



SHERWOOD
FOREST
ASSOCIATION

TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

September 2015

Board of Directors

Maurice Telesford
President/Security Patrol
313-303-1046

Karen White
Vice President/Parks and
Reforestation/Communications
313-342-7132

Vicki Mabrey
Secretary/Communications
917-941-6087

April Akford-Baker
Treasurer
313-300-4158

Marcia Baum
Special Projects
313-862-1897

Luther Bradley
Block Captain
313-863-5669

Tiffany Franklin
Historic District
313-623-9393

Chaundra Haynes
Snow Removal
313-276-7410

Christine Jackson
Block Captain
313-864-3215

Shirley Jackson
Tattler Editor
313-863-2647

Whitney McGorum
Communications
202-525-0606

Steve Perkins
Social Events
313-467-8784

Luis E. Primas
President Emeritus
313-863-0167

Gail Rodwan
Legal/Welcome/Communications
313-342-3827

Michael Slater
Manager of Security Patrol
313-365-8939

Kim Tandy
University Commons Projects
313-397-6080

John Wetzel
Vacant Homes/Property
Maintenance
586-630-1110

*Emeritus Member

Special Assessment District

Our Pathway to Improved Community Services



Super Signing Day

Sunday, September 27, 2015

19600 Stratford Road and 19580 Shrewsbury Road

Sherwood Forest Poised to Make History

Board Begins the Process to Become a Special Assessment District

By Juli Stephens

The residents of Sherwood Forest have the voting power to become a Special Assessment District (S.A.D.). This new reality was accomplished when Sherwood Forest became a Designated Neighborhood Improvement Organization (DNIO), a process begun by the Board several months ago.

What is a S.A.D. and why would we want to be one? A special assessment district is a neighborhood that the City has empowered to divide the costs for snow removal, security patrol, and mosquito abatement equally among the parcel owners in their

neighborhood. These costs are collected as part of the yearly summer property tax bill, and then returned to Sherwood Forest.

- Everyone pays equally.
- Everyone enjoys security and snow removal services.
- Costs go down because more residents are paying in.
- Even with lower costs, services will be improved.
- The income stream to the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood is predictable and dependable.

With the City paving the way for this option, and the Board gaining DNIO status for Sherwood Forest, the next step is up to **you**, the residents. 51% of parcel owners are required to sign a petition supporting S.A.D. status in the month of September. The Board has scheduled several events for you to learn more, ask questions and sign!

How much lower will the costs be? Maurice Telesford, President of the Sherwood Forest Association's Board of Directors, said in the September 12th meeting that the projected annual cost, beginning in 2016, would be \$250 or less. That compares to \$325 now (\$360 if you pay late). The Association fee of \$50 remains and stays the same.

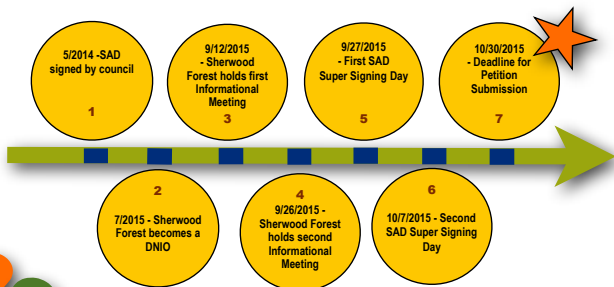
An **information session** was held at The Lighthouse, 19940 Livernois, on Saturday, September 12, and another one is set at the same location for Saturday, September 26, between 3:00-5:00 p.m. At 3:15 and 4:15, Maurice Telesford will make a presentation and answer questions. Feel free to come any time between 3:00-5:00. Petitions will be available for signing. The meetings on September 12 were well attended with

good questions and much enthusiasm.

Two **Super Signing Days** are set up for **Sunday, September 27, between 3:00-5:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, October 7, between 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Maurice Telesford's home at 19600 Stratford will be open on both days during those hours. Come by, have a cup of coffee, and sign a petition. The home of emeritus board member Gail Rodwan at 19580 Shrewsbury will be open for signing on the same days and at the same times.

Go to the location that is more convenient for you on one of our **Super Signing Days**, and help secure the future wellbeing of our neighborhood by signing a S.A.D. petition.

