

Dallas Ballmer

From: Dallas Ballmer [dballmer@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 8:17 PM
To: 'dballmer'
Subject: Sherwood Forest Newsletter Update (Group-1)

Sherwood Forest Citizens Association

03-29-10

SFCA News Updates (Last update 03-05-09) Ninth email update



LOST DOG..... Could you please forward? Today...A small white Maltese dog (with cataracts) was found by a homeowner today on East Milburn and was brought to a home on Warwick to where they believed the dog to reside. It was not the correct home and about that time the SPCA arrived and took the dog back to the animal shelter (225) 774-7700 Office 10 a.m.-7 p.m., M-F). If you know this dog or have information that may reunite the owner with their pet, please send me an email with any information you may have. I do not have much information but I will try to help in any way I am able. My email address is dballmer@cox.net and my phone number is 273-2458.

Remember Dave Walstad (owner of lots 51 & 52) as well as the owner of Summer Grove Apartments? We had a very heated contest over rezoning the property on Archery and Nassau in early 2009. Mr. Walstad returned to the board and requested a meeting to present his new plans for the lots. SFCA remains insistent on keeping the property within Sherwood Forest borders zoned A1. Walstad agrees to leave the lots zoned A1 but wishes to construct three ~\$120,000.00 homes on the two lots for a government program grant. He must do some very specific things to qualify for the grant and would like to have our approval on the plan. He has to conduct a public meeting and present his plan to everyone. We have scheduled the public hearing for April 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Activity Center. That is a Monday evening. I have already e-mailed Dave Walstad. The original plan sounds acceptable in that they are single resident homes and the zoning will remain A1. The rest is yet to see but I suggest we all show up to hear the effort. This is all I had ever wanted to get from Mr. Walstad in the first place. I wanted to have him present his plan to the board and to the citizens of Sherwood Forest and any other interested homeowners. His new effort sounds much more civil and he is actually doing what we are asking...hold an open meeting with all of you.

SFCA board continues to work on holding our visitors and residents accountable to the speed limits within our community. There are parking violations that are being issued (usually after several warnings) but the police are actually driving through and issuing tickets without any known complaints. We have had many issues addressed by our security patrols like junk cars, large trucks blocking the streets and some of the many city laws that are on the books. We live in a very nice area and without cooperation from the residents and law enforcement bodies we would be lost. All the board has ever tried to do is to insist our neighbors keep their property neat and clean and obey the laws of our city. We also have tried to keep our residents compliant with the building restrictions placed in force by our developers from its inception to keep their original dreams alive. We only try to represent the entire 3000 homes within our borders with the restrictions and laws to keep property values healthy and our families safe from those that would take what is not theirs.

Mr. Ballmer.. this am, at two different times a man showed up at my door. I live on Mollylea and SF Blvd. He rang the doorbell and I opened the door the first time. HE was loud voiced and wanted to rake leaves. When I said no, he requested money. I said no and shut the door. He then went next door. About ten minutes later he was back with a second man and they rang the doorbell. I did not answer and after about three minutes they went away down Mollylea toward Sylvan.

My answer... No, I haven't heard of this however with this economy it doesn't surprise me. If they scare you or persist you could always just call the police and they would come out (probably quicker than our patrol). **Our SFCA Security Phone is 273-1353** and it is not manned but is monitored by our security group fairly often. Also an email can be sent to our security group at <mailto:security@sfcabr.org> and it would be quicker probably. The Baton Rouge Police phone number is **Third District 225-389-5247**. If there is an in-progress crime or it is time sensitive **dial 911** of course. The Baton Rouge Sheriffs Department <<http://www.ebrso.org/ebroso.php/uniform>> . . .**(225) 389-5000 Non Emergency**. From time to time there are a couple of guys that come by here as well trying to do odd jobs around the house and long ago I had them do some weeding around my shrubbery and it turned out to be expensive, time consuming and nothing real special as far as the work. I would probably get a professional from Louisiana Nursery or such if I ever needed work done again. These days people can be scary with all the shenanigans they are pulling around us. It makes you wary and it probably should. Better safe than sorry I guess. Take care on who you open the door for...it can easily be the wrong thing to do. If you do not know them, do not open the door until you feel comfortable with them.

