

What's Inside...

From the **MAYOR'S DESK** EXCITING THINGS AHEAD IN 2024



In 2024, we will continue to improve both the quality of life and the quality of place in Sherwood.

We will continue improving the new City Hall Park by finishing the bathroom facilities, lighting up the caboose, uplighting

the murals, and adding two pickleball courts available for playing 24 hours. We will also begin to add some artwork in the form of sculpture. Our first sculpture that will be installed was donated by the Bean family. We are hoping that it will be the first of many sculpture installations.

We have monthly events planned that will be happening mainly at this City Hall Park complex as we strive to make this our town center. In March, we will have an Easter egg hunt. We will host the third Thursday of the month live music series in April, May, June, and September. Each month will highlight different kinds of music, such as contemporary Christian, Country, and 80s and 70s cover bands. We must play "September" by Earth, Wind and Fire in September.



Stonehill Park located on Gemstone Drive

- From the Mayor's Desk
 - 2024 Projects
- City Council Spotlight
 - Shelby Thomas
- Employee Spotlight
 - Richard McNeil
- Honoring Clayton Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
 - Dawn Darter
- South Central PGA Hall of Fame Induction
- Promoting Small Business
 - Dream

All events will be free to the public. With the huge success of the July 3rd event at the golf course last year, we will repeat this event and grow it. In August, we will have a movie night at the Thornhill pool. In October, we will move our National Night event to a Thursday and will make this event even bigger and better. In November, we will have our Night of Remembrance. And in December, the city will host the first annual Winterfest. These kinds of events help to develop the community and improve the quality of life for our residents.

Park improvements will continue. We will add a swing set to Stonehill Park, including a Mommy and Me swing. We will also be adding swings to the area by the playground beside Thornhill Pool. The concession stands at the ballfields will be improved. Bathrooms will be added at the soccer fields at the northwest corner of the Sherwood Sports Complex.



Mommy and me swings

Walking connections will be added to Storer Park. A walking trail will be added to Indianhead Park. The Henson pavilion will be moved to the pickleball courts to give people a place to rest in the shade. This will also allow a reroute of the trail to make the street connection safer. Lake Cherrywood will see significant changes with the current basketball court demolished and replaced with a full-size, all-inclusive court. Seating will be available to watch games, and a bathroom facility will be built. Sidewalks will be added,

parking will be improved, and lighting will be added. This park is long overdue for some TLC.

Bike/ped moves forward in 2024. Construction on the Powerline Trail is supposed to start in 2024. It is fully designed, engineered and is in the right-of-way acquisition stage. This will be the city's first bike/ped trail. As we strive to make Sherwood safer for all, Sherwood will also see more sidewalk connections built on Kiehl Avenue.



Construction on the new Public Works Police/Fire Training Facilities will begin. This new complex, once completed, will enhance public safety in so many ways, and this facility is long overdue. It is currently in the design phase.

Improvements to the animal shelter. Several improvements are scheduled for the animal shelter through a combination of grant monies, donations, and general fund monies. We will add a sensory visitation room so that people with various disabilities will have a calm place to visit with an adoptable companion. Improvements will be made to the indoor and outdoor kennels and backyard play area. With everything we do, we are keeping in mind the future expansion after Public Works moves into their new facility.

On the economic development front, we have been told repeatedly by groups like Kelly Commercial and the Moses Tucker Group that we are on the right track for economic growth by focusing on improving the quality of life/place in Sherwood. Despite a sluggish market with high building costs and high-interest rates, calls have picked up significantly with more businesses, including grocery stores, looking more seriously at Sherwood.

One of the things that I am most proud of is that the mindset of our community is changing. People are excited about the future of Sherwood, and there is a renewed sense of hope and energy. We have so much to be proud of, and this is just the beginning!

Kindest regards,

Mary Jo Hays-Townell

SHERWOOD
ANIMAL
SHELTER
501-834-2287



MOBILE MICROCHIP EVENT

March 9th

12:00 to 2:00 pm

FL Davis Ace Hardware
2913 E Kiehl Ave.



Coffee with the Mayor

**Saturday
March 2
9 a.m.**

**Bill Harmon
Rec Center
51 Shelby Road**



CITY COUNCIL PROFILE

GETTING TO KNOW COUNCIL MEMBER:

SHELBY THOMAS

Ward 4, Position 2



How long have you served on the Sherwood City Council?

