

Lois E. Primas,
President
863-0167

Michele Davis, VP
345-7120

Marcia Baum, Secretary
862-1897

Sue McMillan,
Treasurer
862-6366

Gail Rodwan, Editor
342-5827

Emma Foster
861-4642

Florence Gantz
861-1315

Robert Gold
861-3642

Alfred Greene, Jr.
861-0554

Sandra Ham
345-5954

Linda Jones
863-8310

Ron Kischuk
342-1836

Valerie Leigh
345-1826

Catherine Mayberry
862-6342

Walter Shapero
862-2779

Charlie Primas
Patrol Manager
863-0167

August 2006

SUMMER JAZZ CONCERT ON AUGUST 13 WILL FEATURE CHARLIE GABRIEL QUARTET

Please save the afternoon of Sunday, August 13, for a picnic and jazz concert in Canterbury Park (also called Sherwood Park). Bring your own picnic and lawn chairs. Cold drinks will be provided. The picnic will begin at 4:00 and the music at 5:00.

We are indeed lucky to have secured the world-famous Charlie Gabriel Quartet, with Charlie Gabriel on tenor saxophone and clarinet, Marion Hayden on bass, Alex Trajano on drums, and a Sherwood Forest favorite, Buddy Budson, on keyboard. The music will be a combination of New Orleans jazz and swing jazz. As a special treat, Charlie Gabriel has agreed to sing as well as play at this concert.

Charlie Gabriel is a 4th generation New Orleans musician. He has toured with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and The Smithsonian Traditional Jazz Band. Several years ago, his CD with the late Red Richards was the number one jazz CD in France.

This concert is sponsored by the Sherwood Forest Association. Bring your friends and neighbors and join us in the park for a wonderful afternoon of jazz just moments from your own doorstep!

PAY YOUR PATROL DUES AND HELP STOP CRIME

The Western District Precinct has sent us some crime prevention tips, and they are printed below. History has taught us, however, that the best deterrent to crime is our own private patrol service. The new fiscal year for our patrol began on June 1. Many residents have not yet paid their \$360 annual dues. We cannot buy better security at a cost of less than one dollar per day, but we can lose that security without the financial support of the entire neighborhood. We are all safer when the patrol driver is on our streets. Because we all benefit, we all have an obligation to pay. If you have not yet sent your check, please do so today. If you have questions about the status of your patrol membership for the 2006-07 fiscal year, call Gordon Rodwan at 342-5827.

A FEW SAFETY TIPS FROM THE PRECINCT

- Have lights at all entrances to your home and use them nightly.
- Have your keys ready as you approach the door to your home or car.
- Have secure locks on all doors and windows and use them.
- Do not put your full name on your mailbox, in the telephone directory or on your answering machine.
- Do not leave a schedule of your times away from home on your answering machine.

- Do not give personal information to telephone solicitors.
- Identify neighbors you can depend on in an emergency.
- Ask all repair persons for photo identification, and call to verify employment if you are the least suspicious.
- Do not leave or enter your home overloaded with packages. Keep your hands as free as possible.

SHERWOOD FOREST BRANCH LIBRARY REOPENS

After being closed for renovations, the Sherwood Forest Branch Library at 7117 W. Seven Mile Road has reopened just in time for summer reading. Summer hours are 10-6 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and noon-8 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The library has special events and programs, including a Summer Reading Club, Teen Library Club and Read-To-Me Club. If you have fallen out of the habit of using our local library, you will want to schedule a visit to the Sherwood Forest Branch soon.

BULK TRASH UPDATE

Because the City of Detroit has decided to resume bulk trash collection in November, although on a quarterly basis only, the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association voted not to pursue the idea of neighborhood-wide private service. In part this was due to the results of the recent e-mail survey in which a large percentage of neighbors indicated that quarterly service was all they needed. We recognize, however, that many neighbors would prefer monthly bulk collection, and we will continue to publish a list of private bulk trash hauling services with whom residents can contract based on their individual needs. While we are not personally familiar with most of the services listed below, we are familiar with and can recommend Hill Hauling. If you use any of the other companies on this list, please contact rodwan@sbcglobal.net to report on your experience with the service. Recommendations will be published in future editions of the *Tattler*.

