

# Sherwood Forest News

Volume 10 Number 1

Published by the Sherwood Forest Citizens Association

Winter 2003

## From the President's Desk

On behalf of the entire Sherwood Forest Citizens Association board, Happy New Year! We have a great year planned and are always here to serve you. We are trying a new meeting format, where once per quarter, we will have a guest speaker come and talk on topics of interest. An insert is in this newsletter regarding our first quarterly meeting, to be held March 20. **Please make every effort to attend!**

Besides the informational meetings, you are always welcome to join us at the regular board meetings held each month, on the third Thursday of the month, in the Dunstan Room at St. Thomas More at 7:00 p.m. In addition, we will also sponsor another fall expo, as well as a holiday lighting contest this year!

Of course the many committees of the association are busy at work as well: beautification, security, public works, architectural control, zoning and membership. Please know that we could always use more enthusiasm and assistance-so come on and get involved.

Your neighborhood and your neighborhood association are what YOU make of it. Every resident of Sherwood Forest is important to maintaining our neighborhood as a great place to live. If you don't have the time to be active with the association, then just focus on being a good, attentive neighbor. Know that I, as your president, am always available to you, and welcome your calls (273-1809).

Let's all work together to make 2003 a year of productivity and preservation of the things that make Sherwood Forest a great place to live.

Looking forward to working with you!

*Karen Futrell*



### Your SFCA Officers stand ready to serve you in 2003!

*Pictured here are (L to R) Dick Bartol, Treasurer; Karen Futrell, President; Bob Friess, Vice-President and Jackie Gray, Secretary.*

## SFCA needs your help to take off . . . into cyberspace!



That's right, a small website committee has now formed to study and hopefully launch our first website in 2003. That committee could always use more people in its ranks!

Email Dick Bartol at [bndbartol@sprintmail.com](mailto:bndbartol@sprintmail.com) if you'd like to be a part of the action!

## TAX TIPS:



**Home Improvement Costs:** Because the tax code allows you to add the cost of home improvements (not repairs) to your investment basis, you'll want to save receipts for all labor and material costs associated with projects that add value to your home, for at least three years after you sell it.

**Interest Expenses:** Mortgage holders have the advantage of being able to deduct home-purchase interest expenses for first and second homes, and even for home-equity based loans, though there are limits. It's wise to retain annual summaries of interest expenses supplied by your lender(s).

## A Message from Councilman Mike Walker

My congratulations to the newly elected SFCA Board, many of whom have been serving for quite some time. My council office stands ready to assist your new president, Karen Futrell and all of you in way that we can.

I have read with great concern the latest police report on number of thefts, armed robberies and other criminal incidents in the Sherwood Forest area. While the armed robberies, at this point, have occurred at commercial locations only, I want to "nip this in the bud" so that such incidents do not occur in residences. The safety of Sherwood Forest and all District 8 residents is my number one priority; therefore I have contacted Chief of Police, Pat Englade, and requested that he significantly increase patrols day and night. You can help. Please, should you observe any illegal activity taking place, immediately call 911 for an emergency or 389-2000 for police dispatch.

My office is located at 140 McGehee Drive. Since I became your councilman in January 2001, we have assisted several hundred calls or visits from Sherwood Forest residents, and we look forward to continuing to help you whenever we can. Don't hesitate to come by or call my Legislative Assistant, Ms. Zona M. Pickens or me at 272-9088 with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

*Mike Walker*

## A Message from State Representative Mike Futrell

Dear Sherwood Forest Residents;

I write to give you an update on the Old Hammond Highway expansion project. As many of you know, Old Hammond Highway is being widened from 2 lanes to 5 lanes from Airline Highway to Boulevard de Province, creating 2 lanes in both directions and a center turn lane. This project will eliminate open ditches and accomplish the installation of a modern drainage system.

Currently, the utilities along the route are being relocated. This is a large chore, which includes electric, telephone and cable lines and underground sewer, and water and gas lines. The utility relocation phase will be finished in approximately six months. The next phase is actual road construction. Old Hammond Highway will remain open to traffic during construction with crews working alternate sides of the roadway and diverting traffic around the construction.

Finally, after 30 years of talk, the project is underway. However, there is no doubt that during construction this project will be an inconvenience-and there may be days when you call it worse than that. Like many of you, I live near Old Hammond Highway and will experience firsthand the frustration of construction. I urge your patience during this time, as the end result will benefit our area for many years to come.

I also encourage and ask that you call me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, or if I can help you in any other way. Call me at 274-9712 or email me at [mike@mikefutrell.com](mailto:mike@mikefutrell.com) because your needs are important to me and I want to help if I can.

Sincerely,

*Mike Futrell*

## DID YOU KNOW?



It is against the law to allow dogs to run loose in East Baton Rouge Parish. Dogs must be in a yard,

a pen or on a chain and walked on a leash under the direct control of their owner at all times. If loose dogs are causing a problem, call Animal Control at 774-7700 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays and between 8:00 a.m. and noon on Saturdays. It helps if you can give the dog's location and a good description. If you think you know the dog's owner, please tell Animal Control personnel.

