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## WHAT DO WE DO NOW THAT BULK PICK-UP HAS ENDED?

As a cost-cutting measure, the city ended bulk pickup in January. The Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association has been discussing options for addressing this challenge, and we welcome your suggestions. Here is what we know so far:

- Many private trash haulers are stepping in and offering bulk pickup on an individual basis. Some will remove items from inside your home or from the back of your property. Some private contractors have mailed information about their services to Sherwood Forest homeowners. If you use one of these services and are happy with it, please let me know at [Rodwan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Rodwan@sbcglobal.net). I will keep a running list of neighbor-recommended services, similar to our "This Old House" list.
- The city will continue to collect bulk at curbside for a fee of \$28.00 per cubic yard. To schedule service, call the Department of Public Works (DPW) at 224-3900 or 311.
- I received information from an organization called "The Independent Haulers & Trash Container Providers Referral Service" at (313) 640-6400. It is keeping a resource list of independent trash haulers to

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transport both residential and commercial bulk to city dump sites.

It is also looking for volunteers to provide free bulk trash transporting services to seniors and handicapped Detroiters. This is not an endorsement of the organization, but a suggestion that it may provide an option worth exploring.

- Resident do-it-yourselfers may dispose of up to 500 pounds of bulk free of charge at one of the city's five drop-off locations. Those who have exercised this option have reported that it is not easy. No staff at the yards is available to assist residents, and residents have reported struggling to toss bulk items over the sides of very tall dumpsters. Nonetheless, the addresses of the five yards are: 8221 W. Davison, 12255 Southfield, 5580 Concord at E. Grand Blvd., 19715 John R and 5840 Anthon. Winter hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but closed from 11-11:30 a.m. on each of those days.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Facility is located at 2000 E. Ferry. It takes paint, insecticides and other hazardous materials. Call (313) 923-2240 to arrange a time for your drop-off.

**DEFINITION:** Chapter 22-1-1 of the Detroit City Code defines bulk as solid waste that is larger than can be stored in an

approved container or greater than 10 cubic feet, including refrigerators, stoves, beds, cradles, furniture, water heaters, appliances, scrap tires and other heavy items.

**ENFORCEMENT:** The city will be ticketing residents who violate ordinances pertaining to trash disposal. All tickets will be adjudicated by the Department of Administrative Hearings (DAH). Improper placement of bulk items will be monitored by the DPW and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). While no one likes to report a neighbor, our concern for the health, safety and appearance of Sherwood Forest mandates that we work together to keep our community free of the blight that comes with uncollected trash. Please report offenders by calling 311.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECYCLING:** The city maintains a permanent recycling center of the old Chene-Ferry Market, 2263 E. Ferry at Palmer (west of Chene). The center is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are rotating satellite recycling sites available monthly at the locations listed below, open between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Second Saturday: 312 West End, south of Fort Street

Third Saturday: Alameda, one block south of Eight Mile, east of Woodward

Fourth Saturday: Warren-Connor Shopping Center parking lot

Items for recycling include: bundled newspaper, magazines and cardboard; glass containers; metals and plastics; household and car batteries; electronic items, such as televisions and small appliances.

For questions on city recycling, call (313) 876-0140.

Individual neighborhoods sponsor recycling programs open to everyone. Rosedale Park has recycling on the third Saturday of each month at Christ the King parking lot at 16805 Pierson. See [rr@igc.org](http://rr@igc.org). Midtown recycles on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 4444 Second Street. See [Midtowndowntown.com](http://Midtowndowntown.com).

The materials for this article, including phone numbers, came primarily from the City of Detroit web page,

[www.ci.detroit.mi.us](http://www.ci.detroit.mi.us). If you find any of the information here incorrect, please let me know.

Gail Rodwan

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO BE PUBLISHED IN TATTLER**

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association voted unanimously to include regularly in the *Tattler* the minutes of our monthly board meetings. We hope that by doing so we will keep residents better informed about the issues we deal with on a regular basis and encourage residents to share suggestions and volunteer to participate in the work of our various standing committees. Published below are the minutes of our January meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2006, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lois Primas, Linda Jones, Walter Shapero, Sue McMillan, Ron Kischuk, Sandra Johnston, Gail Rodwan

Before the meeting was called to order, there was an informal discussion among the members of two proposals we have received from resident bulk pickup providers. Because the final pickup by the city's DPW will occur later this month, we determined that a sub-committee consisting of Gail Rodwan, Walter Shapero and Ron Kischuk will meet with both proposed providers and report its recommendations to the board at the February meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Walter Shapero.

The minutes of the December 12, 2005 meeting and the treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Lois Primas read aloud a letter that was sent to a resident on behalf of the board, asking the resident to stop his self-initiated "citizen's patrolling" in the neighborhood. As far as we have been able to determine, he is honoring our request and has stopped patrolling.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Sue McMillan reported that we have 197 members, about the same as last year at this time.

**PATROL:** Gail Rodwan reported that that we need \$1904 in additional revenues to take us to the end of the fiscal year. Fifteen current members owe a total of \$2740. Gail distributed a list of the names of overdue subscribers, and Linda Jones volunteered to call them and urge them to make their final payments. Valerie Leigh, Emma Foster and Michele Davis previously volunteered to make phone calls as well, and Linda will call on them to assist her as needed. Lois Primas reported that she has not spoken to Mr. Nicholson of RCN Security about a reduction in hours of patrol service, because it now appears that we will be able to raise the money necessary to continue at the existing level of service until the end of the fiscal year. Lois also reported that she intends to contact a representative of the special patrol committee to ask if someone on that committee is interested in providing our board with a monthly written update on the work of the committee is doing.

