

# MAY SHERWOOD 2024

# TALK OF THE TOWN

## *From the* **MAYOR'S DESK**

### **Inclusive Playground Coming to Sherwood**

I am thrilled to announce that the funding for the improvements to the City Hall playground adjacent to the Thornhill Pool has been approved by the A&P Commission!

This is a significant step forward for our community as we work to make our city more inclusive and accessible to all residents. This is an area that needs more playgrounds. Currently, the area has ample parking, bathrooms that are ADA-compliant, and other amenities that families can enjoy. The new playground will be an all-inclusive space, featuring a pour-play base that not only makes it maintenance-free but also much easier for individuals in wheelchairs to navigate. It's designed to cater to children of all ages and abilities, ensuring that everyone can play together and enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation.

I extend a huge thank you to the A&P Commission for their generous funding of this project. Their support is invaluable in making Sherwood a better place for everyone to live, work, and play. This inclusive playground, situated in the heart of our city, will provide a range of play elements, including swinging, sliding, climbing, brachiating, spinning, and balancing. Let me walk you through some of the key features:

- **Swing Set:** Featuring an expression swing for toddlers and their caregivers to swing face-to-face, fostering essential emotional bonding during play. Additionally, a 5-12 Zero-G swing allows children requiring additional support to swing alongside their friends.

### What's Inside...

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- **Rock N' Raft:** An inclusive motion activity accommodating up to six passengers, including individuals in mobility devices.
- **Roller Slide:** Providing distinctive developmental and play benefits such as enhanced balance and coordination, particularly beneficial for children with sensory processing issues.
- **Sensory Cove Climber:** Serving as both a climbing structure and a quiet space for relaxation and sensory relief.
- **Therapeutic Rings:** Overhead elements encouraging brachiating and accessible to those in mobility devices.
- **Inclusive Whirl:** A spinning component with ground-level, zero-entry design, featuring seating and handrails for users of all abilities.



- Spring Rider Components: Providing opportunities for balancing and featuring extra-wide decks for ease of access.

Also, this playground is designed to be a National Demonstration Site (NDS) for Inclusion, exemplifying evidence-based best practices in design and implementation. NDS sites support health-related initiatives and provide meaningful ways for community stakeholders to gather data about the site's impact on the community.

We anticipate breaking ground on this exciting new project in about eight weeks and estimate completion at the end of October. We will continue to update the community on the progress on our Facebook page @ City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government

Let's continue working together to make Sherwood a welcoming and inclusive community.

Sincerely,

*Mary Jo Hey-Townell*



**THIRD THURSDAYS  
IN THE PARK**  
A FREE CONCERT SERIES

May 16  
6 - 8 pm  
80's night with  
Cliff & Susan

SHERWOOD CITY HALL PARK  
2199 E. KIEHL AVE

FOOD TRUCK VENDORS PLEASE EMAIL [KMALLOY@CITYOF SHERWOOD.NET](mailto:KMALLOY@CITYOF SHERWOOD.NET)

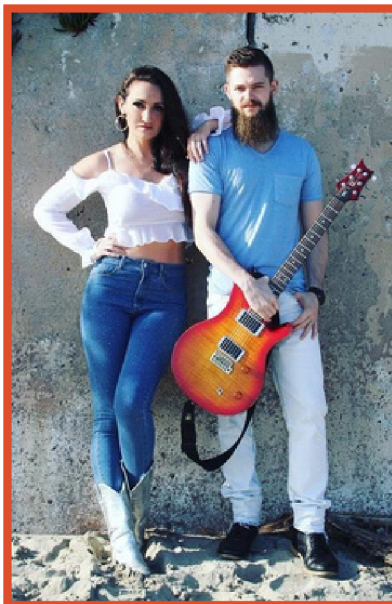
## MEET OUR MAY MUSICIANS

*Cliff & Susan*

Meet Cliff and Susan – Performing May 16 at City Hall Park

Cliff and Susan, a married music duo from Little Rock, entertain global audiences with their piano, fiddle, and guitar performances, showcasing over 2,000 songs across diverse genres. Cliff, a versatile musician and producer, boasts a career spanning decades, while Susan, a singing piano entertainer, left her engineering job to pursue her passion for music internationally.

