invitation to Sherwood Forest neighbors to attend Music in Homes, six concerts featuring the music of Detroit’s finest jazz and classical artists. Five of the concerts will be held in Palmer Woods homes and one will be held at the Detroit Golf Club. For the home concerts, tickets purchased in advance are \$25 each or \$100 for the series. The concert at the Detroit Golf Club includes dinner and dancing at \$55 per ticket. You can order tickets on line at [www.palmerwoods.org](http://www.palmerwoods.org) or by mail to:

Palmer Woods Association, P. O. Box 21086, Detroit, 48221. For information, email [ConcertSeries@palmerwoods.org](mailto:ConcertSeries@palmerwoods.org) or call 313-920-4864.

Here is the concert schedule:

Saturday, December 22 at 8 p.m. -- Shahida Nurullah Trio

Saturday, January 26 at 8 p.m. – Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Taslimah Bey

Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m. – Peter Psarianos and Odyssey

Saturday, March 15 at 8 p.m. – Jannina Barefield and Michelle Cooker

Saturday, April 26 at 6 p.m. at the Detroit Golf Club – Concert by Straight Ahead Trio followed by dinner and dancing for a special price of \$55 per ticket

Saturday, May 24 at 8 p.m. – Spencer Barefield and Don Mayberry

This is a unique opportunity to hear wonderful music with our neighbors in six wonderful neighborhood settings.

**SHERWOOD FOREST HAS NEW PATROL SERVICE**

On November 30, Gallagher Security, Inc. began patrolling the streets of Sherwood Forest. During the fall months, Sherwood Forest Association board member Walter Shapero and I investigated several

security providers and then invited the representatives of three of those companies to make presentations to our board. The board voted to contract with Gallagher, a regional security provider with more than 75 years of experience in the security field. The security service was not interrupted as we transitioned from our former provider to Gallagher. The patrol will continue to provide security with a highly visible, marked vehicle driven by a professional, uniformed security guard.

Current subscribers have already received stickers with the telephone number of the Gallagher patrol car. The system is slightly different from the one we are used to in that there is one phone number, not two. If you call the number at a time when the driver is not on duty or otherwise available to answer, the call will be routed automatically to the Gallagher business office where someone answers calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Residents who are not currently subscribers are invited to join our new patrol service now and enjoy service for the second half of the patrol fiscal year (from December 1 to June 1). Non-subscribers will soon receive a letter explaining a special introductory offer for new members.

While Gallagher will provide many of the services we have come to enjoy, such as escort service to your home, vacation checks, etc., the service will NOT be the same. We anticipate that residents will be pleased by the more professional demeanor of the drivers, the quicker response to our calls and the more proactive attitude toward suspicious activity in the neighborhood.

We will be working closely with Gallagher to help keep Sherwood Forest one of Detroit's safest communities. Gallagher management and the Sherwood Forest board are eager to hear from you. If you see things you like, as well as things you don't like, about the new service, please contact me or any member of the board and let us know. We want this service to be entirely responsive to the needs of our subscribers.

Scott A. Wilson  
Chair, Sherwood Forest Patrol Committee

## **FROM THE CITY OF DETROIT: BACK ON TRACK**

If you have four or more outstanding traffic tickets, you are eligible to participate in the Detroit Municipal Parking Department Parking Violation Bureau's Back on Track program which runs through December 14, 2007, for residents who chose to make one payment and through June 30, 2008 for those who wish to pay in monthly installments. Under this program, you can settle your parking ticket debt by paying 85% of the total amount you owe. For more information, call (313) 424-1240 or (313) 963-9630.

## **WISHING YOU AND YOURS ALL GOOD THINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!**

