The Sherwood Forest News

SPRING 2018

Residential Group Homes

Because of the deep concern of residents in both Sherwood Forest and Broadmoor Subdivisions, about the increased number of 'for profit group homes' being operated within our neighborhoods, the home owner associations of these two neighborhoods have formed a committee of 6 members: 3 representing Sherwood Forest Subdivision and 3 representing Broadmoor Subdivision.

Members of the committee will work to identify the location of these facilities, the type of function they serve, and by whom they are being managed. Information gathered would be presented to city and state government agencies to encourage the establishment of legislation that would implement better control mechanisms, and to identify the kind and the number of group homes that are being operated in neighborhoods. At the conclusion of the study a meeting for the residents of Sherwood and Broadmoor will be held to inform folks of the findings.

In addition, the committee will attempt to determine which government agencies or departments are responsible for the different types of group homes and the rules (fire, safety, occupancy, supervision, etc.) to which the different types of group homes must comply.

Federal law governing the establishment of Group Homes for people with disabilities permits a group home in any zoning district in the country. In other words, Federal law has precedence over any neighborhood association restrictions or city zoning requirements.

The goal is not to stop group homes from being in Broadmoor or Sherwood, but to ensure the group home management, supervisors, owners, and residents are good neighbors and the homes comply with the rules established by various government agencies.

This effort will take numerous hours of research and meetings by our volunteers. We are asking for your patience during this process. It would be helpful if you would share your observations of group homes being established in your respective neighborhoods, so that any new information can be included in the findings. This information should be reported to the President of the Broadmoor Residents' Association (broadmoor-br.org) or the President of the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association (rlempson@bellsouth.net).

Letter from the President

Richard Empson, President, Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association

Let us all welcome the New Year with the anticipation of better things to come within our subdivision and the beauty of our subdivision brought back to its desirable appearance.

The City Parish has extended the use of personal trailers, (no FEMA trailers); to house our residents who are still in the rebuilding process but each person must submit to the City Parish a request to park a trailer in the front yard. I can assure you that the SFCA Board will continue to enforce all deed restrictions, parking violations and property neglect that is in accordance with the city ordinances.

A word to the wise, before you do anything to your property like additions to your home, building or buying storage buildings, installing swimming pools, erecting fences, or adding driveways/parking pads, it is best to contact the Sherwood Forest Board to be given proper instructions on how to proceed. Just because you own the property does not give you the right to build, extend, enhance or widen beyond the existing structure. There are guidelines specific to your home that must be followed. Please refer to our website, sfcabr.org, to review your deed restrictions, homeowner guidelines, and links to the City Parish Government and City Ordinances, to obtain valuable information and remember a permit is always required.

I would also like to make an appeal to residents within our subdivision to volunteer their time to pick up litter, (a major issue), those annoying signs on the neutral grounds, and right of ways. Each resident has a path they travel daily and I know you see the unclean spaces, signs on the neutral grounds, and right of ways. Please help us keep our neighborhood clean and set an example for the rest of the city. Any volunteer assistance you give will enable board members to concentrate on major projects, court cases, and address other troubled areas that have impacts on our subdivision.

Richard Empson, President Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association



The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association announced our new web site in the fall newsletter of 2017. There is so much more information imbedded on the new site than before, so make sure you visit it. We feel that the new concept will be beneficial to anyone who wishes to explore the information that directly impacts them within the subdivision, the surrounding areas and the City of Baton Rouge. Our website address is:

www.sfcabr.org

Long Time Board Member Retires

Ralph Dupuy has certainly done his part for our Sherwood Forest community. After volunteering for 12 years as treasurer of the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association, Ralph has decided to retire, once again, but this time from service to our neighborhood. His decision is based on the desire to spend more free time enjoying life.

Having served over a decade as our treasurer, Ralph's commitment to his neighborhood is greatly appreciated. We don't have a gold watch or a nice retirement check to honor him with....but a most appreciative **JOB WELL DONE** is in order and long overdue. Thank you for your service and most of all enjoy your well deserved retirement!

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Board Members

Hospitality Committee Welcomes Our New Residents

Since January, 2017, there has been an increase of new residents to Sherwood Forest subdivision. Many of the flooded homes have been renovated and updated making them attractive to home buyers. In the past year, the Welcome Committee has distributed 149 packets to the new home owners. Included in the packets are, history of Sherwood Forest, information on the Board of Directors, deed restrictions, tips on caring for lawns and trees, recycling information as well as other useful information for home owners. If you have not received a packet and would like one, send an email to suelarisey@cox.net. A packet will be delivered to your home.