**SNOW REMOVAL:** We had no snow removal report, but there was a report that we received expressions of concern from two residents about the poor job of snow removal after the last big snow. It was the consensus of the members present that our snow removal contractor did not clear any of our streets after the last snow, even though Marcia Baum made arrangements for him to do so, and that any removal was done by contractors working for the city. We will seek clarification from Marcia at the February meeting.

**PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS:** Walter Shapero reported that the owners have been evicted from the property-of-concern at 19100 Berkeley. Walter suggested that we put an article in the next *Tattler* about how and when to challenge tax assessments.

**MAY MEETING:** Ron Kischuck stated that he welcomes suggestions for speakers for the May general membership meeting. Two suggested speakers were the new commander at the Western District Precinct and someone (we did not identify anyone by name) knowledgeable about the proposed alterations to Livernois, including the proposed creation of a boulevard.

There was agreement that starting next month we will begin publishing the minutes of our monthly board meetings for our on-line readers and, for the benefit of those without e-mail, either summarize board minutes in the *Tattler* or, minimally, tell *Tattler* readers how they can access the minutes on-line.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Rodwan  
(acting in the absence of Marcia Baum)

## **SERIES OF CONSUMER MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Detroit Medical Center / Sinai-Grace Hospital, in conjunction with Wayne State University and News /Talk WJR, is presenting a series of free lectures on health for northwest Detroiters at Sinai-Grace Hospital. Each program will begin at 10 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served between 9:30 and 10 a.m. The series includes:

PROSTATE HEALTH – February 25, 2006  
BREAST CANCER – March 4, 2006  
BLADDER MATTERS—March 11, 2006  
JOINT PAIN – March 18, 2006  
THE VASCULAR SYSTEM – April 1, 2006

For more information or to register:  
[www.dmc.org/peoplesmedcollege](http://www.dmc.org/peoplesmedcollege) or 1-888-DMC-2500.  
Sinai-Grace is located on the southwest corner of Outer Drive and Schaefer. Free parking is available.

## **Sinai-Grace Hospital: Promoting Heart Health in NW Detroit**

Heart disease is the number one cause of death for people over 45 in Detroit and Wayne County. Sinai-Grace Hospital has recently launched a new program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care*. The program has two components—inpatient and outreach. The in-patient component will give physicians the ability to join a “learning network” with other medical institutions throughout the country. The outpatient component, which will offer free screenings to Sherwood Forest and other northwest Detroit residents

interested in improving their cardiac health, focuses on keeping our community healthy by raising awareness of the risk factors of heart disease and changing high-risk behaviors.

The primary goal of this program is to improve cardiovascular care in our community overall—but attention will center on African American and Hispanic residents because they face a greater risk of heart disease than whites.

The community outreach initiative, called the “Healthy Heart Program,” is designed to help program participants prevent or control cardiac disease and promote healthy lifestyles. Beginning in March, a multidisciplinary team comprised of a nurse, a pharmacist and a social worker will visit four community sites weekly: Greater Grace Temple, Northwest Activities Center, Evangelical Manor and Eden Manor to provide cardiac care education and support. All services provided by the Healthy Heart Team are free.

To learn more about the Healthy Heart Program at Sinai-Grace, call (313) 966.4675.

### **TAX RELIEF**

For challenges to property tax assessments, Detroit has a special, extra, level of review called the Board of Assessors Review.

This review was conducted between February 1-15 this year. People must challenge their assessments at the Board of Assessors Review level before appealing to the Board of Review (held in March). Only Flint, Detroit, and Grand Rapids have this extra level of review. In all other cities, a challenger goes directly to the March Board of Review.

There should be no confusion about how to challenge an assessment, because at each stage of the proceedings the citizen is informed of the next level of appeal. The initial assessment contains information about the initial level of appeal. Thereafter, the citizen is informed of the next level of appeal.

Here are the steps in Detroit (recall that each appeal is fully explained in each letter):

1. Receive new property assessment, which notes time and location of the Board of Assessors review (February 1-15).
2. Gather proof of over-assessment (comp sales, appraisal, etc.) and challenge at the Board of Assessors review.
3. If you lose, challenge at the March Board of Review.
4. If you lose, challenge at the Tax Tribunal.
5. Court challenge is available after the Tax Tribunal.

If you want more information, go to: <http://www.ci.detroit.mi.us/finaccessors/default.htm>, call me toll-free at 866-348-6304 or e-mail me at [SenBThomas@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBThomas@senate.michigan.gov).

State Senator Buzz Thomas

### **MORE TAX RELIEF**

In early January, Governor Granholm signed a law expanding the ability of cities to create Neighborhood Enterprise Zones (NEZ) in areas with older homes, making residents who bought their homes after 1997 eligible for tax cuts.

In Detroit, the program will be phased in over three years. More than 40% of Detroit neighborhoods, those with the highest tax burden, will get tax breaks of approximately 22%. The neighborhoods selected must be approved by Detroit City Council, but we believe they may include: **Sherwood Forest**, University District, Russell Woods, Rosedale Park, Palmer Woods, Indian Village, East English Village, Grandmont, Boston-Edison, Berry Subdivision and Bagley.

The *Tattler* will publish more information about this as it becomes available.

### **TOWN HALL MEETING ON PURCHASING INSURANCE**

There will be a Town Hall meeting on Monday, February 20, concerning forming community groups to purchase home and auto insurance and thereby reduce insurance rates. The meeting will be from 6-8 p.m. in Life Science Room #113 at the University of Detroit Mercy. The meeting will be chaired by State

Representative Virgil Smith. For more information, go to [virgilsmith.housedems.com](http://virgilsmith.housedems.com) or call toll-free at 1-866-534-0014.