I'm starting my second year.

What non-governmental experience do you have that you feel helps you serve your constituents better?

My experience as a board member and vice-chairman at First Assembly of God and my current role as Vice-President on the Pulaski County Special School District Board of Directors demonstrate my commitment to community and service.

My involvement as a youth pastor at First NLR also highlights my dedication to spiritual leadership and mentoring young people. Additionally, my extensive experience in sales, particularly in new equipment sales at Clifford Power Systems, demonstrates my expertise in building relationships with people and understanding their needs.

This set of skills helps me serve the constituents of not only Ward 2 but all of Sherwood better.

What is your vision for the future of the city?

I believe by focusing on some key areas in Sherwood, we can help create a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking community that prioritizes safety and well-being for all of our residents. These areas include:

- Emphasize Community Engagement
- Foster Diversity and Inclusion
- Invest in Youth Development
- Plan for Sustainable Growth
- Prioritize Public Safety
- Encourage Civic Participation
- Encourage Economic Development

What do you believe are the most significant issues facing the city, and how are you helping to address them?

Our city is deeply divided. We need to come to the place where we can recognize that different perspectives can help make us better. Healthy discussions will lead to creating a place where we can work towards finding the best solutions for the challenges we face as a community. Open dialogue and a willingness to listen to others are essential in bridging the divide and moving us forward in harmony.

What do you believe is the role of the City Council in our community?

Our primary role is to enact ordinances and resolutions concerning city affairs that are consistent with state law in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Being available to serve and listen to citizens who have elected us is essential to promoting transparency and collaboration with the community. This approach not only demonstrates a commitment to serving the community's best interests but also helps build trust and engagement among residents.

What is your approach to handling controversial and complicated issues?

Listen to other people's points of view, not only fight for my opinion to be heard.

Please name three qualities a City Council member should have.

Servant
Honest
Dependable

Tell us what your biggest accomplishment is since you've been on Sherwood's City Council.

Being there for residents during the clean up after the tornado devastated our community. Following a natural disaster like that tornado, the immediate focus was on ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents. I enjoyed getting out and helping clean up and just being available for a hug and to assure residents that things would be okay.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

RICHARD MCNEIL

Sergeant



How long have you been with the city? What positions have you held?

I have been here since the fall of 2017. I started on patrol; then, I was transferred to the C.O.P.P.S. division. In August 2020, I became the Sherwood Police P.I.O. I served in that capacity until February 2023, when I got promoted to Sgt., which has placed me back in the patrol division.

What does your job entail?

My job as a Sgt. entails officer district assignments at the beginning of the shift, passing on any relevant

information. The review of officer reports – both accident and non-accident related. I am responsible for ensuring the officers are completing the duties of a police officer in a way that reflects positively on the department.

What hashtags describe your personality best?

#focused#firm#fair#consistent

What are the toughest challenges you've had at work?

At this moment, the toughest challenge is trying to absorb as much information as possible in the shortest amount of time. Having been away from the Patrol division for close to 4 years, many changes have occurred on both the local and state levels regarding new and amended laws.

When you are at work, how do you motivate yourself?

What motivates me at work is the desire to succeed and to be an instrument in molding those under my charge.

In terms of successes, which accomplishments are you most proud of?

If I had to come up with an accomplishment, I would say my character and how my peers view me. That character was developed over years of hard work, and I consider that to be a success.

What is your happy place in Sherwood?

My happy place in Sherwood is Home. I love where I live. I am genuinely close enough and far away at the same time.