They met in 2016, married in 2017, and have since toured seven countries, performing over 200 shows annually.



Their debut single, "Drivin' Me Crazy," was released in April 2020, followed by their signature song, "Fiddle & Keys," which earned them a spot on the Huckabee Show in February 2023. Their debut album, "Fiddle & Keys," released in October 2023, charted on the Top 40 Apple Country Albums Chart. They've shared stages with notable acts like ZZ Top and Niko Moon.

Based in Little Rock with their three dogs, Booker, Charlie, and Gibby, Cliff and Susan will perform at Sherwood's City Hall Park on May 16 from 6 – 8 pm. Learn more on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cliffandsusan](https://www.facebook.com/cliffandsusan)



## Celebrating the Retirement of Ginann Swindle:

*A Legacy of Dedication  
and Compassion*



After nearly three decades of dedicated service to the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS), Sherwood librarian Ginann Swindle is preparing to embark on a well-deserved retirement journey in May of this year. Her tenure of over 29 years left an indelible mark on CALS and our community, where she has shaped the hearts and minds of countless individuals, young and old alike.



Ginann began on her journey with CALS in 1994, transitioning from teaching Kindergarten and First Grade at Oakbrooke Elementary to becoming the Children's Programmer for the Sanders Branch. It wasn't long before she became the Branch Manager. In her capacity, she oversaw the daily operations, spearheaded community outreach efforts, facilitated training sessions, and navigated the intricacies of problem-solving and decision-making, while fostering a safe and nurturing environment for staff and patrons.

Known for her infectious optimism, impeccable organization, boundless energy, deep sense of gratitude, and humility, Ginann embodies dedication and passion for her craft and community. She has always tackled the toughest challenges head-on, from rallying support for a new library in Sherwood to weathering the storms of COVID-19 and a devastating tornado last March. During these tough times, Ginann introduced new ideas such as

curbside service and grab-and-go programs to ensure continued access to library resources.

Among her many accomplishments, Ginann's work with children at the library stands out as her true calling. Whether through the Summer Reading Program, outreach events, or everyday interactions, Ginann has fostered a love of reading and learning, making an unforgettable impact on countless young minds. Her instrumental role in securing support for a new modern library is proof of her enduring legacy of service and advocacy. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Ginann was honored as the "Sherwood Woman of the Year" in 2020, a testament to her commitment to enriching the lives of others. Other milestones Ginann is most proud of are being a wife, mother, and Gigi to Grant, Brady and Lucas.

As Ginann says goodbye to her role, she reflects fondly on her happiest memories in Sherwood. Ginann says she has two happy places in Sherwood, "First is the library; it will always be my home away from home. I also love the City Hall walking trail and lights, especially at night. I love the Sherwood community, and I am grateful to be a part of it."

While she looks forward to embracing new adventures in retirement, Ginann's legacy of service and dedication will continue to inspire and uplift the Sherwood community for generations to come.



Join us in celebrating Ginann's remarkable career. A drop-in retirement celebration will be held May 15 from 11 am – 2 pm at Amy Sanders Branch at 10200 Johnson Drive. As she embarks on her well-deserved retirement, let us express our deepest gratitude for her unwavering dedication and wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Kindly RSVP to [cmvanpelt@cals.org](mailto:cmvanpelt@cals.org)

# Sherwood Aquatics Department Gears Up for Summer Fun

As the temperatures rise and the sun shines brighter, the Sherwood Aquatics Department is gearing up for an exciting summer filled with poolside relaxation, community events, and opportunities for skill-building.

## **May 3: Summer Pool Passes Available**

Get ready to make a splash! Summer pool passes will be available starting May 3 at the Bill Harmon Rec Center. For just \$25 per person, dive into a season of fun and enjoyment. Please note that payments are accepted in cash or check only.