We spoke around Christmas about a house on Todd Ave that was being rented and had a crime problem. The good news is that two weeks ago the folks were evicted. I did not realize that the actual owner is the person who lived there several years ago. I know her and have since spoke to her to let her know that we are very glad that her renters are gone and informed her about the trouble they had caused. She said that the person she rented to was not the persons living in the house and that the house had been damaged by the renters. The other neighbors and myself are hoping that the owner either sells to a good family or rents to a good family. I have sent letters to all the neighbors I know to try to start an email list so we can be in contact about future problems. I also will try to make an upcoming meeting and get some of my neighbors to also do the same. I have misplaced your phone number. If you wouldn't mind giving it to me again, I would appreciate it. Thank you for your time and effort.

Answer... We loved your idea of contacting your neighbors to create the e-mail list. Neighbors looking out for each other is key to good security and maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood and, if quick action is needed, those lines of communication are already in place. For instance, that will help if a zoning change is being proposed in the area and we would need folks to turn out to voice opposition or when your neighbors would like to strengthen your filing's deed restrictions by amending them. Yours are pretty basic like mine, so that is something you will probably want to do. If you don't have a copy of yours, you can go to the SFCA website, click on the deed restrictions link to the right and then click on the link to your filing which is Sherwood Forest, 13th filing - to be sure you have the right one. To give you an idea of what can be done to strengthen your deed restrictions, I will attach an example of an amendment that we have used before. The SFCA line is 273-1353, but you will usually just get the answering machine.

I live on Queensbury Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70815. I moved to this house in December of 2007.

On the afternoon of December 11, 2009 I walked my 9 lb. Chihuahua Leon around the neighborhood as we do on a daily basis, waving to the bus drivers as they stopped to drop children off after school. As we passed Warwick came down Castlebury Ave. moving toward Queensbury Ave. a woman stopped her SUV, rolled down the window, and told me I should be careful as there were two big dogs ahead. I looked ahead and saw the two mastiff dogs. These dogs have been loose in the neighborhood a number of times, though every other time I've seen them there have been 5 total wandering around together. They told me on two occasions when I called because they were under my carport or in my yard that "they are just like children and wouldn't hurt anyone." Keep in mind that they told me this knowing that the dogs had attacked two elderly men and their dogs already this year. Each time I called she had no idea that they were at large. As I could see that they were walking my direction anyway and very close now, I picked up my dog Leon, put him in my lap (I use a power wheelchair because I am paraplegic due to multiple sclerosis and have been for seven and a half years) and went toward them. My plan was to continue to my house and call them to follow after me if need be so that I could call them to let them know that they were out. I normally carry my cell phone, but had forgotten it that day. (Their phone number is programmed into all of our phones because on at least 8 occasions their Shih Tzu dog has stayed at my house for anywhere from 2 hours to 2 days because when she gets out she comes and scratches on our French doors. It had gotten to the point that when I would call they would answer the phone when I called and say, "she's at your house, right?" They left a gift card to Pet Smart for \$20 earlier this year thanking me for taking care of their dogs because this has happened so frequently!) When I got close enough for the dogs to see that Leon was in my lap they ran up to me and jumped onto my chair and began trying to bite at him and get him away from me. I started screaming for help. Leon panicked and scooted up onto my shoulder and because both of the enormous dogs were scratching and biting at us and on my chair they moved the joystick chair controller around and the chair began jerking around out of my control. I beat at the bigger dogs head and tried to push it off of me, but it was so big there was nothing I could do. Leon climbed up behind my head and then the male dog put his feet on my chest and pushed Leon over the back of the chair and onto the ground. If Leon would have run under a car or gotten underneath something small he would have been alright, but he ran about six feet behind me and looked back like he thought maybe there was something I could do. That was the last moment of my little dog's life that he wasn't screaming in pain and fear and in agony. After that either one or both of the mastiffs had him in their mouths and were trying to get him away from each other. Ever since the dogs had jumped on me I had never stopped screaming. I got my chair turned toward the dogs and when I got close enough I leaned over and began beating the big dog with my fists and pulling on his collar. The dogs were fighting over Leon as he screamed and tried to get away and I was pulled out of my chair because I would not let go of the dog's collar. I fell face down onto the ground. Up until this point I saw and heard no one. I was still screaming for help and began to hear a woman yelling, "Beat them! Beat them!" I rolled over on my back and a neighbor came and asked me if I was okay. I told him that I was and that Leon needed to be gotten away from the dogs and taken to the vet immediately. He said that his son had Leon wrapped in a towel on their driveway. The neighbor came and after I told him that I knew I was okay he and another neighbor lifted me up and put me in my chair. I saw that there were cars stopped in the street and five or six people around keeping the dogs away as they were hovering around like they would try to come back. Another neighbor came and talked to me and told me how sorry she was about what happened to Leon. A policeman came and talked to some of my neighbors and then walked in the direction of the dogs. Later I was told he followed them at a distance to make sure they didn't injure anyone. MrMy neighbor told me that Leon was dead and gave him to me wrapped in a towel. Then several of my neighbors walked home with me to make sure the dogs didn't come back. One neighbor was still carrying his broomstick.