**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**

GET CONNECTED FOR OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES



City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government



cityofsherwood_AR.gov



CityofSherwoodArkansas

HONORING Clayton Chapel MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

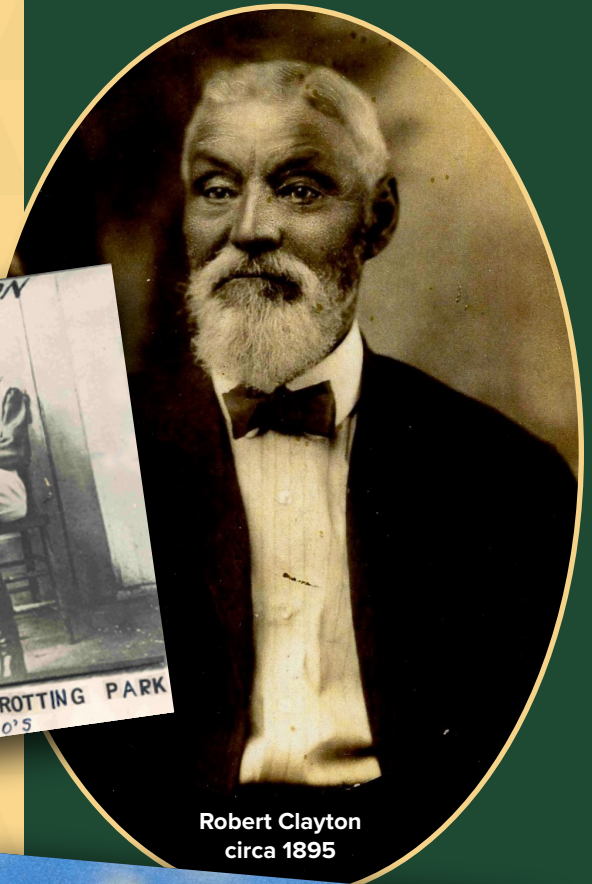
In honor of Black History Month, the City of Sherwood would like to celebrate Clayton Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. The church was founded in 1895, making the church nearly 129 years old. Outreach programs like Cottage Prayer Ministry, Radio Ministry, a Feed the Hungry program, Family Enhancement, and Evangelic Explosion continue to serve the people of Sherwood. The church has also called several members into the ministry to serve as pastors at other churches.

Some of you might remember the old white house that once stood behind the First Christian Church on Kiehl Avenue. That two-story building was built between 1890 and 1906 by an African American carpenter and farmer by the name of Robert Clayton. His family used the property as a personal home. His son, Alonzo "Lonnie" Clayton, the youngest jockey to win the Kentucky Derby, also lived in the dwelling towards the end of his racing career.

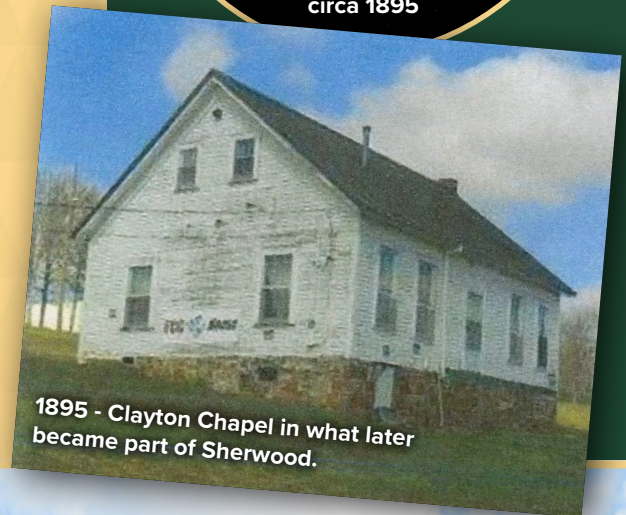
Mr. Clayton helped build the first permanent structure for Clayton Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in 1898; thus, the church was named in his honor. Although the building has changed, today, the church still resides at 127 Manson Rd in Sherwood and is a true treasure in the history of our community. The congregation is led by Reverend Pernel Maxwell, Sr, and they meet for Sunday School at 9:30 am, Worship at 11:00 am, and on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Thank you, Clayton Chapel, for standing the test of time and serving our community so well. To learn more about this exciting piece of Sherwood history, visit the Sherwood History and Heritage Museum located at 510 Sherwood Avenue. Special thanks to David Fox for sharing his research with the Sherwood History and Heritage Museum.



Lonnie Clayton
(c.1893)



Robert Clayton
circa 1895



1895 - Clayton Chapel in what later
became part of Sherwood.



Clayton Chapel Missionary Baptist church today.

DAWN DARTER'S INDUCTION INTO THE SOUTH CENTRAL PGA HALL OF FAME

On Sunday, March 3, at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Tulsa, Dawn Darter, golf professional at The Greens at North Hills, will be honored with induction into the South Central PGA Hall of Fame. This significant event recognizes her exceptional skill on the course and pays tribute to her profound impact on the South Central golfing community.

