

Sherwood Forest Citizens Association

09-13-08

SFCA News Updates (Last update 08-07-08)

Seventh email update

If you need any help finding information on a law, code, deed restriction or other issue...please let me know and I will help you.

Webmaster's SOAPBOX

I believe in accountability and doing the right thing. I believe you have to work hard to gain and keep the nicer things in life. I believe in following the laws we have made and holding others accountable to those laws also. These are the only tools we have to keep our community safe and property values healthy. Holding my neighbor accountable is difficult and I get very tired of being the whistle blower... what must the neighbors think of me? Well I know what I think ... they deserve my best effort to be a good neighbor and deserve my consideration of their peace of mind. My neighbors deserve my best effort in keeping my property clean and mowed as not to devalue their investment. When I hear that someone has let the grass go, parking on the grass, blocking the streets or some other liberty outside the law, I feel as though we are losing control of our subdivision. This place has historically been a proud area of Baton Rouge and should be kept clean, safe and maybe even a sharply dressed part of town. Without all of our involvement and interaction we will just stand alone in the effort to keep our areas neat and in order. We all have to make the effort to meet the neighbors for safety and circle the wagons when we are threatened in times like these.

There are a lot of new people moving into Sherwood Forest and we need to be good neighbors by getting to know them and keeping them informed of our expectations to follow the laws of their new home. Most are just not aware of the city laws or our deed restrictions so it is up to us to help them find the information and assist them with their needs. Of course there will always be a few that will not care about the laws or restrictions and will push, take advantage and generally do what they please. We have to hold them accountable to the laws every time they advance... however knowing the right time to be tolerant is the real trick. We all have learning curves and need others to understand our need for exceptions like the repair of all the roofs from our hail storm and we have yet to get through the fallout of Gustav and Ike. There is major damage in our area (like you do not know that) and we have debris piled at the curb overflowing into our streets and across the sidewalks.

Our tolerance is required now more than ever but so is our consideration for how we are affecting the neighborhood with our cleanup. We are doing great in helping each other make the transition back to normal but we need to be on the lookout for mischief and burglary from all the new activity. Thieves will blend and adapt to take what is not theirs. Lock your doors, secure your outdoor valuables and try to secure anything that may be easy picks for the sticky fingers prowling our streets. **Take pictures** of suspicious activity but be careful not to confront them. The authorities can prosecute with pictures proving trespassing or burglary. The thief will know they are at risk when you bring out a camera. A camera is safer for you and more threatening to them than a gun... it is legal to stand on a sidewalk to take pictures. Call the police or sheriff if you see something that doesn't look right. We all need to work for a safe return to a normal and safe life.

Comments in the email system:

ISSUE: Can someone from the SFCA advise the homeowner of the house facing E. Parnell on the corner Kimmeridge that it's their responsibility to have the large tree limbs removed from the curb side when a private contractor performed the job. As I appreciate the local ordinance, the City will not use its manpower to remove the large tree limbs from the curve; the private contractor is responsible for removing the limbs.

Answer: I am a resident as you are and just as concerned that we are losing grip of the controls. It comes from the lack of accountability we hold on those that would move here and either not know the law or not be concerned by it. I volunteer to do what I can to keep our homes property value high and the neighborhoods safe. It is up to us all to guard the gates and at least try to do the right thing by demanding our neighbors follow the laws of the city and our deed restrictions. I try really hard to help where I can and hopefully the information given will help you. I have tried to argue this very subject with city officials and our own board but they insist that the city parish will eventually pick up this type of material if left at the curb. Even though it is supposed to be the responsibility of the contractor it is often negotiated by the resident and contractor to save money for services rendered. I am a purist and feel that you should do what is right and not take advantage of things you can get away with. That is the world we live in however... people take advantage of people and systems all the time. I am trying to say it may be a windmill to chase but you may have better luck. If you try and it doesn't work, I will see if I can pull some strings to have the material removed somehow. Blight has to be eliminated however we can.

ISSUE: I am so happy you are doing this service for all of us. Do you know if we can report our "absences from home" on line with Security? We travel a fair bit and it would be so easy to put all info. in an e-mail. Thanks for serving our association.