Special Assessment District Timeline



Question: So What Happens After the Last Super Signing Day?

Juli says: *The last signing day is October 7, and if 51% or more of the parcel owners have signed, a great cry will ring out around the Forest. If not, Board members will take to the streets to gain the additional signatures.*

The signatures will be turned into City Council at the end of October. When the signatures are approved by City Council, they will vote on whether to grant S.A.D. status to the Sherwood Forest neighborhood. With a successful vote, the first S.A.D. collection would be in the summer of 2016.

The Top Ten Reasons to Sign the Special Assessment District Petition

By Juli Stephens

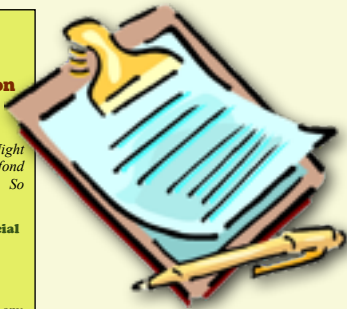
I am thoroughly enjoying the new Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert, but I admit a fond longing for Dave Letterman's top ten list. So in homage to him....

The Top Ten Reasons to Sign the Special Assessment District Petition:

10. There is nothing to lose. If it doesn't work out, the neighborhood has the authority to dissolve the assessment at any time.
9. Sherwood has to hang with Palmer Woods on this – they are going to be a S.A.D., too.
8. It will be a fun pun to say we are "sad".
7. If we all sign now, we won't have to go through multiple tries at this.
6. If we all sign now, we won't have to go through multiple tries at this. (So I repeated one – this is harder than it looks!)
5. Sherwood has a predictable income stream it can depend on.
4. Property values should go up as our neighborhood is cared for consistently.
3. The cost to each homeowner goes down while revenue collected goes up!
2. A much fairer and equitable way to pay for the services we all need.

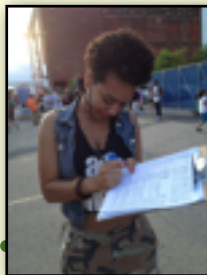
And the **NUMBER ONE** reason to sign the Special Assessment District Petition:

1. **We get to have cookies and refreshments at Maurice's or Gail's house when we sign!!!!**



Help Spread The Word About the Special Assessment District ---

**Urge Your Neighbors
to Sign Our Petition**





Frequently Asked Questions

about the **S.A.D.**

We asked Gail Rodwan to compile a list of the most common queries folks in Sherwood Forest raise with respect to the Special Assessment District. She was kind enough to submit those enumerated in the list below. We hope the responses are helpful.

What is a Special Assessment District?

A special assessment district is a neighborhood where 51% of the parcel owners have signed a petition to allow their Designated Neighborhood Improvement Organization (in our case, the Sherwood Forest Association) to provide additional security, snow removal and mosquito abatement services. The costs of those services are shared by everyone in that neighborhood through a special assessment that will appear on the Summer Tax bill.

If the petition drive is successful in Sherwood Forest, how much will the special assessment be?

The special assessment will be \$250.00 per lot in our neighborhood. This amount is lower than what we pay for security patrol, snow removal and mosquito abatement now because everyone in the neighborhood will share the cost of those services.

Will the services improve if everyone contributes to the assessment?

Yes! Having everyone's participation in the S.A.D. will allow us to enhance these services. For example, we anticipate having the ability to remove snow more frequently and when lower amounts fall. We will also be able to make sure our neighborhood receives service in a timely manner after major snow falls. In terms of security, we expect to be able to increase the number of hours of coverage in our neighborhood and explore the possibility of adding additional lighting and security cameras.

How and when will the fees be collected for the Special Assessment?

The city of Detroit will collect the special assessment through the Summer Tax bill. This money will be distributed to our association in October and March.

Does this mean that we will no longer have association dues?

No. We will still have association dues of \$50.00. Removing street snow removal and mosquito abatement from the association budget will allow us to do more with the association dues that we collect. Some examples of what we will be able to do with our association dues are: more family friendly activities, replace our aging signs, improve our parks, and support traffic reduction efforts.

Who will provide the aforementioned services for our neighborhood?

