

Sherwood Forest Citizens Association

05-15-08

SFCA News Updates

- ❖ There seems to be some confusion about what sign we were talking about. There is, or was, a sign in a yard on Goodwood Blvd. advertising a business. This sign was huge and permanent and totally illegal. I think you are thinking about the speed limit signs which I AM thankful to have. If you have any other concerns please let us know. Thanks for the email. Jackie Gray, President Sherwood Forest Citizens Association
- ❖ May 12th reported ...the big illegal sign on Goodwood was removed and "Violation" letters written
- ❖ We have some immovable cars around the area that have been reported to assist us in cleaning up the unsightly messes.
- ❖ There is an 'unusable' blue green truck that has been parked with a flat in the driveway of [477 Wingate](#) for months
- ❖ At [12425 Mollylea](#) cars are parking in the grass/yard. This week it's been a red/maroon mustang (I think it is a mustang)
- ❖ Another un-drivable car at [463 Wingate](#), a maroon town car(ish) type that has not moved in about 6 months
- ❖ Yard is out of control...We have found out from a neighbor [11733 Millburn](#) is not vacant. A Mr. Kerr lives there. He is in poor health and cannot mow his yard. He has a hard time getting around. He does have at least one daughter who lives in town who brings him groceries. We need to remember to be understanding and compassionate...one day we might require help caring for our home. If we do not help each other, who will? Please take care, how you may offer help, as he is probably aware of the poor yard conditions and is sensitive to accepting help. I know that I am a proud person that wants to take care of my own affairs and sometimes accepting help is not an easy thing to do.
- ❖ SFCA is asking Mike Walker for help in getting an overlay district established for Old Hammond Hwy...since the road is so nice now; it

would be nice to see the area protected. We will keep you informed. Any comments...?

- ❖ There is some sort of issue with a wrecker on [Kay Drive](#) and a school bus on [Nassau Drive](#)...anyone, please help with information on this issue?
- ❖ Saturday, May 10, 2008 3 young black males started 3 separate fires in the area of Kimmeridge Drive. 2 residents who witnessed the crimes chased the young men, but they escaped by using a transformer box to jump the back fence at [301 Kimmeridge Drive](#). The 3rd fire was at [403 Kimmeridge Drive](#) near the sidewalk. At this 3rd fire, one of the boys set fire to the container of fuel, possibly diesel, they were using to set the fires. The fire was quite large and caused the tree branches above it to be blackened. The fire department and police were called. An arson investigator with the fire department was also dispatched.
- ❖ Tuesday, May 13, 2008 At 9:09 pm a large, new garden cart (2'x3') was taken from [13255 Todd Ave](#). The owners saw 3 young black men leaving the neighborhood with the cart. They told the boys to leave the cart. The boys left it on the corner of [East Parnell](#) and Flannery Rd. They left on foot behind the garden homes on Flannery Dr. toward Goodwood Ave. near [Brinwood Ave](#). The owners followed the boys and confronted them. The boys denied taking the cart. The police were called.
- ❖ Complaint Wednesday May 14, 2008: (Slightly reworded) There is a house on Mollylea that faces Sherwood Forest Boulevard where the occupants of this home dump the contents of their inside garbage can on the curb for pickup and SFCA was contacted to get them a garbage can and recycle can. They have had large parties in the backyard on the weekend which brings a lot of cars to the neighborhood where they park on each side of Mollylea where the neighbors cannot get in or out of their driveway. On one occasion it was necessary to enter my yard from an opening on South Burgess and drive through my yard to my carport. Other neighbors usually call the police when that happens. I spend a lot of time outside in my yard on yard work days and the occupants (of the house in question) sit outside most afternoons

conducting very loud conversations, use obscene language, sometime argue, and creating a intolerable environment for the long-time homeowners of this area to enjoy their yard, with peace and quiet of their neighborhood expected. There are always cars parked on the side of the driver way, 2 that are there regularly (which I do not believe are registered to be on the road), and another van that is there sometimes, which makes an unsightly appearance. One day recently I saw a sheriff's deputy at the end of my driveway and watched him from inside. He wrote a ticket and placed it on one of the vehicles. As of this date, the cars are still parked there. I hope that the association can take a near aggressive stance to help make our once peaceful neighborhood that way again.

(The trash situation is under control; they now have a garbage can, recycle can and use them regularly).

Ever since they moved in I have felt that a business was being operated in the carport that they haphazardly closed in themselves. There is not any one specific incident that I could detail that makes me think that, but I do see a lot of trucks come and go. They do work on different vehicles in the driveway and in the grassy area on side of the driveway.