Answer: Members are eligible for vacation list scrutiny with a simple call to our security line (273-1353) or email to security@sfcabr.org. You could also send me an email and I will forward it to our security for processing.

ISSUE: Has anything been done about the lean to shed for the dogs on the corner of Mollylea and Sherbrook. It is very unsightly and a eye sore. I know that the Assoc have their hands full. I do worry about prop. values as it seems that more and more people just don't care. Thanks for all that you do to help keep our neighborhood in tack.

Answer: This email was forwarded to our security

ISSUE: Can anything be done about the house on the corner of Castlebury and Warwick? It is an eyesore.

Answer: This email has been forwarded to the president and we are looking into it right now

ISSUE: THANKS!! I AM ENCOURAGED BY THIS ACTIVE, PROACTIVE association. Wish I could believe that we have a desirable neighborhood that is attracting young families. I walk daily and see TOO MANY FOR SALE signs that have been there for years. Also see my next door neighbors house empty since last November. No sign of repair or for sale sign. When I call they say they are going to repair it?? Not so. They do keep the yard cut. That's all. I believe the inside would require more repairs than they can afford. Sad. When before all the neighbors on Westbrook Dr. kept their houses and yards pristine. I will stay here for at least a year until I find a house or condo I love and can afford. I know that I will lose money on my home when I do sell. Will have good memories of a great neighborhood for raising children, good schools, churches in walking distance, etc. WHAT HAPPENED?? Thanks for listening.

Answer: Of course I wish you the very best and I also see that we are in a struggle. We try to gain ground where we can but it is what it is. The area is aging and the residents are giving up in some cases. All things considered, I would say the high 90 percentile still are proud to be here and constantly are preening their property. We can choose to see the negatives and have attitudes that we are losing the battle but I believe the largest battle is we just can't get the residents to circle the wagons and fight off the bad elements (wherever they are). An area that is 30 or 40 years is not that old in my opinion... I see Rome, Paris, London, New York City, and a thousand like them that are still flourishing with less to be proud of than we have and hundreds of years older than we are. We do have history on our side right here in Sherwood Forest and all we have to do is fight to keep the values and dreams strong. Not unlike living a life as we have with all the distractions and choices we made it through (pretty well I would say). I am not ready to throw in the towel so soon and I may fall at times but I will go down fighting. This is my home and I am proud of it, just as I am of so many good neighbors.

A few knuckleheads are not going to chase me out of my home and away from my life here around so

many good people. I say, if they do not like the laws and deed restrictions they can “choose” to go back to where they were able to do as they please... there are constraints that were agreed on when they choose to live next to me and you. They signed a piece of paper and became accountable to obeying the laws of our city, state and the restrictions of our filings. It is up to everyone here that considers their property values and family safety important, to hold the non-conforming “few” accountable to our laws. Just as the police are with the speeders, druggies and DWI blight on our streets. Just because a resident gets away with breaking a law or restriction due to ignorance or not caring doesn't mean it is not there. It is up to the rest of us to remind the new neighbors that move in of our responsibilities and the ones that constantly subvert the laws to their selfish agenda. When we let it go, we are making a choice to say it is ok to break the law and we send a message that we are giving up our homes to the lowest bidder. I know we get tired of fighting but what else is worth fighting for if it is not our home and families. What about the careers we worked so hard to build all to nourish the home and family we hold so dear. Do we give up our rights so easily and we worked so hard to get? I have a little more fight left in my heart. That is one of the contributing factors as to why I do so much for so little on the SFCA board. I do say that the respect and appreciation has been the one thing that keeps me strong.

ISSUE: What are the fines for these offenses and can we get with Chief LeDuff to see about getting them enforced? I would like to see Councilman Walker get involved with these situations as well as homeowners being responsible for maintaining their property. We are seeing too many people move into the neighborhood who don't care what their property looks like and how it brings the value of the neighborhood down.

