

# AUGUST SHERWOOD 2024

# TALK OF THE TOWN

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

### **Drainage in Sherwood**

Like many other cities, Sherwood faces significant drainage issues. The city's development largely resulted from annexing unincorporated areas, which often lacked proper development standards and engineering. Consequently, floodplain and floodway areas were built upon when they shouldn't have been, and essential drainage infrastructure was typically not integrated into the road systems. Retrofitting these problems is not only cost-prohibitive but often impossible.

Flash floods, caused by rapid and intense bursts of rainfall, can overwhelm drainage systems and lead to dangerous and damaging conditions. Sherwood, with its mix of rugged hills and flat areas sloping into swamps, faces unique flooding challenges that defy a one-size-fits-all solution. In flat floodplain areas, for instance, there is often little the city can do to prevent flooding, especially during a flash flood scenario.

Sometimes, the problem stems from failing infrastructure. For instance, on Brockington Road between Kiehl and Warden Road, collapsed pipes cause water to back up in ditches and overtop the road, an issue that will be resolved with the upcoming road widening project. Similarly, the Laramie project and Sherwood Acres suffer from collapsed pipes, with Sherwood Acres awaiting the outcome of a grant application submitted earlier this year. Although delays can be frustrating, securing substantial funding is a prudent approach. We are actively working to obtain this funding, which should give residents hope for the future.

Flooding can also occur when streams or ditches become obstructed. The city's Public Works department works proactively to clear these areas,

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demonstrating our commitment to managing these issues. However, this is limited to dry periods due to equipment constraints. Clearing storm drains is a year-round challenge, often only identified when residents report problems. Unfortunately, some issues are caused by residents themselves. Residents whose homes back up to ditches and creeks should refrain from discarding branches, leaves, and grass in drainage easements, as this debris ends up downstream, causing problems for others. Tracy Sims, Emergency Management and Environmental Compliance Specialist, monitors this situation closely, issuing warnings first or later, issuing citations if the problem is not rectified. This is in accordance with Ordinance 1770, passed in 2008.

Everyone can contribute to improving Sherwood's drainage situation. Keeping storm drains clear of debris such as grass clippings and leaves is crucial, as this debris clogs the drainage system and reduces the capacity of drainage basins to hold stormwater. In the fall, keep leaves out of the street, curb and gutter and roadside ditches; in the summer, bag grass clippings and ensure lawn care companies do not blow grass into the street, which is also hazardous for motorcycles.

Littering exacerbates drainage problems by contributing to clogged drainage basins. It is crucial not to throw trash in pick-up trucks, as it often flies out and creates a nuisance. The accumulation of debris and trash is evident at City Hall's Pond, where grass,

leaves, and trash contributes to water overtopping Kiehl Avenue and other areas, increasing cleanup costs. Residents can report dumping or other stormwater issues to Tracy Sims at 501-835-4753, ext. 1031, or through the city's website, [www.cityofsherwood.net](http://www.cityofsherwood.net). It's important that we all take pride in our community and do the right thing.

Because of the 2023 tornado (which received a presidential disaster declaration), the city now qualifies for SWIFT grants through FEMA and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. To be eligible for assistance under this program, you must have verifiable flood damage to your home of \$1,000 or more at least twice within ten years. You also must have had continuous flood insurance on the home through the National Flood Insurance program. This program is typically a 75/25 program for the cost of the project. The options usually include buyout/demolition, elevation of property, or floodproofing. Tracy is currently working with several homeowners who qualify and want to participate in this program. Contact Tracy, if you feel you are a candidate and would like more information. The city will assist you with the paperwork and be your necessary sponsor. However, the results are not our decision. A committee meets to review each individual application and decides eligibility on a state and federal level.

Third Thursdays in the Park

# DIVE-IN Movie Night

SAVE THE DATE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE SUNSET MOVIE AT THE THORNHILL POOL! JOIN US ON AUGUST 15TH AS WE SCREEN DISNEY'S "MOANA." BRING YOUR POOL FLOATS AND END THE SUMMER WITH A SPLASH!

AUGUST 15 • MOVIE STARTS AT 8 PM • 2201 THORNHILL DRIVE

A recent statement at the Council Meeting incorrectly suggested that park funding detracts from drainage projects. Park funds come from a separate budget — A&P monies, which by state law cannot be used for drainage problems. Drainage projects are funded through the Street Fund Budget.