The South Central PGA spans the entire states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and a portion of Kansas. Within this region, each South Central Section PGA professional serves as an expert, excelling not only as a player and teacher but also as an adept business manager, community leader, and superior merchandiser dedicated to enhancing local golf services.

Dawn's involvement at The Greens at North Hills is comprehensive, with a particular passion for the junior golf programming rooted in her own formative experiences on the course. Reflecting on her dedication, Dawn states, "I'm passionate about junior golf because I had such a great opportunity growing up on this golf course. I just want every kid to have a chance at what I have."

A PGA Professional since 1984, Dawn's journey includes various roles at clubs in Nevada and Arkansas and three U.S. Women's Opens over three different decades. Beyond her skill with clubs, Darter is celebrated for her role as a mentor and inspiration to aspiring golfers. As a dedicated ambassador for the sport, she has tirelessly created opportunities for golf enthusiasts across the region, earning accolades such as her chapter's Player Development Award three times, her chapter's Youth Player Development Award eight times, and the South Central PGA Youth Player Development Award in 2018. She was also selected for the South Central PGA's highest honor, the 2019 Golf Professional of the Year, coming on the heels of her 2018 induction into the Arkansas Golf Hall of Fame.

The upcoming induction ceremony promises to be a poignant reflection on Dawn's illustrious career, underscoring her role as a custodian of the game, preserving its traditions while inspiring future generations to embrace the world of golf. "On behalf of myself and all Sherwood residents, I commend Dawn Darter for her outstanding contributions to the South Central golfing community. Her dedication to junior golf and tireless efforts as a mentor showcase the true spirit of the sport.



Additionally, Dawn Darter and all the dedicated golf course staff at The Greens at North Hills reported 2023 to be a record year, with 17,483 rounds of golf played, up from 16,052 rounds in 2022. Revenue increased by over \$18,000. Well done!" – Mayor Heye Townsell.

Congratulations on this well-deserved induction into the South Central PGA Hall of Fame!

PROMOTING SMALL BUSINESS

DREAM

Dedicating Resources to Excel All Minds

For February's focus on small business, DREAM, an impactful non-profit organization based in Sherwood, AR, takes center stage. For 18 years, DREAM has helped shape the educational landscape for children aged six weeks to 12 years in Sherwood. Here's a little more about their mission, milestones, and future plans.

Overview:

DREAM, an acronym for "Dedicating Resources to Excel All Minds," remains steadfast in its commitment to providing readiness and academic skills to the community's young learners. The organization's programs aim to forge a robust foundation, ensuring children are well-prepared for academic and social triumphs in their elementary years.

Inception and Inspiration:

Established in 2007, DREAM came into being under the visionary leadership of Jody Abernathy, the Executive Director. Recognizing the need for an alternative educational experience, Abernathy sought to create a space that transcended conventional schools and daycare centers, offering a comprehensive, affordable, and year-round approach to learning.



Unique Features:

The organization distinguishes itself through a range of programs, including the ABC (Arkansas Better Chance) Program, delivering free Pre-K services, and a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Program that provides a full day of academic and enrichment opportunities at an affordable rate. Notably, Abernathy, the Director/Owner, brings grant writing expertise to the table, enhancing services through successful grant applications. DREAM has a longtime partnership with a local therapy provider, PLAYRX, who provides speech, occupational, and physical therapy to qualifying children onsite in their centers. In an effort to attract talented and dedicated team members, DREAM offers a complete benefits package including dental, vision, 401K, grants to further education, incentives for degrees, and professional training, and they are currently in the process of initiating group health insurance.

Recent Developments and Achievements:

Recent strides showcase DREAM's commitment to growth. The acquisition of the old ABC Financial Buildings signifies an expansion in childcare services, addressing critical needs in Sherwood. Awards, such as Sherwood's Business of the Year in 2022 and a Level 5 Quality Rating from the Arkansas Department of Education in September 2023, underscore DREAM's dedication and excellence.

Community Involvement:

DREAM is dedicated to supporting economically disadvantaged children in efforts to build more successful families throughout our community. They accept childcare assistance vouchers that pay tuition for income-eligible families. In addition, the organization plays a vital role in community welfare, contributing to annual food drives for the homeless through partnerships with local organizations like Devin on the 25th, another amazing Sherwood-based organization that promotes acts of kindness and has two Blessing Boxes that house non-perishable items made accessible to the public.

