

SFCA NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

APRIL 2023 ~ SPRING EDITION

SHERWOOD FOREST REMEMBERS DAVID POIRRIER



David Poirrier was a vital part of the Sherwood Forest community. As head of the Sherwood Forest security patrol, he worked tirelessly to keep our neighborhood safe. He passed away Sunday, March 26, 2023, doing what he loved - working to protect our community as part of the Baton Rouge Police Department Air Support Unit.

We appreciate his service, dedication, and sacrifice and extend our deepest sympathy to David's family. He will be greatly missed by Sherwood Forest, the Baton Rouge community, and all who knew him. As a reminder of David's service and devotion to Sherwood Forest, an oak tree will be planted in his honor.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL PRE-APPROVAL IS A MUST!

The purchase of a home is so exciting, but home owners often don't realize that their home is subject to deed restrictions. Homes in Sherwood Forest are under deed restrictions according to filing. You can find your deed restrictions on our website at www.sfcabr.org. The deed restrictions are to ensure that changes to the home, property and accessory buildings are in harmony with the homes in that filing. In accordance, the erection of sheds, buildings, and improvements to the home must be approved by the **Architectural Control Committee** of Sherwood Forest Citizens Association **BEFORE** you start the project. The cost to remove or change un-approved construction can be significant. Contact the city-parish permit office and the SFCA **BEFORE** beginning any construction and save everyone a lot of heartache, time, and money. Contact James Gray at jrjhgray@cox.net

REMEMBER: The one who builds or alters without obtaining the required approval creates the problem, not the one who discovers it and reports it.

VIETNAMESE TRANSLATOR AVAILABLE

Trước khi bạn đổ một con đường lái xe mới, xây dựng một nhà kho hoặc thêm vào ngôi nhà của bạn, hãy liên hệ với James Gray tại jrjhgray@cox.net. Người dịch tiếng Việt của chúng tôi có thể được gửi qua email tramthuyphan@yahoo.com.

COME HOME TO SHERWOOD FOREST!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for delivering welcome packets to new residents of Sherwood Forest subdivision. The packet contains information regarding city codes, deed restrictions, contact information for the SFCA board, as well as information pertaining to recycling, landscaping, etc. It is important to take the time to read through the information. We want Sherwood Forest subdivision to remain a beautiful place for families to live, play and grow in a safe and healthy environment. If you enjoy meeting new neighbors and want to be part of the Hospitality Committee, let us know. If you did not receive a packet or would like to receive a new one, please send an e-mail to the following address and a packet will be delivered to your doorstep. E-mail: lariseysue@gmail.com.

NEW STOP SIGN LOCATIONS

Your association has worked with DPW to reduce the speeding on our neighborhood streets. New stop signs have been installed at the following locations:

Major Oak Drive at Bellmead Drive
Major Oak Drive at Bellfort Drive
Little John Drive at Manorwood Drive
Sheraton Drive at Sylvan Drive



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH RENOVATION

For over 60 years St. Thomas More Parish has been a thriving faith community and elementary school, with a recently added early learning center, in the heart of the Sherwood Forest neighborhood. The parish was officially established in 1958 and the original church was built in 1960 along with the elementary school. It is named for St. Thomas More who was born in London in 1478, became a distinguished English lawyer and judge in London, and rose to become Lord High Chancellor of England serving King Henry VIII before his death in 1535.



Beginning shortly before COVID, Father Michael Alello, had the vision to spearhead an effort to renovate the church. COVID slowed the construction progress, but on October 30, 2022, St. Thomas More dedicated its newly renovated church. The church with the new parish office and surrounding landscaped property is a jewel in the middle of our neighborhood and we wish it many more fruitful years!



SPRING GARDENING

PETUNIAS ARE #1 FOR LOUISIANA SUMMERS

- Thrives in heat and blooms until early November. You'll notice the hotter it is, the more blooms there are!
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-

SHERWOOD FOREST BLOCK WATCH CAPTAINS

[SFCA 2023 Block Captain / Eye Watch Member Sign Up](#)

Do you want to help us keep your neighborhood secure? The Sherwood Forest neighborhood Eye-Watch program is a group of neighbors dedicated to helping maintain safety and security in our neighborhood. Presently, we have over 75 SFCA Block Captains. They volunteer a year at a time for their street/area and must be a paying member of the association.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Teresa Haralson at teresaharalson@gmail.com for more information.

THANK YOU FOR BEING OF SERVICE!



