



SHERWOOD  
FOREST  
ASSOCIATION

# TATTLER

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2006

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## YEAR-END REPORT: 2006 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

The end of the year once again provides me with an opportunity to thank the many residents who have worked so hard in 2006 to maintain Sherwood Forest as the fine community that we all enjoy. Special thanks go to the members of our Board of Directors, who volunteered untold hours during the past year to do the work of our various standing committees, and to non-board members who assumed special responsibilities. They include Kim Tandy, who again this year served as our representative to the 12<sup>th</sup> Precinct Neighborhood Coalition, the University Commons Committee, and who also kept us updated on the Livernois boulevard construction; Charlie Primas, who contributes to the smooth day-to-day operation of the security patrol by serving as patrol manager; Gordon Rodwan, who keeps the books and sends out the billings for the patrol service; and Martin Baum, who successfully spearheaded a one-man campaign to increase patrol membership.

We had a large turnout for our potluck supper and annual meeting in May. Our guest speaker was Deputy Chief Marshall Lyons of the Western District Police Precinct. We also heard from Commander Dwight Hudson and Community Relations Officer Sandra Richardson.

In July, the City of Detroit announced that Sherwood Forest would be one of 25 neighborhoods where residents who purchased their homes after December 31,

1997, would begin receiving a reduction of approximately 22% in their property taxes. This property tax relief has been a long time coming, and many area residents, particularly Sherwood Forest's John Corvino, worked hard to make it happen. Your Board of Directors also worked hard to make sure that every eligible resident was aware of the procedures he or she had to follow in order to begin getting the tax relief in 2007.

In August, we enjoyed a picnic and jazz concert in Sherwood Park featuring the wonderful music of Charlie Gabriel, Marion Hayden, Alex Tranjano and Buddy Budson.

In September, we launched our totally new, reader friendly website, [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org). There are lots of color pictures and much more useful information on this site, including a list of board members and their committee responsibilities, the "This Old House" list and the business directory, membership forms, property restrictions and back issues of the *Tattler*. In the "History" section, a resident can click on his or her address and find the historical name and the year his or her home was built.

Also in September, Sherwood Forest, along with 30-40 other neighborhoods around the city, participated in the "Living in the D" event sponsored by Crain's Detroit Business. We invited metropolitan Detroit residents and business people into the neighborhood to see one of our beautiful homes and learn from our own residents more about the advantages of "living in the D" generally and about Sherwood Forest in particular. The evening culminated with a

reception in the Renaissance Center Wintergarden, where Mayor Kilpatrick and others speakers encouraged living and investing in Detroit. Just in time for this event, we updated our Sherwood Forest brochure, making copies available that evening to potential home buyers as well as relocation specialists. If you would like a copy of our beautiful new brochure, just send a request to [Rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Rodwan@sbcglobal.net).

In October, we enjoyed another quiet Angels' Night and a safe and festive Halloween, with residents providing treats to many area children.

Sherwood Forest got some good publicity this year, with area residents being featured in articles in *The Detroit News*, *Metro Parent*, *Crain's Detroit Business* and the e-journal *Model D*. In all instances, our residents talked about why they chose to live in Sherwood Forest.

With these successes have come challenges. Like almost every metropolitan Detroit community, we have suffered from our state and region's economic downturn. Houses for sale have languished on the market for inordinately long periods of time. Some residents have moved away leaving their homes empty and neglected. Your board has found it a challenge to try to work with realtors and absentee owners to keep these properties minimally maintained. Some homes have gone into foreclosure, and, although the numbers are small, each such property presents a problem for our neighborhood. We solicit your thoughts about how best to deal with this issue.

As we approach a new year, let me remind you that I value your comments and suggestions for making our community the best possible place to live. If you are not involved with a Sherwood Forest committee or project, please resolve to make 2007 the year you will become involved. I am always looking for talented volunteers. Just call me.

My warmest wishes to every member of our Sherwood Forest family.

Lois E. Primas  
President, Sherwood Forest Association

### **BULK PICKUP REMINDER**

This is to remind everyone that our only bulk pickup of

2006 will be on **Monday, December 11**. Bulk items are not to be placed at the curb until the evening before pickup, and residents who put bulk out earlier than that evening will be subject to a fine by the city. Our first bulk pickup in 2007 will not until March 9. However, during the first two weeks of January, holiday trees (but no other bulk) may be placed at the curb for pickup on our regular trash day (Thursday).

Throughout the fall, we have been able to put leaves and other yard waste at the curb for pickup on Thursdays, our regular collection day. **That program ends this week.** It will resume in May of 2007. So if you have not yet done your last raking of the season, be aware that you will NOT be able to put leaves at the curb after the first full week of December.