## **May 10-12 & June 5-7: Lifeguard Training**

Safety first! If you're interested in becoming a lifeguard, don't miss our lifeguard training sessions at the Jacksonville Community Center. Whether you're new to lifeguarding or need to renew your certification, these courses will equip you with the skills and knowledge necessary to ensure the safety of swimmers. For more information or to register, contact [hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net](mailto:hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net) or call 501-835-6893.

## **May 25: Outdoor Pools Open & Food Drive - Free Entry with Donation**

Join us on May 25 for a special event at the pool! Bring a non-perishable food item to donate and receive free entry for the day. It's a great way to support the community while enjoying some fun in the sun.



## **June 14: Educator Appreciation Day**

We're celebrating educators on June 14! Educators with a valid school ID, including past and present AmeriCorps and Peace Corps members, will receive free entry to the pool. It's our way of saying thank you for your dedication to shaping young minds.

## **July 19: First Responders and Military Appreciation Day**

Join us on July 19 as we show our appreciation for first responders and active military personnel! Bring your valid IDs and receive free entry to the pool. Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

## **August 9: School Supplies Drive - Free Entry with Donation**

Help our community gear up for the new school year with our School Supplies Drive on August 9! Bring a back-to-school item to donate, such as school supplies or backpacks, and receive free entry for the day. It's a great way to support students in need while enjoying some end-of-summer fun.



## **August 17: Third Thursdays in the Park Dive-in Movie Night**

Save the date for an unforgettable sunset movie at the pool! Join us on August 17 for our Dive-in Movie Night at the Thornhill Pool. Bring your inflatable floats and your favorite snacks as we screen a family-friendly movie. It's the perfect way to end the summer with a splash!

## **Private Pool Parties Available**

Looking for the perfect venue for your next celebration? Our pools are available for private parties! Whether you're celebrating a birthday or graduation or just want to gather with friends and family, our aquatics facilities provide the ideal setting. Contact us for more information on booking your private pool party. See the advertisement on the next page for more details.

With so many exciting events and activities planned, there's no better place to be this summer than in Sherwood. Whether you're lounging by the pool, enjoying a concert in the park, or learning valuable lifeguarding skills, there's something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to making memories with you this summer!



# POOL PARTY

## RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

BOOKINGS START MAY 31

**THORNHILL RENTAL**  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY  
7:00-9:00P

**FAIRWAY RENTAL**  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY  
6:00-8:00P

**SPLASHPAD RENTAL**  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY  
5:00-7:00P

AQUATICS COORDINATOR: HANNAH  
501-835-6893  
HCAHOOON@CITYOFSHERWOOD.NET

**SHERWOOD**  
PARKS AND RECREATION



# GET YOUR SUMMER POOL PASS!

**\$25**  
CASH/CHECK ONLY

**AVAILABLE AT THE BILL HARMON REC CENTER**

**STARTING MAY 3**

**FAIRWAY POOL**  
800 FAIRWAY AVENUE

**THORNHILL POOL**  
2201 THORNHILL DRIVE




# CONNECT

The City of Sherwood Talk of the Town newsletter is available digitally. Sign up for e-delivery today!

Visit <https://www.cityofsherwood.net/list.aspx> or scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera. Scroll down to "NEWS FLASH" and "PUBLIC INFORMATION." Need help signing up? Please call 501-835-5319 for assistance. Print copies also available at City Hall, Jack Evans Senior Center, Bill Harmon Recreation Center and the Sanders Library.

**SCAN HERE**

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# FAITH BALDWIN

ANIMAL SERVICE ASSISTANT



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

This question is always a difficult one for me to answer. I worked part time for 8 years and I have been full time for 18 years, but I also volunteered for 2 years before I was hired to work part time. I have been in this same position (the Animal Service Assistant) the whole time that I have worked full time.