Eye Watch

We have increased the number of SFCA block captains since my last newsletter article. Thank you for volunteering and being active in watching out for your neighbors!

We still need more block captains. We would like to have at least one block captain on every street in Sherwood Forest. If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact me at teresaharalson@gmail.com and I will explain how we work together.

Remember to lock your vehicles and report any suspicious activity. For emergencies call 911. For suspicious activity or non-emergency crimes call the non-emergency police at 389-2000, and also, if you could report it to security@sfcabr.org or my email address at teresaharalson@gmail.com.

Lagniappe

A big change in the neighborhood occurred when Audubon Elementary was built and they split the neighborhood into two schools. My two best friends lived at Sherwood Forest Blvd and west of there and were transferred to the new school.

Sherwood Forest Elementary had been a shining star in the school system with a very active and successful PTA. We had a huge library with fantastic parent-purchased materials.

Membership Matters

In 2010 I volunteered to become the membership chairman. At that time we had 1,195 residents who paid dues. That was 41% of the 2,911 dues notices mailed out that February.

Reflecting back 8 years ago our membership goal was very ambitious. Since then Sherwood Forest has experienced many changes. The most recent of course, was the 2016 flood which resulted in the decline of dues collected. At the end of 2017 our membership had dropped to an all time low of 647 members.

The dues collected determine what the SFCA can and cannot do for the year which ends up directly affecting our property values. Your dues allows the Board to enforce deed restrictions, print & deliver two newsletters per year, membership letters, purchase office supplies, print flyers when needed to alert residents of activities that could possibly adversely affect our neighborhood, web site cost, etc. By paying your dues you are making an investment in your neighborhood. Every resident should become a member of the association whether you OWN or RENT!

For the residents who have paid your 2018 dues the association greatly appreciates you and your support for your neighborhood.

At the end of 2017 property transfers (homes sold) were 216. Total sales were \$35,147,659.00 an average of \$162,720.64. Several homes have sold for over \$300,000.00.

James Gray / Membership Chairman

Membership Form

To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2017 dues to:
Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association
P.O. Box 45142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

| Name(s): | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Phone: | Email: | |
| Address: | | |
| Comments: | | |
| I would like to be an EyeWatch blo | ock captain. Ilowing committee(s): | |
| Volunteering for a committee is open to a time and talent for the betterment of our ne | all Sherwood Forest residents. Please considighborhood! | der giving of your |
| 2018 Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- I | Dec. 31): \$25 TOTAL ENCLO | SED: \$ |

Sherwood Forest Yards of the Month

When spring finally peaks its buds out of winter hibernation, folks flock to the nurseries and home improvement centers to purchase their spring flowers, mulch, fertilizer etc. Entire weekends are spent planting, weeding, mulching, and changing out the flowerbeds. Lawns start to green up and the sound of trimmers and mowers can be heard throughout the neighborhoods.

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association awards 4 yards each month starting in April and continues through September. We look for yards that are neatly trimmed, flowers in bloom, and pride from the hard work of the homeowner. It doesn't have to be a professionally landscaped yard.

We choose a yard and contact the homeowner and with their permission a Yard of the Month Sign will be placed in the yard and a picture will be taken for the web site. The sign stays up for the month and then it is remove. Volunteers are needed to seek out the best yards in Sherwood Forest to promote the beatification of our neighborhood. Thanks to Louisiana Nurseries we are able to award one winner with a **\$50** gift certificate each month.

Plant Encore Azaleas in Your Landscape

What to plant in your landscape? Since the flood destroyed the flowers & plants in your landscape have you thought about what to replace them with? Below is an article that was published in the Advocate on Encore Azaleas.

The Encore series, the best azaleas to ever hit the market, now has 31 varieties. With two new red selections **Autumn Bonfire** and **Autumn Fire**, you'll have even more choices, allowing you to have an encore of spring bloom in the landscape for the long growing season ahead. That is why they are called Encore.

Autumn Bonfire is dwarf or compact, perfect for today's garden. It reaches 3 feet tall with a spread of 3.5 feet. The blossoms are semi-double and a true saturated red. Autumn Bonfire not only gives you stimulating color, but it is also evergreen retaining the bright green foliage.

The Autumn Fire has much the same habit and color but the semi-double blossoms that are rich and velvety. The foliage will give extra garden interest as it ages to a purple-bronze in the winter. Sometimes in the fall depending on the variety chosen, there will be another bloom.