The Board of Directors is committed to making sure that our residents have the best service providers possible for security, snow removal, and mosquito abatement. If we become a Special Assessment District, we plan to undergo a formal request for proposal process and have a thorough screening of vendors before selecting our final service provider. As has always been true, Sherwood Forest, not the city, will select the service providers who will work in our neighborhood.

Will this Special Assessment be effective in perpetuity?

No. We are applying for the Special Assessment for a 7-year period. At any time during that period, the neighborhood can petition the city to dissolve our assessment if we are dissatisfied with the services being provided. The assessment can be terminated with 51% of the signatures of parcel owners.

What about residents who own more than one lot?

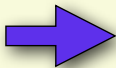
They will be assessed on each lot, and they will be able to sign a petition for each lot. However, there is a procedure whereby two lots can be treated as one for tax purposes, and the parcel owner can save money.

Where can I find the full ordinance?

For your convenience, we have posted the full ordinance on our website. Just go to the home page of the website (sherwoodforestdetroit.org) and go to the S.A.D. page.

Where do I go to sign the petition?

There will be two Super Signing Days. One is on Sunday, September 27, from 3-5 p.m., and the other is on Wednesday, October 7, from 6-8 p.m. Signing locations are 19600 Stratford, the home of Chioke Mose-Telesford and Maurice Telesford, or 19580 Shrewsbury, the home of Gail and Gordon Rodwan. Go to the home that is more convenient for you. If you can't get to one of our Super Signing Days on September 27 or October 7, contact Maurice at maurice.telesford@gmail.com or Gail at rodwan@shcglobal.net, and one of them will bring a petition to you.



“One thing is clear to me— great communities don't happen by accident. They are formed by strong leaders with vision and purpose. - See more at: <http://www.hobopoet.com/what-makes-a-great-community>.”

Getting Ready For Fall

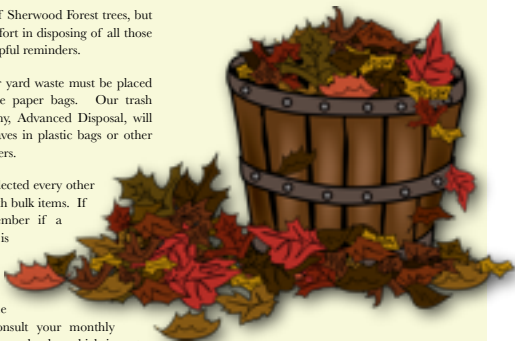
By Gail Rodwan

We all enjoy the beauty of Sherwood Forest trees, but fall requires some extra effort in disposing of all those leaves. Here are a few helpful reminders.

- Leaves and other yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags. Our trash disposal company, Advanced Disposal, will NOT collect leaves in plastic bags or other types of containers.
- Yard waste is collected every other Friday, along with bulk items. If you can't remember if a particular week is yard waste collection week, you can do one of the following: 1) consult your monthly garbage collection calendar, which is sent to you in an email during the first week of each month and posted on the Sherwood Forest webpage; 2) consult the weekly email called "This Week in the Neighborhood," which includes trash collection dates for the week; 3) call Advanced Disposal at 844-233-8764.
- Don't put bags of leaves or other trash at the curb in front of your home earlier than **the evening before** pickup. A neighborhood looks unsightly if its streets are perpetually clogged with bags of leaves. If you use a lawn service, instruct the lawn person NOT to place leaves at the curb early.
- Leaf collection is not available all year long. It begins in the spring and normally ends the first week in December. The date that leaf collection ends is not fixed, however. Advanced Disposal, in consultation with the City of Detroit, may extend the collection season if leaves are still on the trees in December, as happened last year. Once the

Sherwood Forest Association is notified of the final collection date, we will publicize it.

- To arrange a special pickup, call Advanced Disposal at 844-233-8764.



A Sherwood Forest Round of Applause to the Board

By Julie Stephens

When the City passed ordinance 07-14, it gave neighborhoods new tools to work with as they improved the quality of neighborhood life for their residents. But without active neighborhood leadership, the ordinance does nothing. Thank you to our Board for the work they have done to obtain DNIO (Designated Neighborhood Improvement Organization) status for Sherwood Forest and give us the opportunity to vote on becoming a S.A.D. (Special Assessment District). This meant attending multiple city meetings, understanding how it could benefit our neighborhood, filling out forms, and then explaining it all to us. Thank you for your initiative and hard work!

thank you!