### 2. What does your job entail?

A LOT! 😊 I am responsible for answering the phones, handling customers that come into the building. Animal intake, adoptions, animal reclaims, data processing, and filing paperwork to name a few.

### 3. What hashtags describe your personality best?

#Caring, #Compassionate, #Hard worker,  
#Dependable, & the most important one #Animal  
Lover

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

Trying to not get attached to the animals.

### 5. What are your secret talents no one knows about?

Able to work with timid / aggressive animals.

### 6. When you are at work, how do you motivate yourself?

As silly as this may sound, I motivate myself by thinking about the animals.

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

Graduating from high school and college, getting married, being able to be an employee at the animal shelter for as long as I have.

### 8. What is your happy place in Sherwood?

My church and my mom's house.

**PET  
OF THE  
MONTH**



*Hashbrown*

- 4-year-old Pit Bull Terrier
- Patiently waiting since October 14, 2022
- Charming looks and gentle demeanor
- Affectionate towards people
- Ready for adventures with a loving family
- Read a letter from Hashbrown on the next page

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



# A Letter from HASHBROWN



Dear Sherwood Friends,

My name is Hashbrown, and I'm reaching out to you with the hope of finding my forever home. Despite my charming looks and gentle demeanor, I've been patiently waiting for my forever home since October 14, 2022. That's one and a half human years and ten and a half dog years!

You see, I'm not your average pup; I'm a 4-year-old Pit Bull Terrier with a heart full of love and a longing for adventure. My time at the shelter has taught me patience and resilience, but what I truly crave is a loving family to call my own.

I may not have had the easiest journey, living in a community with Breed Specific Legislation (you see, Sherwood doesn't allow Pit Bulls), but that hasn't dampened my spirits. I'm ready to embark on new adventures with a family who sees beyond stereotypes and values me for the loving companion I am.

From my thick thighs to my captivating eyes, I've been told I'm quite the catch. Whether we're exploring the great outdoors or enjoying quiet evenings at home, I promise to be by my family's side, ready for whatever adventures come our way.



I must admit I'm not a fan of small animals (like cats), but when it comes to people, my heart knows no bounds. I'm incredibly patient, especially when treats are involved, and I thrive on the love and companionship of my human counterparts.

So, if you know someone outside of Sherwood who is searching for a furry friend as remarkable as me, please ask them to consider opening their heart and home to me. I'm ready to give my family love, loyalty, and endless tail wags. Unfortunately, I can't be adopted within the Sherwood city limits due to the BSL. I have met a lot of sweet families from Sherwood who wanted me, but they couldn't take me home.

If you're interested in meeting me in person or learning more about me, the shelter is open for visits, and you can come walk me anytime. Please share my story and help me make my dream of finding a forever family a reality.

With love and anticipation,

**HASHBROWN**



**Contact the Sherwood Shelter  
501-834-2287**

**Business Hours  
Monday- Friday: 10a to 7p**

**Pet Viewing Hours  
Monday - Friday: 12p to 7p  
Saturday: 12p to 4p**



## ROCK REGION METRO MICROTRANSIT COMING TO SHERWOOD



The City of Sherwood is excited to announce the launch of its first within-city public transit service this summer through an agreement with Rock Region METRO. This is a newer type of service to the public transit industry called microtransit, or on demand, service.

### What Is Microtransit Service?

Microtransit service is a ride-hailing, ride-sharing transportation service that uses smaller, multi-passenger vehicles (such as vans) to transport passengers from any origin point to the destination point within the zone. The service is similar but different from private ride-sharing transportation services such as Uber Pool by Uber, which offers riders a cheaper trip fare by combining trips with fellow commuters heading in the same general direction; riders agree to have a more deviated path and more time added to their trip to accommodate such deviations in exchange for the lower fare. METRO microtransit service will provide shared-ride trips for a low fare of \$2 per person per trip. Unlike private transportation networks, though, METRO microtransit service is limited by geography (trips will only occur within the zone, which is roughly similar to the Sherwood city limits) and time frame (service will operate Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.). Riders can use the service for any reason – trips to the grocery store, work, health appointments, coffee meetups, and more. Any member of the public, including residents and visitors, is eligible to ride. The METRO Connect Sherwood microtransit service is a handicapped accessible service.