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RED STICK 311 REPORTING

POT HOLES, BLIGHT, BUILDING CODE VIOLATIONS can all be reported to 311 at <http://311.brla.gov/> Call: 311 or (225) 389-3090. After hours call (225) 389-2070.

Service requests for drainage, sewer, pot holes, street repairs, overgrown or vacant lots, flooding, dumping missed garbage pickup and other city related problems can all be reported to 311.

Emergencies and requests after-hours (M-F, 3pm-11:00pm), (Sat, Sun, and Holiday, 7am-11pm) should be called into (225) 389-2070. You can also download the Mobile App: RedStick 311 in the App Store or Google Play Store. See the website for more details.

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GOOD NEWS FOR FLORIDA BLVD CORRIDOR!

In April 2019, at the request of the SFCA Board, Mayor Sharon Weston Broome met with eight of our SFCA Board members to discuss our concerns for our Sherwood Forest neighborhood. One of our concerns was the revitalization of Florida Boulevard. We believe the Mayor's interest in revitalization of Florida Boulevard started long before that April 2019 meeting with us, but because of what has unfolded, we believed she listened to us.

AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTER was announced in June 2021 and construction has progressed well; although in January 2023, Amazon announced that supply chain issues delayed the originally scheduled opening for December 2022. We reached out to Donnie Miller of the Baton Rouge Chamber for an update and were told that Amazon is fully committed to opening the site, but as of early March do not have a confirmed opening date. Amazon has indicated it will work with local partners on hiring efforts 6-8 weeks before they open.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUILDING. In July 2021, the City-Parish broke ground on a new DES building located at 12422 Florida Boulevard, adjacent the Sherwood Forest neighborhood near Longbow Drive. This is a two-story building, formerly Diamond Motors, which will house the City-Parish Department of Environmental Services at one location, consolidating four divisions that currently work out of three separate buildings around East Baton Rouge Parish. All DES activities are being centralized and controlled from this single location and will have state-of-the-art computer monitoring and SCADA capabilities to monitor, control and redirect water at 50 major pump stations if necessary, as well as stormwater system management. Project manager Obie Watts of Jacobs and Sam Herpin of RHH Architects gave our SFCA Board members a tour of the building in mid-March. The building is beautiful and very functional. Four locations were considered—the former Sam's on Airline, the former Robinson Brothers site, a site in the Gardere Lane area; and the Diamond Motors site. Mr. Watts told us that Mayor Broome made the final selection and we are very appreciative of the good growth in our area.

SFCA~ MISSION STATEMENT

The Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association is a non-profit corporation formed to unite interested residents in promoting the welfare, attractiveness, and livability of the Sherwood Forest area. This organization gathers and transmits information to the members, provides security enhancement, and supports beautification of both public and private areas within the subdivision. The association also works to assist its members and to influence government agencies for the health of our neighborhood.

Want to get involved and support your neighborhood? Do you have a positive suggestion to improve the neighborhood and the energy to carry it out? Email the board at sherwoodforestcapresident@gmail.com.

Be Sherwood Forest Proud!



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A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 10 YEARS AGO

On March 20, 2013, the long-awaited EBR library on the old Fairwood Country Club location was dedicated. Sherwood Forest residents now have a state-of-the-art facility available at a convenient location thanks in part to the efforts of past council member Mike Walker and his assistant Zona Pickens.

The 15,800-square-foot library has books, audio-visuals, and periodicals for all ages, plus 40 computers and 10 laptops with free Wi-Fi for subscribers' use. A convenient drive-up after-hours book drop is a special feature. Library hours are 9am to 8pm Mondays through Thursday, 9am to 6pm Fridays and Saturdays and 2pm to 6pm Sundays.



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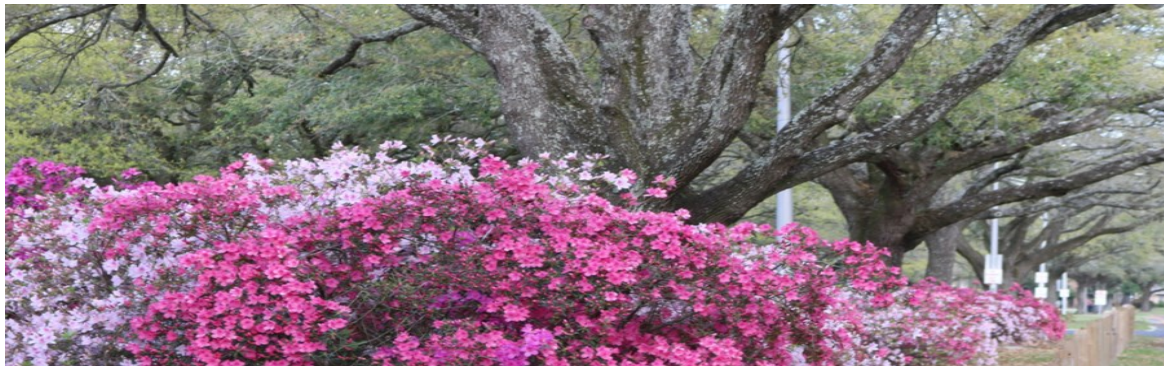
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LIVE OAK SOCIETY