Answer: Your comments and concerns are valued and appreciated. The fines vary from \$25 to \$100 I believe and if it is a first offense then there is just a warning (as it probably should be). The issue I have is that the police cruisers will just drive through a neighborhood without stopping to enforce a car that may be parked incorrectly (therefore a fine is not levied and the message goes out that the police do not want to be bothered by such trivial matters). One neighbor does this and others seem to follow the lead since one gets away with it. Parking on the street is a habit and shows that they just do not care about the flow of traffic or what it looks like. My issue is not with the occasional parking by visitors but the chronic parking on the street by residents instead of parking in their garage or driveway.

If you feel like taking this to Chief LeDuff it can be done through **311** or [Citizens Request for Service](#) and simply request a conversation with our Chief or sending him an email brpdinfo@brgov.com . You could also contact our **third district** Police Department at **225-389-5247** and report parking infractions or abandonment of vehicles (or any police action type issue). **Mike Walker** (District 8) can be contacted on the phone ((**225**) **272-9088 Office** - (**225**) **272-9782 Fax**) or by email council-dist8@brgov.com . I would like to mention that the police work every day to conduct city business and while oversight is welcomed it is wise to be accurate and organized when you contact them. The frequency of calls to action is probably why they are a bit calloused to smaller infractions to the laws. I do agree with you that it may be small issues to them but basic issues with us residents. Credible arguments and issues with substance will help any future action. Mike Walker has done so many constructive things for Sherwood Forest and deserves a little understanding... he and his department works all day, each day in the best interest of his district deserving our appreciation (and in my opinion do a great job). He also welcomes oversight and any input you may have to help him better serve our community.

Personally I spend inordinate amounts of time trying to do my best to represent SFCA and all of the members in it. My agenda is simply stated: I want to do my best to maintain the property values so our investments are well nurtured. I also want the area that my family lives in to be as safe as possible. These two things are the main agenda that drives my efforts to hold residents accountable to our laws and restrictions. As a concerned citizen that does this work for Sherwood Forest voluntarily (just as the rest of the BOD) we need help and support from the rest of our neighbors such as you. I am no better than anyone else in our area and share similar concerns about the well being of my Sherwood Forest home. Few work as hard as your BOD members in the best interest of our association consisting of members that are working for a common cause. We are not professionals, so at times we are not as efficient or effective as some but we try real hard to make our home a better place to live.

Message: (In regards to a lost pet and its possible ownership)... thank you for your reply and help. As a matter of fact, I just called the lady that found the dog and she said that she had actually found the owner of the dog over on Bellridge... so the dog and its owner are reunited now. They were a new family to the area and were very happy to find their pet. After seeing the dog and how well behaved it was I can see why

A few weeks ago there was another lost pet. The three legged dog was reunited with its owner several weeks ago also. It had gotten loose and lost its way from Broadmoor area and several of our ladies helped get the dog and its owner back together. That is a success story for our residents being kind and helpful in working with a neighbor. Broadmoor is a very close neighbor and I am proud to share this story of kindness.

Hello! I just wanted to say "Thank You" to all who have read and responded to this mass email. I was reunited with my 3 legged wonder creature this evening thanks to some very special ladies who tracked her down and led me to her this night. I didn't even get a chance to get their names because I was so happy to get my girl back. Thank you!

Jeana Esser

Thanks again to our friendly residents, the owners and pets are back together. I appreciate your efforts as well. It is a testament to our friendly neighborhood attitudes.

Comment: Thank you for the wonderful informational service that you are providing SFCA members via e-mail. We do need to keep our property values high if we are to protect what we have worked all of our lives for.

Comment: Just a quick note to let you know how much I appreciate receiving these e-mails and the phone messages with alert information. Keep up the good work!

ISSUE: Can you please explain to me what OTHERS ARE MOVING IN means?