A few of our residents have not understood that leaves and other trash may no longer be put at the curb in plastic bags. Leaves must be in paper bags, and those bags must be put at least six feet away from the Courville container.

All of these rules are explained in greater detail in an article that appears on our website at [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org). Click on the link in the "Neighborhood News" box at the bottom of the homepage.

### **NEW INFORMATION ADDED TO WEBSITE**

In her year-end message (see above), Lois E. Primas urged all residents to become involved in the work of the various Sherwood Forest Association committees. If you are thinking of responding to her request, you may want to read descriptions of the board's standing committees. The descriptions have just been placed on the website, [www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org](http://www.sherwoodforestdetroit.org), and you can read them by clicking the "Board of Directors" bar on the left side of the homepage and then going to "Committees."

### **SHERWOOD FOREST INCLUDED IN NEXT DETROIT INITIATIVE**

At a meeting on November 27, 2006, at the Northwest Activities Center, representatives of various city departments explained the Next Detroit Initiative and our community's proposed involvement in it.

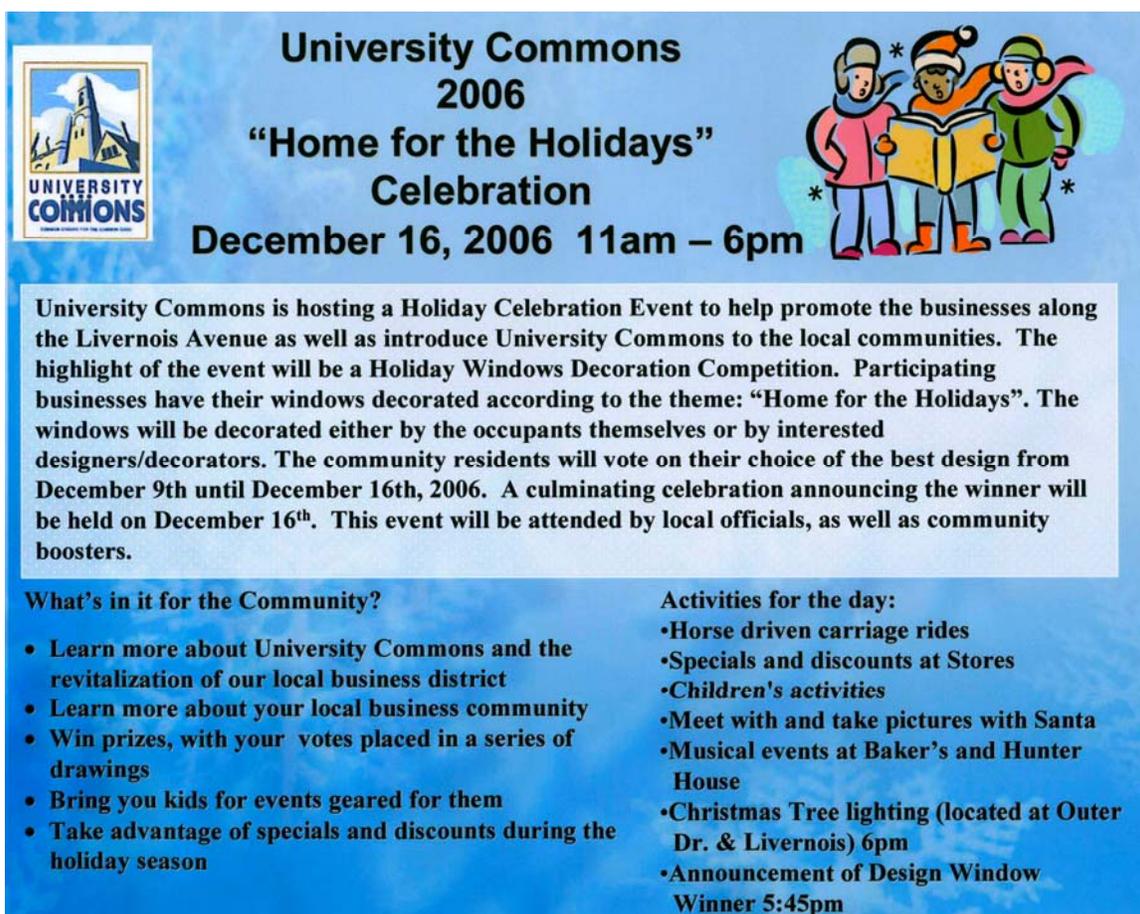
The Next Detroit Initiative has identified three

categories of Detroit neighborhoods: those that need redevelopment, revitalization or reinforcement. Sherwood Forest has been designated a reinforcement area, which is defined as a stable community with good housing stock, Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) eligibility, a high percentage of home ownership and a low rate of violent crime. Two reinforcement areas have been chosen for inclusion in the Next Detroit Initiative. One is East English Village. The other is a cluster of neighborhoods around Seven Mile Road, which include University District, Greenacres, **Sherwood Forest**, Palmer Woods and Bagley.