Challenges and Resilience:

As with any small business, DREAM encountered challenges, notably in securing adequate space for their vision. Renovations and funding hurdles persist, but the team remains resilient and optimistic, propelled by their unwavering commitment to community service.

Future Plans:

DREAM is gearing up for another expansion project in 2024. The new DREAM Early Childhood & Afterschool Academy located at 8324 Hwy 107 in Sherwood is two buildings with 20,000 square feet of space. The facility promises state-of-the-art offerings that will enrich experiences for up to 300 children. Children ages 3-12 will receive the ultimate childcare experience with innovative classrooms, a library, a music lab, a movie theatre, two play areas, a therapy play area, and tornado-safe spaces throughout the facility. Simultaneously, the DREAM Infant & Toddler Development Center, located at 11 Shelby Rd in Sherwood, will cater to younger children ages six weeks to 2 ½ years. This program allows children to take a daily adventure full of opportunities that build their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, ensuring a holistic approach to early childhood development.

In conclusion, DREAM's journey unfolds as a testament to its dedication to education, community welfare, and continuous improvement. As the organization sets sail toward future endeavors, it stands as a beacon of inspiration in Sherwood, Arkansas.



For more information, interested individuals can visit dreamarkansas.org or explore their Facebook page: DREAM Arkansas.

Address:

11 Shelby Rd & 8324 Hwy 107 Sherwood, AR 72120

Phone: **501-920-6394** Jody Abernathy, Executive Director

Website: **dreamarkansas.org**

Facebook: **DREAM Arkansas**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 5

Sherwood Swim Academy; Level 3 Begins
Bill Harmon Recreation Center Pool
hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net
501-835-6893

Monday, February 5

Senior Luncheon
Jack Evans Senior Center
11:30 am
RSVP by Feb. 2; 501-834-5770

Tuesday, February 13

Planning Commission Meeting
City Council Chambers
6:00 pm

Friday, February 16

Junior Academy Begins
Sherwood Tennis Center
501-835-9793

Monday, February 19

Presidents' Day
City Offices Closed
Monday's garbage will be picked Tuesday

Friday, February 23

Adult Doubles & Singles Begin
Sherwood Tennis Center
501-835-9793

Friday, February 23

Stories & Snacks
Duran Youth Center
6 – 8 pm
RSVP required
501-835-9599

Monday, February 26

City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers
6:00 pm

Tuesday, February 27

Leagues Begin
Sherwood Tennis Center
501-835-9793

Wednesday, February 28

Beginner Adult Groups and Clinics Begin
Sherwood Tennis Center
501-835-9793

Saturday, March 2

Coffee with the Mayor
Bill Harmon Recreation Center
51 Shelby Road
9 – 10 am

Saturday, March 9

Sherwood Animal Shelter Mobile Microchip Event
FL Davis Ace Hardware, 2913 E Kiehl Ave.
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
\$5 dollars per cat or dog
501-834-2287

Sunday, March 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins
"Spring Forward!"

Friday, March 15

St Patty's Bingo Night
Duran Youth Center
6:00 pm doors open; 6:30 games begin
Members Free OR \$2.00 Fee (Cash or Check)
RSVP required: 501-835-9599

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 18

Summer Day Camp Registration Begins
Bill Harmon Rec Center
501-835-6893

Monday, March 18-Wednesday, March 20

Lifeguard Training
Jacksonville Community Center
hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net
501-835-6893

Monday, March 18

Spring Break Camps Begin
Sherwood Tennis Center
501-835-9793



For more information on city events, please visit our Facebook page:
City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government | www.facebook.com/cityofsherwoodarkansas/

Saturday, March 23

Sensory Easter Egg Hunt
Sherwood Tennis Center
420 Dee Jay Hudson Drive
10 – 11 am
RSVP: 501-835-9793 or tbell@cityofsherwood.net

Saturday, March 30

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
City Hall Park
2199 East Kiehl
2 pm

FEBRUARY

PET OF THE MONTH

INTRODUCING

McFly

He's a pretty fly guy with the prettiest eyes and beautiful red fur.

- Handsome lab mix
- Eager to please
- Very intelligent
- Well behaved
- Loves to explore



- Plays well with friends
- Knows how to sit
- Walks well on a leash
- Will be the ultimate best friend



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SHERWOOD ANIMAL SHELTER AT 501-834-2287.