Our yearly gathering at William and Kim Tandy's spacious home and yard was the stellar event we've all come to expect. Our thanks to the Tandys for welcoming new and not so new neighbors.

Please enjoy some snapshots from the event.



One little resident was challenged to navigate a set of steps while struggling to keep up with a ball almost as big as he is.



More Pics!!!



Caring is
sharing

Sherwood Forest Association

Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 10, 2015

Present: April Baker, *Marcia Baum, Chaundra Haynes, Christine Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Steve Perkins, Dina Ridley, *Gail Rodwan, Kimberly Tandy, Maurice Telesford, John Weted, Karen White,
*Emeritus Member

The meeting was convened at Gail Rodwan's home at 7:30 pm. Minutes from the past three meetings, May 4, 2015; June 8, 2015; and July 13, 2015 were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Kim Tandy. John seconded approval.

A discussion of a proposal by Norman Silk who resides in the Frank Lloyd Wright home on Seven Mile Road in Palmer Woods ensued. The proposal was first introduced to board members through an email communication from Gail Rodwan. Mr. Silk is looking to plant trees on the Seven Mile Road median. Planting will occur during the spring of next year. That is when he expects to receive funding from community participants to support the project. He is requesting a letter of commitment from our board of directors. No specific amount of monetary support has been indicated. However, Mr. Silk hopes to receive at least a few hundred dollars from each neighborhood along Seven Mile Road and is considering crowd funding, as well. Maurice Telesford, board president, asked if there were any objections to the board's participation in the project. There were none. Kim Tandy moved that we follow Palmer Woods' promise to make an appropriate contribution. John Weted seconded.

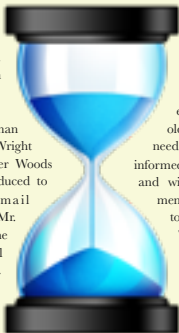
Committee Reports

Movie Night, August 14, 2015 - Steven Perkins began his report by sharing history that recalled a neighbor that showed scary movies to every kid in the neighborhood by projecting them on a bed sheet. Steve plans to start the event at 7:00 pm with the movie "Cars 2." Popcorn and snacks will be provided.

Chaundra Haynes, Co-Chair, agreed to provide a budget for the event at the next board meeting. Steve expects to spend less than \$100. Steve felt the event would provide opportunities for older children to connect with families in need of baby-sitting services. John Weted informed Steve that he has a copy of the movie and will deliver it. Steve asked that board members commit to attending from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm to show representation. Kim Tandy agreed to arrange to have part of the street blocked so that cars don't disrupt the event. Steve says he will cancel the movies in the event of rain. If it rains, the movies will be shown on August 30, the same day as the Meet and Greet at the

Tandys' home. Maurice would like Movie Night to serve as the inaugural event of a committee that will function to plan and execute children's events.

Meet and Greet - Block captains under the leadership of Christine Jackson will pass out flyers to promote the event. Kim Tandy wondered if the mayor should be invited to attend. Maurice will consider that possibility. The event begins at 3:30 pm and ends at 7:30 pm on August 30, 2015.



Treasurer's Report - April Baker walked the board through her monthly report. Kim Tandy moved for acceptance of the report. Karen White seconded the motion

In her report, April with support from Gail Rodwan reported that, as of today's meeting, there is only one (1) fewer member of the Sherwood Forest Patrol than there was at the same time last year. However, Gail added that 38 members chose not to rejoin the patrol. Steve Perkins suggested that the board provide a perk to keep people as members. He and John agree that many people believe that it doesn't matter if they choose not to pay for services since the patrol will still cover their homes. Kim said that becoming a Special Assessment D will help alleviate the concern of nonpayment since everyone will pay through taxes. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Special Assessment District (SAD)

- Maurice Telesford reported that Sherwood Forest has become a designated improvement organization as a first step in the process for becoming a Special Assessment District. The association now needs to identify a target amount to request as a yearly fee for the indicated services. \$200.00 was suggested. Maurice explained the process:

Association obtains residents' signatures on petitions. City council will then approve the designation.