1. Bulk Garbage Pickup Service (313) 838-0308
2. Fred's Professional Private Collection (313) 893-7489
3. Hill Hauling (866) 345-HAUL or hillhauling@aol.com

4. Independent Haulers and Trash Container Providers Referral Service (313) 640-6400
5. Mr. Hall (313) 273-6815
6. R&R Bulk Trash Removal (313) 663-8084
7. Recyclean (313) 506-7900

THIRD ANNUAL 10K WALK / RUN AND HEALTH FAIR

Sinai-Grace Hospital has extended a special invitation to Sherwood Forest residents to attend its Third Annual 10K Walk / Run and Health Fair on Saturday, July 29 at the hospital.

Registration begins at 7:30 am or you can register online by going to www.sinaigrace.org/walk or calling (313) 966-7224. The walk/run begins at 9:00 am and a Health Fair will be held between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Free health screenings at the Health Fair will include prostate, vision and hearing, blood glucose, cholesterol and others. This is a family event and will feature special guests, live entertainment, food and an exciting Kids Korner.

KEEPING SHERWOOD FOREST BEAUTIFUL

Every year generous residents volunteer to plant flowers and maintain our small pocket parks. This summer we have some special needs because the city has not been able to sweep the streets and many curbs and gutters are filled with debris. If each of us would sweep the curbs and gutters around our own property, we could approve dramatically the appearance of the neighborhood. An additional problem has been created by the number of vacant houses in the neighborhood. Although the Sherwood Forest Association has been able to contact some realtors and absent homeowners about property maintenance issues, our efforts have been less than successful. Realtors have generally been uncooperative, taking the position that it is not *their* responsibility to maintain the properties they supposedly are trying to sell. Absent homeowners have been hard to find or, even when still in the area, not interested in maintaining the homes in which they no longer live.

It is in all of our interests to make sure our neighborhood is well maintained. If you have a neighbor who is not doing the basics, like cutting the grass, speak to that neighbor or give his or her name

and address to any member of the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Forest Association, and we will contact the neighbor. If you live near a neglected vacant home, form a group of neighbors who will take turns cutting the grass. Let's work together to keep Sherwood Forest looking its best.

CALLING ALL WEBPAGE DESIGNERS

The Sherwood Forest Association would like to create a new webpage for the neighborhood and seeks the assistance of an experienced webpage designer to volunteer his or her expertise. If you can give a few hours to this project, please contact Gail Rodwan at (313) 342-5827.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SHERWOOD FOREST?

On July 12, the City of Detroit announced the names of the first 25 neighborhoods to receive a 22% tax break beginning in January of 2007 *if the City Council approves* this Neighborhood Enterprise Zones measure. Mayor Kilpatrick intends to add additional neighborhoods in future years.

This tax relief is in recognition of the fact that high property taxes put the city at a disadvantage in trying to attract new residents and keep present residents.

To be eligible, a homeowner must have purchased his or her home after December 31, 1998, and the home must have been platted before January 1, 1968.

Sherwood Forest is one of the 25 neighborhoods slated for tax relief! Others in our general area include Bagley, Boston-Edison, Detroit Golf Club, Greenacres, Greenlawn, Palmer Woods, North and South Rosedale, Russell Woods and West Outer Drive/Vassar.

Residents may want to express their views about the proposal to the members of the Detroit City Council. This long-awaited tax relief will be lost without Council approval. Before voting, the Council will hold at least one public hearing on the issue. No date has yet been announced. Once a date is set, the *Tattler* will notify e-mail subscribers. Other residents are urged to check the newspapers.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2006 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION

The meeting was called to order by President Lois E. Primas at 7:40 p.m. at the home of Al Greene.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lois Primas, Michele Davis, Linda Jones, Robert Gold, Al Greene, Walter Shapero, Sue McMillan, Catherine Mayberry, Gail Rodwan, Ron Kischuk.

GUESTS: Conrad Mallet, President of Sinai-Grace Hospital; Adrian Redden, Director of Community Affairs, Sinai-Grace Hospital.