These azaleas were bred to bloom and they have been known to attract butterflies. Many of the Encore Azaleas are cold hardy from zones 6A – 10B and perform best in organic-rich, well drained soil. Compost and organic matter improve tight, heavy soil allowing for best drainage. Add a layer of mulch after planting and again each year.

Choose a site with 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight. Partial sun gardens with high shifting sunlight will also prove to be an optimal location. With 31 varieties you will find a wide range of colors and sizes from dwarf to intermediate.



AUTUMN FIRE





AUTUMN BONFIRE

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program Update

Work on the city-parish's SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow) Program continues in Sherwood Forest, with all of the work to be complete later this year.

Excavation of the last major sewer line started in February - at the intersection of Goodwood Boulevard and Westbrook Drive (near Christa McAuliffe). The sewer line being installed starts first going north on Westbrook, then goes west on Mollylea Drive and then finally goes north on Little John Drive to where it makes a tie-in at a location between Robinhood Drive and Archery Drive. This work is being performed by Grady Crawford. It is forecast to be complete this May.

A much smaller length sewer line will be installed between the intersection of Ashbourne Drive and Sherwood Forest Boulevard and the pump station on Major Oak. This work is targeted to be complete later this spring.

Wharton-Smith continues to install the three new pump stations in Sherwood Forest. Completion dates for each of the pump stations are as follows: the one to the east of Christina McAuliffe is targeted to be complete this June, the one on Major Oak is targeted to be complete this October, and the small one on Shelby Drive, just to the south of Miller RV, is targeted to be complete this spring. Target completion dates for each of the pump stations take into account a reasonable amount of time for weather related events, etc.

Boone Services continues to finish up its work on South Flannery and is targeting to be finished with that work by the end of March. Boone has started the process of demobilizing its laydown yard at the corner of South Flannery and Goodwood Boulevard. We are working with the SSO Program manager, Jacobs Engineering (formerly CH2M); to have Boone provide a demobilization plan for its laydown facility, including what needs to be done to restore the area to its former condition.

We continue to work with Jacobs Engineering and DPW on the popping manholes that have been happening during heavy rains in Sherwood Forest. We know about the ones on Trammell Drive, Woodcliff Drive and the Sherwood Forest Boulevard/Ashbourne Drive area. If there are others in your neighborhood, please let us know so that they can be added to the follow up list of sewer lines/manholes requiring further work.

Improper Disposal of Tires

The outdoor storage of tires in stacks and piles is here by declared to be a nuisance, a factor promoting blight, and a contributing factor to visual clutter in the city and parish.

The visible storage of tires in an area visible to passers-by from a public road for any purpose, is here by declared to be a public nuisance and shall be punishable as a misdemeanor, with each day of improper storage constituting a separate offense.

Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall pay a penalty of **\$125.00** for the first violation and upon a second violation within a two year period a penalty of **\$250.00** with a maximum of **\$500.00** for subsequent violations.

Because of this City Parish Ordinance the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association will monitor flagrant violators and begin turning them into the city. Used tires are not picked up by normal garbage but solid waste removal will pick up to 4 tires on the normal scheduled residential pick up. If not removed by bulk pick up call 311 between 8:00AM and 3:00 PM to schedule a pick up. The full ordinance can be viewed in the City Parish Code of Ordinances Section. 12:407 Improper Public Storage of Tires.

Christmas Decorations

We all enjoy the many Christmas lights and Christmas displays which help to put us in the holiday spirit.

By the end of January the holidays are over. The continued presence of decorations around the overhangs of homes, on rooftops, or laying in the yards, makes what is a beautiful residence look unsightly and not appealing to those who travel our streets.

The SFCA Board is asking that <u>Christmas decorations be removed by the end of January every year.</u>

Criteria for Calming Ramps Outlined

- 1. The street shall be a residential street with average daily traffic not exceeding **2,000** vehicles per day.
- 2. A study made prior to any decision must show that problems exist and correction is possible by traffic control devises (stop signs, speed limit signs, etc.). These problems are: excessive speed, excessive cut-through traffic, excessive uncontrolled street length. An engineering study requires before and after measurements of speed and volume for a minimum at least one weekend day.
- 3. A City-Parish Neighborhood Traffic Control Program petition (available from the city) indicating that **75%** of the property owners on that street support the installation needs to be submitted to the Director of Public Works. In the case of rental property, both the owner and tenant must support the project.
- 4. The petition should include letters of no objection from the affected Fire Dept, EMS, Police and Sheriff's Office.
- 5. The Director of Public Works has the authority to utilize other temporary types of traffic control and calming devices prior to a final decision being made.
- 6. Funding for the studies and installation shall be from a separate fund designated for such purposes.
 - There are many streets in Sherwood Forest that could/would benefit greatly from Calming Ramps. If you live on one of these streets would you be willing to take on this project for your street? If so, contact the Council person for your area and get started!