The City of Detroit will partner with the State of Michigan, Detroit Renaissance, foundations such as the Skillman Foundation and others to invest in these areas.

What does the inclusion of Sherwood Forest in this program mean for us? That is not yet entirely clear. The purpose of the November 27 meeting was to solicit the opinions of representatives of these Seven Mile Road area communities about their needs and priorities. Residents were asked what they would most like to see improved in categories ranging from taxes to code enforcement, insurance rates to lighting and a host of other city services.

The Next Detroit Initiative is in an early phase, but the inclusion of Sherwood Forest is potentially very positive for this community. Watch the *Tattler* for future reports on the progress of this promising initiative.



The poster features a blue background with a white border. On the left is the University Commons logo, which includes a stylized building and the text 'UNIVERSITY COMMONS'. In the center, the text reads 'University Commons 2006 "Home for the Holidays" Celebration December 16, 2006 11am - 6pm'. On the right is an illustration of three children in winter clothing looking at a book. Below the main text is a white box containing a detailed description of the event. At the bottom, there are two columns of text: 'What's in it for the Community?' and 'Activities for the day:'. The 'What's in it for the Community?' section lists five bullet points. The 'Activities for the day:' section lists seven bullet points.

**University Commons  
2006  
"Home for the Holidays"  
Celebration  
December 16, 2006 11am – 6pm**

University Commons is hosting a Holiday Celebration Event to help promote the businesses along the Livernois Avenue as well as introduce University Commons to the local communities. The highlight of the event will be a Holiday Windows Decoration Competition. Participating businesses have their windows decorated according to the theme: "Home for the Holidays". The windows will be decorated either by the occupants themselves or by interested designers/decorators. The community residents will vote on their choice of the best design from December 9th until December 16th, 2006. A culminating celebration announcing the winner will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>. This event will be attended by local officials, as well as community boosters.

**What's in it for the Community?**

- Learn more about University Commons and the revitalization of our local business district
- Learn more about your local business community
- Win prizes, with your votes placed in a series of drawings
- Bring you kids for events geared for them
- Take advantage of specials and discounts during the holiday season

**Activities for the day:**

- Horse driven carriage rides
- Specials and discounts at Stores
- Children's activities
- Meet with and take pictures with Santa
- Musical events at Baker's and Hunter House
- Christmas Tree lighting (located at Outer Dr. & Livernois) 6pm
- Announcement of Design Window Winner 5:45pm

For more information contact Kim Tandy at [kimsva@aol.com](mailto:kimsva@aol.com)

NOTE: As a part of the University Commons Holiday Event, My Computer, a store at 19329 Livernois owned by Sherwood Forest residents, is offering two Saturdays of free workshops for computer users. On Saturday, December 9, at 12:00 and 2:00, there will be workshops on Digital Cameras 101 and How to Buy a Computer. On Saturday, December 16, again at 12:00 and 2:00, My Computer will be offering Tech Tips as well as workshops on Digital Cameras 101 and Knowing About Viruses and Spyware. Call 313-863-5060 for more information.

## **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ASSOCIATION DUES?**

The new fiscal year for the Sherwood Forest Association began on October 1st. If you have not yet paid your \$55 annual dues, please do so today. Every dollar is used to make Sherwood Forest a better place to live. As snow season approaches, we again have contracted for street snow removal. This program, like so many others, is funded entirely by annual dues. Send your check to our treasurer, Sue McMillan, at 19494 Shrewsbury, or confirm your membership status by calling Sue at (313) 862-6366.

## **WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

Residents on our email list receive regular notices of neighborhood news as it happens. We let you know when snow plows are about to come through the community so you can make sure your cars are off the street, remind you of bulk pickup days, inform you of social events and pass along notices we receive regularly from the Mayor and city departments. This information comes **only** to our email subscribers, so make sure you are maintaining your vital communications link with your community by sending your email address today to [rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodwan@sbcglobal.net). **The Sherwood Forest email list is not shared with any other organization, not even with other neighbors.**

**REMEMBER: Bulk pickup will be on Monday, December 11.**