### What About the Former Express Bus Route to Little Rock and North Little Rock?

Many Sherwood residents will remember the former Route 36 Jacksonville/Sherwood Express that provided public transit service for a few trips to downtown Little Rock in the mornings and a few

return trips in the evenings. As part of the R.I.D.E. 2020 – or Route Innovation, Development and Evaluation 2020 comprehensive operational analysis project that kicked off in Fall 2019, Route 36 was slated to be removed due to low ridership and high operational costs. At some point, the public transit advocates in Central Arkansas hope a more frequent, viable public transit commuter connection can be made among Pulaski County's suburban cities to the downtown urban core. This within-city service is a stepping stone to make the case for the need for such connections and find sustainable ways to fund them.



### Sounds Great! How Can I Get More Information About the Launch, Zone Map and More Details?

After awaiting vehicle delivery, the city and METRO teams are working hard to prepare for a service launch, which is dependent on hiring additional drivers. If you're interested in becoming a driver, visit the Careers page at [rrmetro.org](http://rrmetro.org). More information on public information meetings, will be shared on our Facebook page: City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government and website [www.cityofsherwood.net](http://www.cityofsherwood.net).

You may also sign up for the METRO e-newsletter at the bottom of their website, [rrmetro.org](http://rrmetro.org), and follow @rrmetro on Facebook. In the meantime, feel free to download the METRO Connect smartphone app; just know that the app will not book ride requests for the Sherwood area until the launch date.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



### GET CONNECTED FOR OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES



On Facebook @City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government



On Instagram @cityofsherwood\_AR\_gov



On YouTube @CityofSherwoodArkansas





PROMOTING SMALL BUSINESS

# MERCADO EL VALLE

A TASTE OF MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA IN SHERWOOD

Since its beginning, Mercado El Valle has become an important part of the Sherwood community, offering residents a taste of Mexico and Central America right in their own backyards.

Mercado El Valle is more than just a grocery store. It offers an array of goods and products sourced directly from Mexico and Central America. Their customers can indulge in the region's flavors without ever leaving Sherwood. The butcher shop offers marinated cuts of meat, seafood, and poultry. Visitors rave about the marinated steak, bursting with flavor and tenderness. Meanwhile, their bakery has an irresistible selection of authentic Mexican sweet bread, perfect for pairing with morning coffee. The in-store restaurant serves up freshly prepared, scratch-made Mexican dishes daily.



For the owners of Mercado El Valle, this business is more than just a livelihood; it's a labor of love. The family relocated to Sherwood from Mexico in 1995, and here they found a welcoming community that they now proudly serve. They opened Mercado El Valle as a way to give back and share a piece of their culture with others.

What makes this place unique is the authenticity of its products and the passion behind them. They are deeply rooted in the Sherwood community, actively participating in local events and initiatives. Whether



it's hosting car washes for youth groups in their parking lot or supporting other community events, the owners are dedicated to making a positive impact beyond their storefront.

Like any small business, Mercado El Valle has encountered its fair share of challenges. In recent times, staffing shortages have presented hurdles, but they continue to serve their community with the same level of excellence and hospitality as always.

As Mercado El Valle continues to evolve and grow, one thing remains constant—their commitment to providing Sherwood with a taste of Mexico and Central America served with a side of community spirit.