Answer: "Tickets are being given to those parking on the grass, parking on sidewalks and parking the wrong direction on the street but not enough are being held accountable. Others are moving in to our area and either they do not know the law or they do not care about the law." "Others" are the people not following the laws and restrictions "other" than the ones parking on the grass and sidewalks or in the wrong direction on the side of the street; others that are not keeping their property clean and mowed; others that speed down 30 mph residential areas where our children play and homeowners walk at times... others that do not try to be friendly or considerate and only think of themselves. "Other" people are the ones that do not fit into the "parking statement" I first described. We all live in a very nice area that we try keep safe for our families and where we invest our careers to purchase a nice home to live... it amazes me that there are "others" that would buy homes and just leave them abandoned or not cared for. It is beyond my understanding why someone would want to live around such a group of concerned citizens in a neighborhood such as ours and not care about any of our conventional values. "Ours" implies the group that cares about how their property looks with ownership in the efforts. "Others" implies there are other people with little or no agenda to fit in a community and try to obey the laws of our city. We only ask that the people that choose to move here might learn the laws that govern our city and neighborhoods. We ask that you inquire if there are questions about anything concerning our association or the laws that affect us all. I welcome new residents that want to live here and care for their property with concerns for their neighbors. I welcome new residents that want to do the right thing and make an effort to be part of a community. I will hold the others accountable to our laws in any way I am able to preserve property values and it an effort to keep our families safe. That is my agenda in serving on this Board of Directors and caring for the members of Sherwood Forest Citizens Association. We all are working very hard in the best interest of our membership... for no pay, but that is ok. I take it that you did not understand what I meant about others however I am sure you now understand just exactly what I meant to say. If you have any questions about the laws or the restrictions here I would be glad to be of assistance.

Reply comment: Thank you so much for your clarification. Please know that I do appreciate your hard work. Keep up the good work.

Message: <http://www.hoatalk.com/> Meet the leaders and volunteers of other homeowners associations & condo associations. Discuss issues and share ideas, via our online discussion forum. We are growing fast, with over 10,000 members, hundreds of discussion topics & news articles. To preview [click here](#).

Membership is free and open to community association board members, committee members, volunteers & HOA professionals.

<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-homeowners-association.htm> ***What is a Homeowners' Association?***

<http://realtytimes.com/rtpages/HomeownerAssociationNews.htm> Homeowners Association Advice

ISSUE: I guess you are who I need to contact if I have a concern. I live on Major Oak and there is a truck with a red or white trailer that is always parked on the street at the corner of Major Oak and Belford (I think it's N. Belford). There have been several occasions where I have had to slam on my breaks because there is a car coming the opposite direction and there is not room for 2 cars to pass one another. If you could please have this issue addressed, I would GREATLY appreciate it. Thanks so much and please let me know if you need any further information!!

Answer: I forwarded this to our security to check into... I believe it is Belford... The issue is a major pet peeve of mine also. This issue is very difficult to address since there are laws that allow parking on the street WITH the flow of traffic for up to 9 hours

Sec. 11:415. Stopping, standing or parking prohibited; general rules.

(a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, or permit a vehicle registered in his name to be stopped, standing or parked, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a law enforcement officer or traffic-control device, or parking-control device in any of the following places:

- (1) **On a sidewalk;**
- (2) In front of or blocking a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection;
- (4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant;
- (5) On a crosswalk;
- (6) Within twenty-five (25) feet of a crosswalk or curb line at an intersection;
- (7) Within thirty (30) feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway;
- (8) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within twenty (20) feet on points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless the department of public works has indicated a different length by signs or markings;
- (9) Within fifty (50) feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
- (10) Within twenty (20) feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five (75) feet of the entrance (when properly signposted);

- (11) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (12) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (13) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel;
- (14) At any place where official signs prohibit such;
- (15) **On the driver's left-hand side of any two-way street or highway;**
- (16) At any place where the curb has officially been painted red;
- (17) Within any zone or officially marked place designated as a fire lane at all schools, hospitals, churches and other places of public assembly, as well as commercial and shopping facilities, and apartment complexes;
- (18) Within a lane of traffic that is clearly marked by lines to identify it as a lane for the movement of traffic;
- (19) Any place where parking will obscure or obstruct visibility of any traffic-control device;
- (20) **Upon the traveled portion of any roadway except to yield to other traffic, or as directed by a signal or sign, or as directed by a law enforcement officer;**
- (21) Alongside a neutral ground curb;
- (22) On the grass in a yard between the residence and the street of any lot in the A1, A2, A2.5, A3 or A4 districts and in recognized subdivisions in the rural district.