Marcia Baum stated that any services outside of those specified as appropriate (snow removal, mosquito abatement, security) can't be offered through the tax. Association dues will still need to be requested at \$50.00 per resident. Marcia added that we have to make the SAD attractive to residents. Steve Perkins asked if the board will be able to control the language of the petition. Kim Tandy answered that every petition will contain the standard language set by the

city council. She added that there should be appropriate communication so that neighbors are involved in the process. Kim informed the board that 63% of Sherwood Forest residents are currently paying property taxes on time. Kim went on to explain how taxation works for persons owning two parcels of land. Maurice suggested an FAQ may be needed so that the association is not held liable for improper or erroneous information. Kim concluded her comments about the SAD by adding that petitions need to be signed and everything completed by November of this year. Maurice said that we will adhere to a timeline for the collection of signatures and that there is a seven-year commitment to remain a part of the Special Assessment District.

Nonetheless, communities may make changes to the assessment annually and may vote to end the SAD.

Dog Issues - Maurice asked for a person to take the lead on dog issues. Shirley Jackson suggested looking for a community person to lead that charge. Kim

offered to collect information until someone can be found to take on that responsibility. In order that board members understand the seriousness of Maurice's request, Gail Rodwan added that some of these incidents involving dogs are extremely dangerous. John Weted suggested a community forum. Gail re-emphasized how critical it is that the board respond to this concern. Members discussed the challenges of getting a procedure in place that works for the benefit of the community.

Neighborhood Complaint - John Weted shared information to the effect that there are complaints about some neighbors. Michael Slater, the Patrol manager and police have received multiple complaints about noise and racing in the middle of the street late at night. Profanity and improper behavior have caused distress to neighbors who brought the complaint. Christine Jackson, Chair of the Block Captain Committee, will attempt to mediate the issues. Christine seemed confident that the concerns can be resolved.



Lighting Celebration – Dina Ridley, chair of the proposed celebration and Gail Rodwan shared their opinions that the association has now passed the point at which a celebration of the new lighting makes sense. They suggested that we table those plans. Marcia Baum proposed that we plan something new in place of the party. Gail Rodwan mentioned Palmer Woods celebration of their centennial and suggested a combined 100th anniversary, since that date is approaching in 2017, along with a tribute to all who donated toward the lighting. The board agreed to that plan.

Trick or Trunk – Chaundra Haynes will provide a full report at the next meeting and will explain what this activity for children is.

Seven Reasons to Join the Patrol – Maurice suggested we provide such a document as an incentive for people to join the patrol.

Welcome Committee – Maurice reminded the board that there are many new residents in Sherwood Forest and that we need to provide welcome packages.

Block Captains - Christine reported that her committee will host a Meeting at Luther Bradley's home next Thursday. Gail Rodwan asked that she be informed as to where the new stickers that will identify residents' cars should be placed. The committee will consider the question and respond to Gail.

Old Business - April Baker expressed concern about the patrol's lack of response to what she considers reasonable requests. Gail says that our contract imposes requirements on the patrol and we will have to work with our manager to follow up and ensure that patrol officers and management understand that those terms must be followed. She added that the same is true with the leadership of the 12th precinct. April wanted to know if Mike Slater receives reports from the precinct and asked how that information is being reported the board. Maurice promised to find out. Gail Rodwan stated that the board should find a way to get information to Threat

Management regarding incidents that happen to residents who are not members. Kim suggested that we encourage neighbors to use the incident report that can be found online. Maurice will send monthly reports that are backlogged. April suggested that Mike meet with the patrol every two weeks. Kim and others felt that monthly may be enough since Mike is not an employee and has a full time job. Christine is seeking an individual who will agree to replace Judith Jackson as block captain. (Sadly, Judith Passed away in July.)

Parks and Reforestation – Karen White provided the update.

Kim Tandy says she will apply for nuisance abatement to address property at the corner of Canterbury and Pembroke. Some board members hope to see a playground at that location.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley A. Jackson

REMINDER:

Sunday is Super Signing Day Don't forget to do your part to make Sherwood Forest a Special Assessment District.

Two Signing Locations:

**19600 Stratford Road and
19580 Shrewsbury Road**