City Clean Sweep Day

This year we are planning on being a part of the Baton Rouge city wide clean sweep day again. For those interested in this year's city clean sweep day it will be Saturday, **April 14, 2018, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** Wear a red t-shirt. We will meet in the parking lot at St Thomas More, Dartmoor Street side, at **9:00 a.m.** to sign up. Last year we were able to pick up several bags of trash from Sherwood Forest Blvd. As the time gets closer, I will post on Next-door or you can email me with any questions, if you are interested in participating.

Thank you to everyone who regularly helps keep the median and their streets picked up with the extra trash that we experience!

Litter Enforcement

The state's "Litterbug Hotline" is now housed inside the LDWF Enforcement Division and littering tipsters can call 1-888-LITRBUG or 1-888-548-7284 to report any potential littering violations including dumpsites and littering in public.

Those convicted of litter violations face between \$175 and \$1,000 in fines and up to eight hours in a litter abatement work program. Dumping violations can carry even more penalties and higher fines depending on the severity of the dumpsite and the damage to the environment.

- Simple littering can be trash flying out the back of a pickup truck and carries up to \$175 fines and court costs.
- Intentional littering can be someone deliberately throwing trash out of a window onto the roadway and brings up to a \$250 fine.
- Gross littering can be someone depositing large amounts of trash into a ditch or having an illegal dumpsite and carries \$500 to \$1,000 in fines.
- Each offense also carries up to eight hours in a litter abatement work program.
- Litter costs Louisiana taxpayers \$40 million annually.
- Litter takes time to biodegrade/break down. An orange peel takes six months, a plastic bag takes 10 - 20 years and paper 2 - 5 months.
- Cigarette butts are dangerous to wildlife and have been found in the stomachs of cats, dogs, birds and squirrels.
- The four most common litter items in Louisiana are cigarettes, fast-food packaging and candy/snack packaging and beverage containers.
- Litter is a health risk to you and your pet as it attracts rodents, vermin and germs.
- Litter has indirect economic cost including real estate devaluation, loss of new industry and business, and loss of tourism and ecotourism, especially in the state that lays claim to being "Sportsman's Paradise."

What Citizens Can Do To Help

- Clean out truck beds and refrain from throwing cigarette butts or other trash out of the car or watercraft.
- Carry a litterbag in your car or boat.
- If citizens witness littering or illegal dumping violations, they are urged to call the state's antilitter hotline at **1-888-LITRBUG** (**1-888-548-7284**). Provide vehicle license plate number, time and location of the violation, and if possible a description of the litter item.

Security Report

This is a reminder to all homeowners that the City Parish ordinance related to parking in the front yard, suspended due to the 2016 flood, <u>has now been reinstated</u> and violators will be ticketed. The security patrol will not issue warnings at all. <u>If you are in violation of this ordinance</u>, you will receive a ticket.

In the last few months, we have received many complaints about illegally parked vehicles, and about junk cars or trucks. The City Parish Governmental agencies are also aware that these problems are increasing parish wide. Their concerns have resulted in the passage of an ordinance entitled "Blight Elimination." The council has also amended a traffic code concerning "Dustless" parking (enacted to improve our air quality, adding a provision for issuing a traffic ticket, rather than having to file an injunction against offenders. These provisions will make it easier to protect the safety of our residents and protect property values in our subdivision.

Some of the most commonly violated provisions of the parking ordinances are: LRS 32:143 No person shall stop stand or park a vehicle or permit a vehicle in his name to be stopped, standing or parked, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law and directions of a police officer or traffic-control device, at any of the following places:

- 1. On a sidewalk
- 2. In front of a public or private driveway
- 3. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- 4. Within an intersection
- 5. On a cross walk
- Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping or parking would obstruct traffic
- 7. On a roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parking at the edge of the curb of a street
- 8. Any place where parking will obscure or obstruct visibility

LRS 32-144 Every vehicle standing or parked on a roadway/highway where there are adjacent curbs shall be so standing or parked with the right-hand wheels of such vehicle parallel to stand within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

Sec. 11:416 Parking on neutral grounds, parks, right-of-ways, sidewalks and other public (as the medians) and private places is prohibited.