(b) No person shall move a vehicle not lawfully under his control into any such prohibited area or away from a curb such distance as is unlawful.

(Ord. No. 7504, § 22, 4-25-84; Ord. No. 12725, § 1, 8-25-03; Ord. No. 13688, § 1, 7-26-06)

Sec. 11:423. Time limitation on parking on any street.

No person shall permit his vehicle, either as an operator or registered owner, to remain parked **on any street for a period of time longer than nine (9) hours of any twenty-four-hour period** beginning at 6:00 a.m., of one day to 6:00 a.m., of the next day, and the vehicle can only be so parked if parking is specifically permitted under other provisions of this title.

(Ord. No. 7504, § 22, 4-25-84; Ord. No. 13688, § 1, 7-26-06)

Sec. 11:418. Standing or parking close to curb.

(a) No person shall stand or park a vehicle in a roadway other than parallel with the edge of the roadway headed in the direction of lawful traffic movement and with passenger-side wheels of the vehicle **within eighteen (18) inches of the curb** or edge of the roadway except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) The director of the department of public works may place signs prohibiting or restricting the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles on any highway or upon proper request, private property, where in his opinion such stopping, standing or parking is dangerous to those using the highway or private property, or where such would unduly interfere with the free movement of traffic thereon. Such signs shall be official signs; and

no person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle or permit any vehicle registered in his name to be stopped, standing or parked in violation of the restrictions stated on such signs.

(Ord. No. 7504, § 22, 4-25-84; Ord. No. 13688, § 1, 7-26-06)

Comment: GOOD & THANKS FOR YOUR REPLY. I am like many old folks I do NOT LIKE CHANGE. That's why we have been in the same house for over 44 years.

Comment: Thanks for keeping all up to date.

Comment: Thank you for your forwards I have been receiving from you.

Comment: I would suggest that neighbors keep Habitat for Humanity in mind when involved with property that has been "abandoned". The organization has had difficulty acquiring properties for refurbishment or rebuilding over the past few years, although currently involved in a 55-house build-out neighborhood in So. Baton Rouge. This will keep them busy for a few years, but I understand that it takes a long time to convert "abandoned" property. It's better to have property in use than to rot and become a haven for rats and possums.

Issue: Good morning. I have been on vacation this week and noticed that someone on a motorcycle has been blasting down Mollylea (between Stockton and Woodcliff) each morning between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. While I am sure that the city police have much more pressing issues, it would be nice to catch this clown and get him to slow down before he hurts someone (namely, himself!). Thanks for all you do!

Answer from our security: A motorcyclist was issued a ticket on the morning of Tuesday, 8/5/08, for driving 57 mph in a 30 mph zone on Mollylea. Our paid security patrol from the Sheriff's Office was notified and caught the driver, who informed the Deputy that he was driving (as he does every workday) to his employer's house on Mollylea.

Thank you very much for reporting this problem. Rest assured that the SFCA Board certainly considers this an important issue and we do not want it to continue. It is no problem to have our regular daily paid patrol investigate such matters as well as others which could be considered even less serious.

Please do not hesitate to alert us of any illegal activity you observe or other similar concerns. We are concerned about any illegal activity in the neighborhood and want to eliminate as much as we can in order to keep Sherwood Forest a nice place to live. The residents are our eyes and ears and it is a huge help when these issues are brought to our attention.

Comment: That is wonderful! Thank you all so very much for helping with this. I have lived in the Broadmoor/Sherwood area for most of my life, and want to do everything I can to keep it a great and safe place to live. Thanks again!

Issue: We have just been advised that our home is now in the flood zone, per FEMA. We feel that our home is well above the base flood line, but a survey and appeal must be made. We are considering going through the LOMA process, but it is expensive.... have you heard of any residents who are going through the appeal? I see on the map that there have been several who have received the LOMA, but none are Sherwood Forest addresses.