Conrad Mallett reported that with the merger of Mt. Carmel, Sinai and Grace hospitals in 1999, many residents of northwest Detroit neighborhoods such as Sherwood Forest made a choice to use suburban hospitals such as Beaumont and Providence. Sinai-Grace is now making a concerted effort to win those residents back with such programs as:

- The 29-minute ER guarantee
- The Gold Card program, which will be explained to every Sherwood Forest household in an upcoming mailing
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant to Improve Cardiology Care. Sinai-Grace is one of just ten hospitals in the country to receive this grant.
- Two West – a new unit for surgery patients
- Three West – a new unit for cardiology patients
- Strong programs in the areas of orthopaedics, cardiology, cosmetic surgery and kidney health

Conrad Mallett urges Sherwood Forest residents to call him personally if anticipating a stay at Sinai-Grace and to talk to treating physicians who are associated with other hospitals to determine whether they also are on staff at Detroit Medical Center hospitals such as Sinai-Grace.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the April board meeting were accepted as presented.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Sue

McMillan noted that this report reflects patrol payments through the end of the fiscal year that ended on May 31, 2006.

PATROL: Lois Primas reported that our contract with RCN Security ends on June 18. She is requesting a renewal proposal from the company, and until that is in place we will continue contracting with RCN on a month-to-month basis under the terms of the existing contract. Gordon Rodwan submitted a report on membership for the new fiscal year, and Ron Kischuk suggested adjusting the hours of service to reflect the need for greater patrol coverage during the summer months. We will seek to increase service by one hour per day through October, and then again during year-end holidays. We will then decrease the level of regular service by one hour per day during November and the first half of December and after January 1. These adjustments in hours are subject to RCN's ability to accommodate the request.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE / REFORESTATION: Shirley Jackson has volunteered to work on the Property Maintenance Committee. Many residents need to receive our form letter reminders about grass cutting and other maintenance issues. Robert Gold is to get the packet of form letters from Valerie Leigh.

Walter Shapero is reviewing the contract proposals of three lawn services to maintain our passive parks. The board authorized Walter to contact the service of his choice this week and arrange for one-time spring clean-up and grass cutting in all the passive parks as soon as possible. A decision on a long-term contract will be made at a later date.

Ron Kischuk volunteered to work on the Reforestation Committee.

ASSOCIATION DUES: Ron Kischuk suggested that we raise annual Sherwood Forest Association membership dues to \$55 for the new fiscal year, which begins on October 1, 2006. This will enable us to do more in the area of neighborhood maintenance. A motion to raise the dues failed. A motion to revisit the question at the July meeting, following a review of the budget, passed.

STREET CLOSING PROPOSAL: Linda Jones proposed that we invite Larry Dickens of Warrington to

the July board meeting to present his proposal for a gated community. Al Greene suggested that we might risk losing city services. The board voted to hear Mr. Dickens's proposal. Linda volunteered to meet with the owners of the stores on Livernois to discuss attracting merchants with products and services more reflective of the needs of our community. Linda agreed to join the realtor relations committee, at least on a short-term basis. She also announced that the July issues of *Metro Parent* magazine will feature a Sherwood Forest family, Canterbury residents Sarah and Scott Wilson and their children. Our thanks to Linda for working with *Metro Parent* in developing this feature.

NEW RESIDENTS: Catherine Mayberry reported that she delivered trays today to new residents on Berkeley and Kingston.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL: Al Greene reported that our next Meet and Greet will be a concert on Sunday, August 13, in Canterbury Park. Residents are invited to bring their own picnics. Pop and bottled water will be provided by the Sherwood Forest Association. The Charlie Gabriel Quartet will be featured. The board authorized the expenditure of \$450 to pay for the musicians at their reduced rate.

OLD BUSINESS: Gail Rodwan reported on the results of the online survey regarding bulk pickup. The board voted not to pursue the idea of a neighborhood bulk pickup program until we assess the adequacy of the city's proposed resumption of bulk pickup (albeit on a quarterly basis) in November. In the meantime, we will publish the names of private bulk haulers, including Hill Hauling, the company with which we had engaged in discussions about a neighborhood-wide service.

Gail also reported on her inability to get any city department to remove the garbage from the garage at the vacant property at 19457 Shrewsbury. Both the homeowner and the realtor have been notified repeatedly, but have ignored our requests. The Code Enforcement Division of the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department has issued tickets for this violation, and a hearing at the Department of Administrative Hearings is scheduled for July 11, but B&SE and DAH have no enforcement powers. DPW may be willing to remove the garbage if it is moved to the curb, but will not enter the garage. Suggestions

included calling members of city council, calling State Representative Virgil Smith and contacting Channel 4's "Ruth to the Rescue."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Rodwan
(in the absence of Marcia Baum, Secretary)