Amended Title 11 (Traffic code), Chapter 28**No parking on the grass in the front yard between the front of the residence and the street of any lot in the A1, A2, A2.5, A3 or A4 zoned districts and in recognized subdivisions in rural districts.**

Public Service Announcement

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Board currently has 10 active volunteer members. The privilege to share in the many opportunities available to continue to improve our neighborhood in 2018, by becoming a member of the SFCA Board, is open to **all dues paying residents that reside in our subdivision's boundaries.**

To continue the work that the association has provided for the last 60 years, the board is appealing to the residents to give of your time in order to keep the SFCA Board viable in serving its main function, which is to keep Sherwood Forest Subdivision a **beautiful**, **desirable**, and **inviting** neighborhood for families looking to relocate here and for those of us who already call Sherwood Forest "home".

If you want to maintain the quality of life you now have living in **OUR** Sherwood Forest Subdivision, we need you to get involved in **YOUR** Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association. **OUR** neighborhood does not consist of 10 homes, it consists of 3000 homes. **THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION AND WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION**.

No Solicitation Ordinance

Per Section 12:200 <u>House-to-House Peddling As Nuisance</u>, Section (B) (1) (b) of the City-Parish Code of Ordinances, (Title 12, Chapter 3, Part II), house-to-house peddling is prohibited if "by resolution of the board of the homeowners' association, a sign has been posted at each entrance to a recognized single family residential subdivision designating the subdivision as a no peddling area. A certified copy of the resolution shall be provided to the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance. The sign shall clearly state that house-to-house peddling is prohibited in the subdivision and shall be legible and visible from the public street. No sign shall be posted pursuant to this subsection without the approval of the Chief Traffic Engineer."

Violation of the "No Solicitation" ordinance is a legal matter and should be reported to the law enforcement agency for your area. To do so, call 225-389-2000 to report the offender to police.

If a solicitor comes to you home do not converse with him. Just politely let him know he is not welcomed and tell him about the ordinance. After that, I would suggest calling the police (389-2000) and ask them to come out. These people usually do not listen and keep soliciting. It is a nuisance to everyone. Religious and political groups do have the right to call on people.

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To schedule an appointment, call **225.240.8369** or visit **ochsner.org/appointments**.



If you would like to advertise in our newsletter contact Jackie Gray at jrjhgray@cox.net

Call the Right Number for Assistance

Virtually everyone knows to phone **911** in an emergency. However, there are other numbers you can use to register complaints or seek action to solve a vexing problem.

Use the City-Parish Call Center (311) to report suspected zoning violations (deviations from A-1 code), public safety hazards like potholes and fallen tree limbs, egregious or repetitive parking violations, junked cars, unsightly carports and many more. REMEMBER: YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS WHEN USING THIS SERVICE!

The number for Baton Rouge City Police is **389-2000**. To report suspicious situations that are not time-sensitive call the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Line, **273-1353**. Leave a call-back message, and include your email for online communication.

Specific questions about streets, drainage and sewerage, construction and building codes or the environment should be directed to the EBR Department of Public Works (DPW) at **389-3090**, **380-2070**, or online at http://brgov.com/DEPT/dpw/.

To receive up-to-date information about your subdivision, PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS on your membership form, or call a member of the board of directors. Names and contact numbers are listed below

2018 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Number — 273-1353 (Note: All officers, directors and committee members are volunteers.)

OFFICERS:

President: Richard Empson, <u>rlempson@bellsouth.net</u>

Vice President: James Gray, <u>jrjhgray@cox.net</u>
Treasurer: James Gray, <u>jrjhgray@cox.net</u>

Secretary: Marcia Empson, <u>msempson@bellsouth.net</u>

DIRECTORS: Richard Empson, Marcia Empson, James Gray, Jackie

Gray, Teresa Haralson, Sue Larisey, Jim Murray,

Emmeline Ross and Gary Smith

COMMITTEES:

Architectural Control: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net,

James Gray, jrgray@cox.net

Beautification: Jackie Gray <u>irjhgray@cox.net</u>

Emmeline Ross eross55@cox.net

Eye Watch: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com,

Jim Murray, jwmurray36@gmail.com

Federation: Richard Empson, rlempson@bellsouth.net

Hospitality:

Membership:

Newsletter:

Public works:

Security:

Zoning:

Sue Larisey, slarisey@cox.net

James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net

Jackie Gray, Patty Domingue

Jackie Gray and Emmeline Ross

Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.or

Richard Empson and James Gray

SSO Program:

Phil Fetterman, psfetterman@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Jason Young, ivsites@gmail.com

SFCA Board of directors meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, except October and December, in Room 3 of the St. Thomas More Activity Center. Notify Richard Empson <u>four</u> days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item to the board.