If you know someone who is going through the LOMA process, please ask them to email us. Thanks,
greenroofmail@cox.net

Answer: http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fmc_loma.shtm is the home page for the FEMA Letter of Map Amendment

As part of its administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) publishes flood hazard maps, called Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs. The purpose of a FIRM is to show the areas in a community that are subject to flooding and the risk associated with these flood hazards. One of the areas shown on the FIRM is a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is the area that has a 1-percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year; this area is also referred to by some as the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain, base floodplain, or the

100-year floodplain. The flood hazard and risk information presented on the FIRMs is the result of engineering studies that are performed by engineering companies, other Federal agencies, or communities, which are reviewed for compliance with FEMA guidelines and approved by FEMA.

FEMA uses the most accurate flood hazard information available and applies rigorous standards in developing the FIRMs. However, because of limitations of scale or topographic definition of the source maps used to prepare a FIRM, small areas may be inadvertently shown within an SFHA on a FIRM even though the property (legally defined parcel(s) of land, structure[s]) is on natural ground and is at or above the elevation of the 1-percent-annual-chance flood. This elevation is most commonly referred to as the Base Flood Elevation, or BFE. Such cases are referred to as "inadvertent inclusions."

For other small areas, earthen fill may have been placed during construction, thereby elevating a small area within the SFHA to an elevation that is at or above the BFE. This construction may have taken place during the time the engineering study was being performed or subsequent to that study. Because of the limited extent of the elevated area and the limitations of the map scale, it may not have been possible for FEMA to show this area as being outside the SFHA and so these areas have been incorrectly included in the SFHA on the FIRM.

Recognizing that these situations do occur, FEMA established administrative procedures to change the designation for these properties on the FIRM. These processes are referred to as the Letter of Map Amendment, or LOMA, process and the Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill, or LOMR-F, process. Through these processes, an individual who owns, rents, or leases property may submit certain mapping and survey information to FEMA and request that FEMA issue a document that officially removes a property and/or structure from the SFHA. In most cases, the applicant will need to hire a Licensed Land Surveyor or Registered Professional Engineer to prepare an Elevation Certificate for the property. Upon receiving a complete application forms package, FEMA will normally complete its review and issue its determination in 4 to 6 weeks.

Comment: I would like to say thank you for the award of "Yard of the Month" and for the \$50.00 gift certificate from Louisiana Nursery. We are very appreciative of your recognition. Please know that it is partially because of Louisiana Nursery that the yard has taken on the appearance that it has. Several of their products have already gone into this project! I assure you that the certificates will go back into the yard.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Sherwood Forest. Kindest regards

Reply: I agree that Louisiana Nursery has been wonderful to us in the Sherwood Forest area and this year they have completely sponsored our gifting awards to the monthly standout. We have given them a spot on our website Yard of the Month page listing the stores and their contact information as well as a link to their stores. Surely the whole association membership would agree with me in thanking you for your email in gracious appreciation... I assure you we (in the subdivision) are the real winners with your yard a pleasure to view as we pass by. It is a refreshing experience for all and I know you have the basic pride in your home by presenting your yard as you have. Again we thank you for your efforts and it only supports the overall goal to keep our property values healthy.

Comment: Re: 980 Hedgewood... SFCA paid for the clean up of this property. The trees were cut down on Friday, Aug 1, hauled off on the 2nd with final clean up that Sunday night, and the association had someone cut the grass on Wed the 6th. Now, it is up to the neighborhood to maintain this property. Early this AM, Jim Mitchell, 984 Sinclair, and I went over and picked up more rotten limbs, chunks of wood, mowed the entire property, edged all of the curbs & sidewalks, blew grass off the street and sidewalks, also had to blow the cut grass off the back yard because it was so thick and high already. I had thought that the back yard would be the easiest to cut, but I sure was wrong.

I am looking for people who will volunteer to help with this and will commit to when and what they are willing to do. I would like to set up a calendar. Hopefully, it will not be the same few all the time. I have quite a few "yesses", but no firm commitments yet. Will you commit? Can you get some other people to

commit? During this hot, rainy growing season, we must cut this property once a week. Hopefully, from now on, it will be much easier than it was today. A lot of people ask me about this property. I always tell them what our association has done for us, pointing out that they can see our association dues at work. I also encourage them to join SFCA if they are not already members.

