At the recent Security Seminar, we had a showing of hands of how long folks had lived in Sherwood Forest. It was amazing how many have lived in the neighborhood for 30, 40 and over 50 years.

Sherwood Forest was incorporated in 1953 as a new and vibrant neighborhood for professional families that wanted a suburban lifestyle. The original incorporators designed the neighborhood to be a single family, owner occupied, A-1 residential neighborhood with large houses and lots. They had a vision of common design and harmony as they established the deed restrictions for each filing as the neighborhood continued to grow. They envisioned a well-maintained neighborhood that would retain its property values during its years of growth and well after.

Over the years Sherwood Forest and Broadmoor neighborhoods shared four public elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and St. Thomas More School. They also shared seven major churches, the Sherwood Forest Country Club, Fairwood Country Club and the Sherwood Forest Aquatic Club. Almost every home had multiple children. Shops and stores to support the large number of families, the first McDonalds and Cortana Mall surrounded the neighborhoods. Villa Del Ray, Park Forest, Red Oak and Belaire neighborhoods were also developed during this same time. These neighborhoods thrived and were considered the place to live.

As in the majority of older neighborhoods, time has not been kind to this area of the city. All one has to do is drive down Florida Boulevard to see the transition. While we don’t like to talk about the reality of neighborhood transition, it happens and unless there is a concerted effort, transition can turn a neighborhood into an undesirable place to live.

The SFCA has worked for decades to try and maintain the vision and intent of the original incorporators. Volunteers have given countless hours over the years trying to maintain architectural control, public works, beautification and safety within Sherwood Forest. While these efforts have been mostly successful, transition has still occurred.

As part of the SFCA’s ongoing strategic plan, we have targeted two areas – architectural control and safety to concentrate our efforts. It is the Board’s goal to strengthen safety and maintain property values for all residents. The SFCA will continue to provide the services residents have enjoyed over the years, but it is time to address the issues that are driving transition at an accelerated pace.

Safety First – the Sherwood Forest Crime and Neighborhood Improvement District will launch in January 2015. Residents will experience an immediate increase in coordinated security services.
The Crime District commissioners are meeting monthly to develop short and long-term plans to ensure Sherwood Forest is one of the safest neighborhoods in the parish. We will keep residents informed of next steps on an ongoing basis. If you are a member of the SFCA and we have your email address you are already receiving updates. If you are not, please fill out the membership application in this newsletter and join the residents who are already engaged in making this a better neighborhood. If you missed the recent Security Seminar go to the SFCA website – www.scfabr.org – to download a copy of the “Top Ten Things a Homeowner Can Do to Protect Their Family and Property” brochure. As part of this effort, the SFCA has partnered with Custom Security to help you install a home alarm system. This is great opportunity and we hope residents take advantage of the protection that an alarm system provides. See offer on page 7.

The second area of focus is architectural control. It was the clear intent of the incorporators of Sherwood Forest to maintain architectural control of the neighborhood by developing deed restrictions that each homeowner is bound. Residents entered into a binding agreement when they purchased their homes to live by their individual deed restrictions. Deed restrictions trump ordinances and permits. Just because a resident can be issued a permit, that permit does not give the homeowner the right to violate their deed restrictions.

Deed restriction violations have become one of the most pressing issues the SFCA has to address. Some homeowners do not like being told that they can’t do whatever they want on their property, but all residents have to understand that what may be convenient for one property owner may devalue their neighbor’s property because it is not in harmony with existing structures.

One example is metal garages. They are not allowed in any filing. Unfortunately we have many in the neighborhood. If you look at most, they are poorly maintained and certainly not in harmony with the surrounding homes. Accessory buildings of any type, including pre-fabricated structures and storage sheds are another example that is clearly controlled in your deed restrictions. We are also seeing more closed-in garages. Our deed restrictions prevent closed-in garages from being used as bedrooms. Please educate yourself by reviewing your deed restrictions.

Sherwood Forest has many filings, but the intent of the incorporators is consistent - homeowners have to receive approval by the SFCA Architectural Control Committee before any construction is begun – even fences are regulated.