The live oak is a majestic symbol of strength, stability and steadfastness, and it would be hard to imagine Louisiana without them. The Live Oak Society, started in 1934, promotes the culture, preservation and appreciation of live oak trees. Its membership is made up of trees only and one human, the chairperson, who is responsible for registering and recording new trees. Today, the Society has over 9,000 members in 14 states under the auspices of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation. The new president is the Seven Sisters Oak located in Mandeville by Lake Pontchartrain. The oak has a circumference of 38 feet and is estimated, by foresters, to be 1,200 years old!

To become a member, a live oak must have a trunk circumference of at least 8 feet. Those with a girth over 16 feet are classified as centenarians. There is no charge for registering a live oak tree. If interested contact Louisiana Live Oak Society at: lgcfinc.org/live-oak-society.html. The Chairperson is Coleen Perilloux Landry, CPL70600@aol.com.

"If we don't start preserving our ancient live oaks in Louisiana, we are going to lose some beauty that will never come back." Coleen Perilloux Landry

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PROJECT UPDATE – SHARP ROAD WIDENING

Fred Raiford, Director of Transportation & Drainage at City of Baton Rouge, in an email on February 23, 2023, reported that the construction project was just getting started. The Metro Council recently approved the contract which allows the engineer to start the process of getting set up to survey the area. When enough information has been gathered on the proposed project, public meetings will be held to get input. Mr. Raiford will then inform everyone when and where the public meetings will take place.



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THANKS FOR RENEWING THE CRIME DISTRICT

We are so appreciative of all our residents who voted YES to renew the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention District. Sherwood Forest has led the way in its efforts to reduce crime within its borders by installing state-of-the-art cameras, partnering with the Baton Rouge Police Department Real Time Crime Center, and maintaining police patrols in our neighborhood. In addition, we have a strong Block Captain network that helps our patrol to identify areas of concerns. Thank you for caring about Sherwood Forest and supporting our efforts to keep Sherwood Forest a great place to live.

FLORIDA CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

In a January 23, 2023 press release, Mayor Broome announced the launch of the Florida Corridor Master Plan. Redeveloping the Florida Corridor is a key commitment for her second term. The goal is to capitalize on key investments along the Florida Corridor, like the new Amazon fulfillment center. The Master Plan will be funded by the Cortana Economic Development District, a tax increment financing (“TIF”) district, which was approved by the Metro Council in August 2021 and administered by Build Baton Rouge. We spoke with Ms. Gretchen Siemers, Vice President of Planning and Policy for Build Baton Rouge who drafted the RFP for the Master Plan, and in mid-March was in the process of interviewing four national urban design firms to develop the \$900,000 Master Plan. The Cortana TIF district will be a five-year program that diverts all monthly sales tax revenues generated in the TIF district that exceeds the monthly baseline rate of \$414,088. The boundary of the TIF district is concentrated around the Amazon fulfillment center. The Master Plan is expected to take 10 to 15 years to implement. According to Mark Armstrong of the Mayor’s office, City-Parish officials hope that the Amazon fulfillment center will serve as a launching point for redevelopment of Florida Boulevard. Ms. Siemers stressed the importance of building a coalition of interested citizens to help hold officials to implementation of the goals in the Master Plan.

BE SHERWOOD FOREST PROUD—DON’T LITTER!

Due to the unthinkable amount of trash and litter, we are asking Sherwood Forest residents to please get involved by keeping litter and trash picked up in our beautiful neighborhood. Please help keep the boulevards litter free.

Believe it or not, you can make a huge difference in 30 minutes or less! One of the easiest solutions is not overfilling garbage cans and making sure the lid is closed. Keep gloves and garbage bags in your vehicles just in case we need to make a quick stop to pick up, yes, someone else’s trash! Please get involved and help eradicate trash and litter from our wonderful neighborhood.