I was completely helpless to save my dog from being brutally murdered. If the correct action had been taken when these dogs attacked before my dog would be alive today. I went to deliver Christmas treats to my neighbors on the evening of December 25th and went back to my house because I heard the mastiffs barking. I was afraid to visit my neighbors because of this. When will their irresponsibility and neglect have consequences? So far the only people that have suffered are the residents of Sherwood Forest.

Reply... The two (2) dogs that picked up recently & that are owned by your neighbor (Bull Mastiffs) are at the Animal Control & Rescue Center. I do not quite understand this e-mail. We have not released any dogs back to him. They have been classified as "Dangerous" and will be held until either euthanasia or appeal. Hilton M.Cole, Director
EBRP ACRC

December 9, 2009 Police arrested a 24-year-old man last week in a string of home burglaries near the Sherwood Forest Boulevard area. Brandon Starks allegedly burglarized eight homes in the morning hours between Dec. 3 and Dec. 15, said Cpl. L'Jean McKneely, a police spokesman. Starks tried to burglarize another home in the same area during the same time frame but failed, McKneely said. Starks got into the homes by kicking in or forcing open back patio or kitchen doors, McKneely said. No one was home when the burglaries occurred. Starks took televisions, laptops, digital cameras, jewelry and other electronics, McKneely said. Police found some of the stolen items at Starks' home. Starks, 11311 S. Walker Court, Apt. D, was booked Dec. 17 into Parish Prison on eight counts of burglary of an inhabited dwelling and one count of attempted burglary of an inhabited dwelling.

**How can we reduce the number of cars parking in street, on grass, and in street right of way?
Garbage trucks can't even get through the street.**

By reporting the violations to the authorities. Call the BRPD at 389-2000 or the EBR Sheriff's Office at 389-5000.

Is it acceptable to park in front of a home, on the street but off the grass?

No. Parking must be done on a paved area on the lot property.

Can we enforce the "no parking on grass" ordinance?

Yes, by reporting the violations to the authorities. Call the BRPD at 389-2000 or the EBRSO at 389-5000.

To SFCA, My home is on Sharp rd. near Mollylea dr. Please feel free to forward this video to anyone in the Sherwood Broadmoor area.

Here's a video of a "low life" that stole our ice chest on Dec. 7th at 10:32 am. Please send this to all your friends in B.R., maybe somebody knows who this "drug-head" is !!!!!

I bet he has stolen before and will steal again. Lets catch him before he steals from you!

- Please leave my contact info attached.

RHETT ANDERSON

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Note from Dallas Ballmer... (The video is 10 MB - LARGE FILE) If you wish to see it please send me an email and I will try to make it available for you to see.

Dog died - leash law

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/79380527.html>

I checked with the Parish Attorney's office and Cyndi Bohrer was able to point out the section in the Unified Development Code which relates to home occupations. The information is below.

It is hard to find in the UDC because the criteria are listed under the definition of "Home Occupation" which is in

Chapter 2. As you may recall, a home occupation is a permissible use in the A zone as long as same complies with the following:

Home Occupation is an accessory use; it is an activity carried on only by a resident member of a family meeting the following conditions:

- A. No signs shall be used;
- B. Nothing shall be done to make the building appear in any way as anything but a dwelling;
- C. No business such as a shop or store shall be conducted upon the premises;
- D. No one shall be employed from outside the resident family; and
- E. Mechanical equipment used shall be only that normally used in, or found in a single family dwelling.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Cyndi Bohrer

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_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4983 (20100329)

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