The SFCA will allow no more new violations. If a deed restriction violation is over two years old then it will be grandfathered, if not the SFCA will pursue. We have divided the neighborhood into sections and will be looking for violations because some homeowners have either disregarded or were not aware of their deed restrictions. We ask that you abide by your deed restrictions and request approval of any new construction by contacting the Committee at the address in the newsletter.

The SFCA needs your help as we work to revitalize Sherwood Forest. We are at a critical juncture in our 61 year history. We either address our issues or we transition into a neighborhood that many will find undesirable to live. Sherwood Forest is a great neighborhood – let’s all work together to make it an even better neighborhood.

BONUS – See if you can name all schools and churches mentioned in paragraph three of this article. Email your answer to zoning@scfabr.org to be entered a $100 drawing for either Vernon’s Hardware or Baton Rouge Police Supplies. You will have to have the correct names to be entered into the drawing.
Ricky Shaffer, President, Sherwood Forest Citizen’s Association

Everyone is probably aware that the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District passed by an overwhelming majority. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters in this endeavor. Many of you have been very generous with donations for security throughout the years. Beginning in 2015, this responsibility will be shared by all. Thanks to all of our hard working board members and volunteers, and thanks to everyone who voted for this important measure.

We had a good turnout for the security seminar held on March 10, 2014. I would like to thank the speakers from Baton Rouge Police Supply, Custom Security, and Vernon’s Hardware who provided great information on how to make our homes safer. Please remember to patronize these locally-owned businesses who graciously gave their time. If you were unaware of this event, be sure to provide your email address on your membership form to be kept informed in the future.

I also recently attended a meeting of the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations where the new Homeowner Association Law Enforcement Communication System (HALECS) was announced. This program will soon be put into place whereby security alerts will be provided to neighborhood associations by the Baton Rouge Police Department. At this meeting I met with representatives of several other neighborhood associations with crime prevention districts currently in place and some who are working towards that goal. We all have the same intentions; to make our respective neighborhoods safer places for all residents.

On another subject, does everyone know the rules about posting signs in the medians, on utility poles, in the right of way, or on any public property? These signs are illegal and can be considered litter. I’m not talking about signs of a temporary nature, such as garage sales or lost pet notices. I’m talking about commercial businesses littering our neighborhood with their signs. I’m asking for everyone’s help in keeping these eyesores out of our beautiful neighborhood. Take them down if they are near your home or if you see them while walking. Also, please do not patronize these businesses.

We still seem to have issues with vehicles being parked in yards and vehicles parked in the street for extended periods, many times by the same individuals. This is a violation that our security patrol enforces. It is a safety issue and if people continue to violate the law, they will be issued a citation.

Upcoming event! We are contemplating the first annual Broadmoor and Sherwood Forest Christmas Parade. That may seem like a long time away, but these kinds of events take much planning. I am requesting volunteers to serve on the planning committee. Please contact me @ 218-4284 if you would like to help. We will have more information on the parade at a later date.

Let’s continue to work together to make Sherwood Forest a great place to live.
Mollylea Drive Bridge Update

On Feb. 16 Tom Stephens, chief design engineer for the city-parish Department of Public Works, closed the Mollylea Dr. bridge due to four timber pilings that had deteriorated to the point of having to be replaced. Stephens said the agency hired a designer, conducted surveys on the bridge and is considering preliminary designs for the repair. The temporary repair should be completed in two to three weeks.

The repairs will only be temporary, though, as the bridge is scheduled to be replaced. Stephens said before the end of the year, the parish plans to close the bridge again, tear it down and begin building a new one. Stephens said he did not have a timeline for the construction of a new bridge, but it would take about six to eight months to tear the old bridge down and build a new one. Stephens said he would like to begin work by the end of the year.