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND PET OWNER - LOOSE ANIMALS PRESENT SAFETY CONCERNS AS WELL AS BEING A NUISANCE WHEN RELIEVING THEMSELVES IN YOUR NEIGHBOR'S YARDS. KEEP YOUR ANIMAL RESTRAINED AT ALL TIMES!**

## Officers, Committees & Chairpersons

### Voice Mail Box Numbers (Dial 273-1353)

Karen Futrell/President  
 Bob Friess/Vice President  
 Jackie Gray/Secretary  
 Dick Bartol/Treasurer  
 Sheryl Pollins/Beautification  
 George Francis/Public Works  
 Randy Haddad/By-Law & Policies  
 Beverly Wagner/Membership  
 Warren Simonds/Public Works  
 Scotty Scardina/Architectural Control  
 Gary Patureau/Zoning  
 Beverly Oglesby/Security  
 Hugh Cummins/Security

## Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Needed



Your security coordinators and the Security Patrol wish to thank you for your support in 2002. We depend on your donations made in addition to the dues you pay. The extra donations are used for nothing other than the security patrol. We also need every resident to be involved in our neighborhood watch. You are a vital resource in our efforts to reduce crime because

First, each resident knows more about his (her) immediate area, and knows when something appears out of the ordinary.

Secondly, the resident's acting as the "eyes and ears" of law enforcement means crime is detected more rapidly.

Thirdly, the knowledge that there is an active neighborhood watch program is a deterrent to criminal activity in an area.

Lastly, there is no substitute for cooperation between local law enforcement and the community in the fight against crime.

Please volunteer. Participating in the program is not a great time commitment. It is simply being aware of what is happening as you go about your regular activities and reporting to your security committee. Being a block captain takes a bit more time. Block captains are used to "spread the word" to close neighbors when there is a special alert for those residents. Anything you can contribute will be helpful.

Please call Hugh Cummins or Beverly Oglesby at 273-1353 for more information.

## Miscellaneous Safety Tips

By Hugh and Angie Cummins

1. Check to see who is knocking before opening the door. Never unlock the door to strangers.
2. Use your first initial and last name on your mailbox and telephone listing.
3. When you return home, have your door key in your hand before getting out of your car. If you suspect someone has been in or is still in your home do not go in - call the police.
4. If you see a suspicious person or suspect a prowler, call the police. Report any unusual activity in your neighborhood.



### NON EMERGENCIES

Police . . . . .389-2000  
 Sheriff . . . . .389-5000

The emergency for City Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMS is 911

Please get the name of the officer and the file number when you make a report.

Then call 273-1353 to report to Hugh Cummins or Beverly Oglesby

### CRIME WATCH UPDATE

#### December 2002

Burglary	E Glenhaven
Burglary	Marlbrook
Burglary	Sherwood Forest Blvd
Vehicle burglary	Wellington
Vehicle burglary	Ashbourne

#### January 2003

Burglary	Donavan Court
Auto theft	Sylvan
Burglary	Arlingford

**Note:** With a more active neighborhood watch program reporting to the Security Committee after calling the police, we could furnish more up-to-date information in our newsletters. Please get involved in the neighborhood watch and help keep our neighborhood safe.

## Spring is Around the Corner

By Mitch Mayes  
 Louisiana Nursery

February is the beginning of work for the South Louisiana gardener. It's time to clean your flowerbeds of dead limbs, dead plants and any existing weeds. After cleaning your beds, apply Amaze, a pre-emergent herbicide to keep any weed seed from germinating. Then apply your favorite top dressing (pine straw, pine bark mulch, cypress mulch or pine bark nuggets).



You can also prune crepe myrtles now. Begin by pruning any seed pods and suckers coming from the ground, then trim or shape, as you like. You may then apply Di-syston, a systemic insecticide, to prevent aphids (the cause of black sooty mold).

It is also time to apply a slow release fertilizer, such as Nursery Special, to all of your trees and shrubs. It will feed 3 to 4 months. Last but not least . . . don't forget to clean out your birdhouses and birdbaths!

# 2003 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Membership dues Cover Period from January 1, 2003 thru December 31, 2003.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please Print (Last) (First) (Number and Street)

**I would like to volunteer for (Please select one):** **Comments:**

1. Crime Prevention \_\_\_\_\_

2. Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

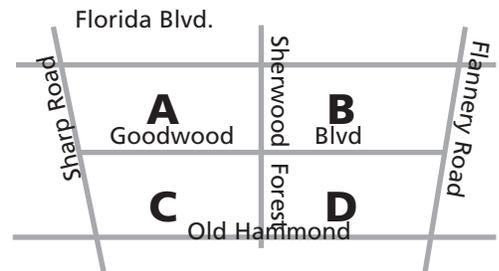
**2003 Annual Membership Dues (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) \$20.00**

Crime Prevention Donation . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_ > Total Check Amount . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*This is not a bill. If you have already paid dues for 2003, you are not obligated to return this form or a check. This form is only for those residents who have not paid their 2003 dues or for new residents who have moved into Sherwood Forest since the last newsletter.*

Make check payable to **SFCA, Inc.** and mail to:  
 Sherwood Forest Citizens Association, Inc.  
 P. O. Box 45142  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895

**Please mark the quadrant in which you live with an X.**



## Sherwood Forest News

Sherwood Forest Citizens Association, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 45142  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895

**Phone Number 273-1353**

### SFCA 2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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