**Business Name:** Mercado El Valle

**Address:** 7725 Warden Road

**Phone #:** 501-772-5760

**Website** [mercadoelvalle.com](http://mercadoelvalle.com)

**Facebook:** Mercadoelvalle

# UPCOMING EVENTS:



## **April 29 – May 2**

Group Swim Lessons Ages 4-12  
Bill Harmon Rec Center  
[hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net](mailto:hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net); 501-835-6893

## **May 3**

Summer Pool Passes On Sale  
Bill Harmon Rec Center  
\$25 per person; Cash/Check Only

## **May 6 – May 9**

Group Swim Lessons Ages 4-12  
Bill Harmon Rec Center  
[hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net](mailto:hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net); 501-835-6893

## **May 7**

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast  
6:30 am Breakfast Service Begins;  
7 am Program Begins  
Sherwood Forest  
\$10 tickets available in Mayor's Office  
Call 501-835-4141 for more information

## **May 10**

Prayer at the Poles  
7:45 am  
Police and Courts Building

## **May 10 – 12**

Lifeguard Training  
Jacksonville Community Center  
[hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net](mailto:hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net)  
501-835-6893

## **May 13**

Senior Luncheon  
Jack Evans Senior Center  
11:30 am  
RSVP by May 10; 501-834-5770

## **May 15**

Ginann Swindle's Retirement Celebration  
11 am – 2 pm  
Amy Sanders Library - 10200 Johnson Drive  
RSVP to [cmvanpelt@cals.org](mailto:cmvanpelt@cals.org)

## **May 16**

Third Thursdays in the Park FREE Concert  
Featuring 80's Night with Cliff & Susan  
City Hall Park  
6 pm – 8 pm

## **May 20**

City Council Meeting  
Council Chambers  
6 pm

## **May 25**

Outdoor Pools Open  
Food Drive - Free Pool Entry with Donation

## **May 27**

City Offices Closed for Memorial Day







## A Look Ahead at City Events...

**June 5 – 7:** Lifeguard Training @ Jacksonville Community Center; [hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net](mailto:hcalhoon@cityofsherwood.net)  
501-835-6893

**June 14:** Splash Bash @ Duran Youth Center; Time: TBA

**June 14:** Educator Appreciation Day @ Sherwood Pools; Free entry with valid school ID; including past and present AmeriCorps and Peace Corps members

**June 19:** City Offices Closed for Juneteenth Holiday

**June 14:** Splash Bash @ Duran Youth Center; 6 pm – 8 pm

**June 20:** Third Thursdays in the Park FREE Concert Series featuring Country Night with Midnight South @ City Hall Park; 6 pm – 8 pm

**July 3:** Fireworks and Food Trucks Independence Day Celebration @ The Greens at North Hills

**July 19:** First Responders and Military Appreciation Day @ Sherwood Pools Free entry with valid ID

**2024**  
**OUTDOOR**  
AQUATIC HOURS

**SPLASHPAD**  
1111 W. MARYLAND AVE  
MONDAY - THURSDAY — 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY - SUNDAY — 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**FAIRWAY POOL**  
800 S. FAIRWAY AVENUE  
TUESDAY - SUNDAY — 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

**THORNHILL POOL**  
2201 THORNHILL DRIVE  
TUESDAY - THURSDAY — 12:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY - SUNDAY — 12:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

**OPENING DAY: MAY 25**

**SPLASHPAD..... FREE**  
**UNDER 42".....FREE**  
**AGE 50+ ..... \$2**  
**DAY PASS..... \$5**

Aquatics Coordinator:  
Hannah Calhoon  
501-835-6893

**SHERWOOD**  
PARKS AND RECREATION

**DURAN YOUTH CENTER**

**THIS SUMMER, DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE DYC!**

**\$24 Membership OR \$2 Day Pass**

- Sign-Up Ages 9+
- 8- MUST be Accompanied
- DAILY Recreational Activities & Programs (Mon-Sat. 10am-7pm)
- Arts & Crafts Station
- Indoor/Outdoor Sports & Games
- Must Provide Own Lunch/Snacks
- DYC is NOT a Daycare, BUT a Place for Youth and Families to Come Play & Make MEMORIES

**CALL OR VISIT FOR MORE INFO:**  
(501) 835-9599  
508 Sherwood Ave.