Blight Elimination

In the East Baton Rouge Code of Ordinances (UDC Code), Blight Elimination is defined in chapter 11, Section 12;651 as;

Conditions upon or affecting premises, which are hazardous to the health, safety or welfare of the public, and/or conditions which are detrimental to property values, economic stability, or to the quality of the environment. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following: The accumulation of junk, trash, garbage, litter, refuse, rubbish, appliances, debris, combustible materials, or junked inoperable vehicles (vehicles which are ten (10) years old or older, in such a state of deterioration that they cannot be profitably restored and which have a fair market value of five hundred dollars ($500.00) or less); illegal dumping; noxious weeds; overgrown vegetation; infestation of insects, vermin or rodents; animals running at large; dilapidated structures; condemned properties; abandoned adjudicated properties; criminal violations; weed liens; zoning violations; alcohol beverage control violations; health code violations; and other conditions which are hazardous to public health, safety or welfare.

When you are riding thru the neighborhood and see violations listed above please take action and call 311 or 389-3090. You DO NOT have to reveal your name when calling in a compliant. Once a complaint is filed you can call 311 and monitor the progress until the violation has been removed or resolved.

In order to keep our neighborhood healthy and safe, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Together we can make a difference. This information was taken from the District Six meeting Councilwoman Donna Collins Lewis held March 13th at St. Thomas More's Activity Center
Marcia & Richard Empson

The SFCA EyeWatch Committee wants to thank the additional neighbors who have added their names to the official EyeWatch Block Captain volunteers. We still need a lot more SFCA Subdivision Homeowners to volunteer to be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. Even with the Sherwood Forest security patrol and the regular BRPD officers that patrol our neighborhood streets, the best deterrent to help keep the criminal elements from our neighborhood is US, the homeowners and renters who live here.

If anything unusual is seen notify the BRPD immediately by dialing 389-2000, not the SFCA Security number/e-mail. That contact does not have immediate response capability.

Our second “Neighborhood Blitz” was held on Sunday, October 20. We were accompanied by 3 block captain volunteers and walked Little John and Nassau. We were out for 2 hours and contacted 58 homeowners. We also signed up an additional block captain volunteer for Little John.

We will have another blitz in late spring or early summer, as well as, a gathering of EyeWatch Block Captains to meet and greet each other and share information. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING AS AN EYEWATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN FOR YOUR STREET.
James Gray, Membership Chairman

Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association mailed dues letters at the beginning of the year. The following volunteers – Louis & Fran Gaudin, Richard & Marcia Empson, Jackie & James Gray, Patty & Gary Domingue, Emmeline & Mike Ross, Ricky Shaffer and Kathleen Lobell, folded & inserted 2,900 dues letters. The 2014 membership is below the 2013 membership at the same time last year. As of March 17th, our total membership is 833 out of 2,900 dues letters mailed. However, the voluntary security donations have increased.

In November the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District passed. Beginning in 2015 the financial support for our neighborhood will be shared by all property owners not just a third of our homeowners. The Crime District will not replace SFCA but, it will take over funding of security, beautification, and other improvements in the neighborhood.

As a result next year (2015) the Sherwood Forest Citizens' Association dues will be reduced to $15.00 and no longer ask for a security donation. SFCA will continue to represent the neighborhood at the City/Parish Government level handle Architectural Control Issues, representation at Planning & Zoning, Metro Council Meetings, and help with DPW issues.

To the 833 members – Thank You for keeping me very busy and to those who contributed a security donation an extra Thank You.

Property Transfers as of 3/16/14

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<th># Homes Sold</th>
<th>Average Sale Price</th>
<th>Total $$ Sales</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014 = 11</td>
<td>$157,554.55</td>
<td>$1,733,100.00</td>
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To join SFCA, complete the form below and mail your 2014 dues in the enclosed envelope to:
Sherwood Forest Citizens’ Association
P.O. Box 45142
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4142

SHERWOOD FOREST CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATION 2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): __________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________
Comments: ________________________________________________________

______ I would like to be an EyeWatch block captain.
------ I would like to volunteer for the following committee(s):

Volunteering for a committee is open to all Sherwood Forest residents. Please consider giving of your time and talent for the betterment of our neighborhood!

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $__________
Louisiana Nursery continues to support our neighborhood by donating $400 per year in gift certificates for yards of the month and the winner of our Christmas decorating contest. We are very grateful and appreciative of their generosity.