SFCA ~ 2022 FINANCE STATEMENT

| Yearly & Monthly INCOME 2022 | BUDGET AMOUNT | 2022 | PROPOSED | |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION | | DUES RECEIVED | Members | 2022 |
| 2022 Yearly Budget | PROPOSED | 12/31/22 | PROPOSED | Members |
| REVENUE | | <u>FINAL REPORT</u> | 450X 50 | Paid |
| MEMBERS DUES + ZELLE PAYMENTS | | \$24,650.00 | \$22,500.00 | 493 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | | \$805.00 | \$1,100.00 | |
| NEWLETTER ADS 20 ADS X 100 | | \$1,500.00 | \$2,000.00 | |
| RESERVED FUNDS USED | | \$0.00 | 0 | |
| MISC DONATIONS | | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$0.00 | \$27,005.00 | \$25,650.00 | |
| EXPENDITURES | | PAID INVOICES | EXPENDITURES | |
| DUES REFUND DBL. PAYMENTS | | \$25.00 | \$0.00 | |
| BIZ LAND SECURITY PHONE BILL YEARLY | | \$100.48 | \$40.00 | |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES, INK, PAPER, COPIES | | \$344.77 | \$500.00 | |
| POSTAGE | | \$69.41 | \$150.00 | |
| MISC PRINTING / ANNUAL MTG SIGNS | | \$8.58 | \$50.00 | |
| PO BOX RENT YEARLY | | \$232.00 | \$232.00 | |
| WEB SITE MAINT. & DOMAIN NAME | | \$937.95 | \$1,100.00 | |
| NEWSLETTER PRINTING FALL ONLY ISSUE | | \$2,496.67 | \$4,500.00 | 2800 copies |
| NEWLETTER DELIVERY / POSTAGE & TAX | | \$2,181.45 | \$4,050.00 | 2723 copies |
| DUES MEMBERSHIP PRINTING | | \$1,185.00 | \$1,100.00 | 3000 PCS |
| DUES/ POSTAGE / TAX | | \$1,035.07 | \$1,000.00 | |
| EYE WATCH | | \$0.00 | \$25.00 | |
| LEGAL ATTORNEY FEES | | \$1,042.95 | \$7,500.00 | |
| STORAGE RENT YEAR | | \$359.85 | \$500.00 | |
| ST. THOMAS MOOR DONATION | | \$0.00 | \$250.00 | |
| HOSPITALITY -INK, PAPER, COPIES | | \$168.73 | \$600.00 | |
| PHOTOS REZONING ISSUES, MISC. | | \$107.28 | \$25.00 | |
| FEDERATION OF BR CIVIC ASSOC. DUES | | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | |
| BANK FEES, COURT PARKING, GIFT CARD, 1099 IRS | | \$109.75 | \$150.00 | |
| TOTA EXPENDITURES | \$0.00 | \$10,479.94 | \$21,847.00 | |

Of the 3000 residents in Sherwood Forest, 493 paid dues. Thank you to those that value your neighborhood and are working to keep it a great place to live.

SHERWOOD FOREST PROUD!

2023 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association Security Number: 225.273.1353
(Note: All officers, directors and committee members are volunteers.)

OFFICERS:

President: Debra Simino, sfcapresident@sfcabr.org
Vice President: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com
Treasurer: James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net
Secretary: Sue Larisey, lariseysue@gmail.com
DIRECTORS: James Gray, Jackie Gray, Thomas Balhoff, Teresa Haralson, Sue Larisey, Jim Murray, Debra Simino, Gary Smith, Will Galloway

COMMITTEES:

Architectural Control: James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net
Beautification: Jackie Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net,
Eye Watch: Teresa Haralson, teresaharalson@gmail.com,
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Legal Advisor: Thomas Balhoff
Vietnamese Interpreter: Tram Phan tramthuyphan@yahoo.com
Other Committees: Kathy Balhoff, Nick Simino, Tram Phan

SFCA Board of Directors meetings are at 6pm on the third Monday of each month, except October and December. Notify Debra Simino four days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item.

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*To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2023 dues to:
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SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

 I would like to be an Eye Watch block captain.

 I would like to volunteer for the following committee(s): _____

Volunteering for a committee is open to all Sherwood Forest residents. Please consider giving of your time and talent for the betterment of our neighborhood!

Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1- Dec. 31): \$50 TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ _____

To send dues via Zelle please use email: jrjhgray@cox.net at <https://partners.zellepay.com>