I have been a resident in my current home since 1974 and have not ever had a cross word with any of my neighbors. I do not intend for these people to cause me any grief, so I plan to do whatever is necessary to keep our neighborhood a peaceful place to live and play.

- ❖ SFCA reply (to the above complaint): I do sympathize with your problem since it could happen to any of us. There are things you could do to battle this issue. Of course you can call 311 and report any chronic issue that is against city ordinances (like parking on the grass, blocking driveway entrances or the entire driveway, etc) and the City **Police** (District-3 at **389-5247**) can be called to report disturbing the peace and public display of foul language. The City **Police** (District-3 at **389-5247**) can also be called to report vehicles blocking the passage of emergency vehicles (such as EMS or Fire Trucks). If there are children that play in the area, you could even add that these actions are disturbing to the proper care of grandchildren and such. No one should have to hear that kind of language in public, but to make it stick, the Police have to be notified when it is happening. You can call the **SFCA security line 273-1353** and leave a message for non-time-sensitive matters of security. If there is a crime in progress, call **911** to report the disturbance and do not place yourself in harms way. Use the laws we have and report them each time they

step across the line. We can notify our security patrols about this area and maybe they could take corrective actions. Trash being dumped on the side of the street is something that can be reported to DPW at 311 as well (for a person to person conversation). It is a tough battle to wage against those that do not care if they disrupt neighbors or break the law. Just do not quit trying to reclaim your neighborhood and we will do what we can to help. I will keep you informed of any progress we make or further suggestions we come up with. I will present this to the Board of Directors tomorrow evening and we will talk about it then. You are welcome to join us tomorrow evening at the monthly business meeting to listen to our discussion... 7:00 pm... Our meetings are at the St. Thomas More office at the corner of Goodwood and Dartmoor, facing Goodwood Boulevard. The parking lot may be entered from Goodwood or Dartmoor. Entry is through the front door, facing Goodwood....

❖ As far as the “Group home” at 12453 Parnell Drive, one of our SFCA members wrote to Mike Walker and SFCA April 9th:

“I am a SFCA member and have resided in Sherwood Forest on Parnell Drive since January 1993. It has recently come to my attention that the house sold in April 2007 at 12453 Parnell Dr.(between Stockton and Wingate) (former Buck residence) will serve as a halfway house. No one has moved in yet and they have made recent modifications. I am not happy about the prospect of a possible former criminal, drug addict or worse living several doors down from my residence. My concern is twofold - safety and the market value of my home. Are there no zoning or other restrictions in Sherwood Forest that would prevent this from occurring? Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.”

❖ The replied from Councilman Mike Walker (on the “Group home” at 12453 Parnell Drive) was as follows... The Federal Fair Housing Act prevents discrimination for these types of housings. While Sherwood Forest is an A-1 residential area restrictive to single-family dwellings, the Federal Government considers such a group a “family” and, therefore, entitled to live in an A-1 residential area. However, once such individuals are housed in an A-1 setting, they must then abide by all ordinances (no undue noise, traffic, etc) that would apply to any other individuals. I do hope this puts your mind at ease about the situation; should you wish to talk about it more, give me a call. As far as

subdivision deed restrictions are concerned, this would be addressed by your association president, Mrs. Jackie Gray.
Zona M. Pickens, Legislative Asst. to Councilman Mike Walker 272-9088

- ❖ **The follow up from SFCA (on the “Group home” at 12453 Parnell Drive) ...**
There is nothing we can do about organized group homes. As Zona stated it is a federal issue. I'm sorry I do not have better news. We have several group homes in Sherwood Forest and for the most part we have no problems. They do have to abide by the law like the rest of us so if you see anything going on we should know about please let us know. Thank you for supporting the association. Jackie Gray, SFCA President ... Dallas J. Ballmer, SFCA Vice President

- ❖ **What is an Overlay District:** An overlay district is used to establish alternative land development requirements within a specific area of the community that requires special attention, such as an environmentally sensitive area or rapidly developing strip corridor. The overlay is usually superimposed over conventional zoning districts. It consists of a physical area with mapped boundaries and written text spelling out requirements that are either added to, or in place of, those of the underlying regulations. They do not have to already have zoning or other development regulations in the community to use overlay districts. Overlays are frequently used as stand-alone regulations to manage development in particular areas of a community. [See the link about what is an Overlay District.](#) Also there is a guide on how to create an overlay district and what the criteria is. We have had many [overlay districts in Baton Rouge.](#)...right now the Florida Blvd overlay project is cooking in our area. Jackie Gray is on that committee right now representing Sherwood Forest.

This email has been sent to the membership by your SFCA Webmaster: Dallas Ballmer in the attempt to keep you informed on issues in our neighborhoods