Reply: If anyone is willing to assist in this effort to keep an abandoned property mowed and cleaned up, please let me know so I can have you placed on a list for much needed help. We could just let this go, since it is not our property but then it would become a blight once again. It has been evident that the last owner did not care nor did the mortgage company Countrywide Mortgage care. The sub-prime mortgage malaise is quite multi-faceted. The borrowers are at fault for overextending themselves. The lenders are at fault for making loans that are a stretch. Realtors exacerbate the problem by artificially boosting prices. And the builders will keep building as long as they have access to construction loans. In the past we joined right in by allowing these properties to be our neighbors with little that could be done. We can refuse to allow the abandoned property to be blight in our neighborhood by helping to keep it up. This will not solve the issue but it may help us keep our community cleaner looking.

Issue: I live on Bellarbor Dr. I have one mini-van which I must leave parked in the driveway. A bright street light is just across the street, and I have motion activated spotlights on the driveway. Nevertheless, it would appear as though gasoline has been siphoned from my vehicle. I use this vehicle very little, but topped off the tank 2 weeks ago. Today, I had a quarter tank or less.

Answer: If there are those with agenda to be thieves, I suppose there are plenty of us that are going to provide them with stuff to steal. It is difficult to lock down everything around the home but a locking gas cap may slow them down a bit. You can get something like that at the local car parts dealer. Look at this one <https://www.autosportcatalog.com/index.cfm/fa/p/pid/4741/sc/37573> and see if you think it might work or one like it.

Reply: Good show; they have some at AutoZone. I'm going to get one! Thanks

Issue: My family and I are homeowners in the Sherwood Forest Subd.-on the east end, not far off of Flannery. We live on Avants Ave. My husband just found out today from our neighbor in back of us of some scary activity at our back door on Fri., 8-15-08, around noon. We were all gone at work and school, and apparently our neighbor heard some loud racket coming from our yard so he went out to see (he can see our backyard from his backyard) what it was. He saw two young black men pounding on and kicking at our back door. He saw their vehicle and said it was a small red foreign car (which is the same type of car that I drive.) Apparently they saw him, and playing it off, asked if he knew who lived here. He said he did, but that he knew we weren't home. So then they just apparently left. We didn't know if this is something we needed to report to the police, but we thought we should at least report it to the citizen's assoc.

Answer: Yes it is in order to report the activity to the police, even though it happened Friday. You should register a formal report of the incident for you and for everyone else in Sherwood Forest. That is a scary incident and you should insure a tight security around your home. Lock the doors and be sure to secure any valuables that may be out for burglars to take. Lock up your gas and if you do not have locking gas caps one should be put on your automobiles (they can be purchased at any auto parts store). Do not confront the violators since this could be dangerous. If you see any suspicious activity in your neighborhood please call the police and report it immediately or dial **911** in case of threatening encounters. **The police department in our area is District -3 and can be reached at 389-5247.** SFCA security can be notified at **273-1353** for any non-urgent matter so it will be registered and investigated on our patrols of your area. **I highly recommend a good home security system.** Outdoor cameras are very effective since the perpetrators are normally aware of them and know that they can be prosecuted with their identification from a camera. There is nothing that can be done about walk through pedestrians however if you can prove they came onto your property and attempted any unlawful entry or took something from your yard or home. **A camera is a much respected weapon most people have as either a small camera or cell phone.** Much care should be taken to not confront the trespassers. We thank you for this report and would like to get your address since I do not have you listed as a member. **We would also appreciate your support as a member which costs only \$25 annually** and is very helpful in the operation of your neighborhood care. See our website at <http://www.sfcabr.org> which has a lot of information for our homeowners. Our only agenda is to keep our neighborhoods safe and the property

values healthy by holding everyone accountable to the laws of our city and community. With compliance to our laws come security and an atmosphere of value that carries over to our property. I am as you are, just a homeowner that is concerned about my family, friends and investments in home ownership. I do my best to accomplish what I can to make things in Sherwood Forest better for us all.