Lawn Tip from Louisiana Nursery:
If you have a particular location in your lawn that under preforms you may have a pH problem with your soil in that location. The best way to determine this is to have a soil test done. Go to your local independent garden center and pick up a LSU AgCenter pH testing kit, follow the easy instructions and send your sample in the mail. You will receive your results within a few weeks. Bring your results to the garden center and they will interpret the results and inform you of what to do to alter your pH or add missing nutrients for your type of grass.

Neighbor Request – please prune overhanging branches on sidewalks.

Good Luck & Happy Gardening!

Congratulations to Andree and Tom McPherson, winners of the 2013 Christmas Decorating contest. They received a $100 gift certificate to Louisiana Nursery.
SHERWOOD CAR CARE

JOE GILES
Manager

Michelin  Bridgestone  Firestone

11467 N. Harrells Ferry Rd.  225-272-7537
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

El Rancho
Authentic Mexican Restaurant & Grill

Owned & Managed by the Garcia Family

10820 Florida Blvd.  225-275-0836
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
Fax: (225) 275-0888

Edward Jones
Making Sense of Investing

Todd A. Hymel, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

11281 Old Hammond Highway
Suite C
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Bus: 225-272-5736  Fax 877-898-7431
Tel: 877-272-5736
todd.hymel@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

J & R Renovators, L.L.C.
Residential & Commercial Renovation
Kitchen & Bath Specialists

Roy Cobb
General Contractor

1412 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Bus: 383-4036  FAX: 389-0890
Email: jrrenovators@yahoo.com  Cell: 413-2997
www.jrrenovators.org

The Sherwood Forest News
Virtually everyone knows to phone 911 in an emergency. However, there are other numbers you can use to register complaints or seek action to solve a vexing problem.

**Use the City-Parish Call Center (311)** to report suspected zoning violations (deviations from A-1 code), public safety hazards like potholes and fallen tree limbs, nuisances such as stray pets or barking dogs, egregious or repetitive parking violations, junked cars, unsightly carports and many more. **REMEMBER: YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS WHEN USING THIS SERVICE!**

The number for Baton Rouge City Police is 389-2000. To report suspicious situations that are not time-sensitive call the Sherwood Forest Citizens’ Association Security Line, 273-1353. Leave a call-back message, and include your email for online communication.

**Specific questions** about streets, drainage and sewerage, construction and building codes or the environment should be directed to the EBR Department of Public Works (DPW) at 389-3090, 380-2070, or online at http://brgov.com/DEPT/dpw/.

To receive up-to-date information about your subdivision, **PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** on your membership form, or call a member of the board of directors. Names and contact numbers are listed below.

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### 2014 SFCA Board of Directors and Committees

Sherwood Forest Citizens’ Association Security Number — 273-1353

(Note: All officers, directors and committee members are volunteers.)

**OFFICERS:**

President: Ricky Shaffer, roostert80@cox.net
Vice President: Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.org
Treasurer: Ralph Dupuy, ralphdupuy@gmail.com
Secretary: Jackie Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net

**DIRECTORS:**

Marcia Empson, Richard Empson, Jackie Gray, James Gray, Gary Patureau. Gary Smith, Emmeline Ross and Ralph Dupuy

**COMMITTEES:**

Architectural Control: Gary Patureau, zoning@sfcabr.org
Beautification: Jackie Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net

Emmeline Ross, eross55@cox.net
EyeWatch: Marcia and Richard Empson, msempson@bellsouth.net
Federation: Gary Patureau, gary@lasie.org;
Hospitality: Mary Heuchert tlmh2010@bellsouth.net
Membership: James Gray, jrjhgray@cox.net;
Newsletter: Gary Patureau, zoning@sfcabr.org
Public Works: Jackie Gray, Gary Smith, Emmeline Ross
Security: Gary Smith, security@sfcabr.org
Zoning: Gary Patureau, gary@lasie.org
Webmaster: Gary Patureau, gary@lasie.org

SFCA board of directors meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except October and December, in Room 5 of the St. Thomas More Activity Center. Get in touch with Ricky Shaffer at least four days in advance of the meeting if you would like to present an item to the board.