I also came across these inexpensive items you might be able to use.

<http://www.preventsecurity.com/category.asp?c=28> Some dummy cameras that keep the burglar guessing.

Issue: My neighbor is new and so probably not aware that you can't park in the yard, on the grass, facing the wrong way, etc. Could y'all let her know (without involving me) of the guidelines? It's usually a safelight work van/truck that is parked all over the place. Thanks. Helping to keep it neat.

Answer: Sent to SFCA security for investigation. No names were mentioned.

Issue: My wife walks this neighborhood every day (3 miles +) and is meeting neighbors we had not known before. A lady on Bellmeade told her that she had been burglarized, and that all her guns and electronics had been taken. This burglary happened in the daytime. This lady also told her that there had been some LSU students living in a house next door, or in the same block, and they had also been broken in broad daylight and all their computers and other electronics had been stolen. Has any of this information come to your attention? I haven't talked to the lady, just my wife, and I have to admit, she is not the best reporter of fact in the world. However, as the story goes, there are some "kids" who live on that street who do not attend school, and are home alone during the day. The reporter is suspicious of those boys as the possible perpetrators of those crimes. Know anything about it? I probably can get the lady's name, eventually. My wife spoke to an LSU student living at a home on Bellmeade. This young man says that the burglary of their home occurred last week, and was reported to police. As I understand it, several laptop computers were taken, along with other items. The neighbor lady, I presume at a different home on Bellmeade, who mentioned this burglary to my wife earlier in the week says that she was suspicious of a couple of boys who live across the street and who do not go to school, but sit on the porch a lot and observe people coming and going in the neighborhood. This aforementioned burglary was daytime job, BTW. This lady also told my wife that another house near her was burglarized a year ago, and guns were taken (or maybe it was her house.) We have not obtained the name of this informant as of yet. I understand that what I am reporting here is hearsay; I have no first-hand knowledge of any of this; just my wife's repeating to me what this lady told her.

Answer: I have not heard anything about this but I have been out of town for the past weekend. My recommendation would be to have the burglarized homeowners to report this to the police and file a report. I would also recommend this information be forwarded to the SFCA security patrol we have so they will be on the lookout for suspicious activities (which they already are I am sure). I am copying our security so they will be notified and I am also copying our President so she will know. I would like to know the persons involved and the addresses burglarized for our records. We all have to be on guard for suspicious activity and I appreciate your forwarding me this information. First of all they should file a report when something like this happens. We are all at risk and together we have to circle the wagons or be over run. Again, I appreciate you informing me about this issue. Any more information would be appreciated but it will be reported to our security in any case.

Issue: September 10... I just wanted to let you know that my wife noticed a prowler in our back yard this morning around 5:00 a.m. I looked around and found no one (our neighbor's dog was barking, and that might have sent him away). My wife was unable to get a good look at the guy- too dark- other than that he was tall and lanky. I notified the City Police and they are sending a unit to shine a spotlight in our area. They also said they would have a unit periodically cruise the neighborhood. The officer I spoke to said that it could possibly be someone checking the utility lines, but this guy was too close to our carport and my wife thought she heard the chain on our generator rattle. Thanks for all you do!

Answer: Sent to SFCA security for investigation.

Issue: September 12... The folks in the house on Archery next to the vacant lot by Nassau are getting very comfortable with parking several cars in the yard, drinking beer in congregations in the afternoon and evenings, and urinating in the front yard (no exaggeration). I called the police, but I would like to see someone besides me take some responsibility regarding this situation. Frankly, it's such an obvious lowering of the standards (by the tenants) that I would have thought some action would have been taken by now. I would just like someone behind me on this issue. Please do not take this as an attack on SFCA as my anger at what I see going on is just flowing out of my fingers! If we were in a face to face conversation, you would find my tone more conversational and somewhat conspiratorial. I'm just letting you know what's going on. Thanks and Regards

Answer: Sent to SFCA security for investigation.

Everyone... Keep up the good work... we will clean up our yards then the neighborhoods and life will be normal once again.