With weather patterns becoming more intense, flooding will always present problems. We all need to do our part to ensure that our actions do not make flooding worse. In summary, residents can help mitigate drainage issues in Sherwood by:

- Keeping storm drains clear of debris like grass clippings and leaves.
- Properly disposing of yard waste instead of discarding it in drainage easements.
- Avoiding littering, which clogs drainage basins.
- Reporting dumping or drainage problems to Tracy Sims at 501-835-4753, ext. 1031, or via the city's website, [www.cityofsherwood.net](http://www.cityofsherwood.net).

Let's ALL be part of the solution, not part of the problem! Remember, the city is committed to addressing these drainage issues, and your cooperation and support are crucial in this endeavor.

Kindest regards,

*Mary Jo Hey-Townell*

WALMART SUPERCENTER & SHERWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# STUFF THE TRUNK

AUGUST 3 • 10 AM

SHERWOOD WALMART SUPERCENTER PARKING LOT

Let's work together to help the Sherwood Police Department collect school supplies for Sherwood students this school year!

\*Supplies will be distributed on August 15th from 10 am - 2 pm at the CALS Sanders Branch.

# SUMMARY REPORT

JULY 22, 2024

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING



**PASSED** - A resolution authorizing a grant application to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism for improvements to Duran Park.

**PASSED/AMENDED** - An ordinance amending the existing zoning code with respect to conditional use permits and for other purposes. This was read one time at the June meeting. This revision is meant to improve transparency, process, and accountability to safeguard the public and applicants. By providing more clarity on the process, the changes will help ensure the provisions are more equally applied over time.

**PASSED** - A resolution approving the purchase of certain real property in conjunction with the Jacksonville-Cato Road project.

**PASSED** - A resolution designating and authorizing the mayor to execute certain documents in connection with funding administered by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for wastewater improvements on the interceptor lines in the southern area of Sherwood.

**SECOND READING OF** - An ordinance amending Ordinance 2140 regarding the adoption of new policies and procedures for animal control. The purpose of this ordinance is to update the policies to reflect current best practices in this field. One of the many updates is changing the breed-specific language to that of behavior. A dog would be labeled vicious based on behavior versus breed. There are strong opinions on both sides of this issue, and there has been a lot of public comment. Read one time at the June meeting and will be read again at the August meeting, at which time the vote will take place.

**PASSED/AMENDED** - An ordinance approving a 4% pay increase for certified police officers. The purpose of this is to make Sherwood more competitive in the recruitment of police officers and bring the pay in line with other cities in Pulaski County.

**READ ONE TIME** - An ordinance assessing a 1.0 mill tax on real and personal property as a new millage certifying to the Pulaski County Clerk the new millage and the existing 1.3 millage to be levied by the City of Sherwood on the taxable real and personal property for the tax year 2024. The purpose of this is to increase revenue to offset the rising costs of public safety. The second reading will be at the August meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS - NONE

**New Business** - Sherwood Court document destruction date - August 2 @ 8 AM.

Tom Brooks gave an update on Act4Sherwood.

Adjourned @ 8:46 PM.

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- On Instagram @cityofsherwood\_AR\_gov
- On YouTube @CityofSherwoodArkansas

# FIREWORKS & Food Trucks 2024

*A Spectacular Independence Day Celebration*



This year's **Fireworks & Food Trucks** at The Greens at North Hills was a resounding success. The event, first held in 2023, marked the city's second Independence Day celebration at this picturesque location. The change of venue has proved to have tremendous appeal for visitors and residents. The event has doubled in attendance since last year and has tripled since 2022, when the event was last held at Sherwood Forest.

It was a true community effort that made this event a success. The event began at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3rd, and proved to be even more exciting than anticipated. With an expanded lineup of 11 food trucks, all of which reported excellent sales, the evening was a record-breaking event! The **Sherwood Advertising and Promotions Commission** sponsored a spectacular fireworks display that illuminated the night sky, creating unforgettable memories for attendees.

**Joey Piwetz**, a long-time supporter of the Sherwood community, played a pivotal role in the success of the fireworks show. His dedication to providing the best experience for the community saw him waive his shooting fee, allowing for more firework shells to be launched. This admirable gesture ensured an extraordinary display despite his operating at a loss. **Arkansas Elite Signs** also supported the event, sponsoring the event banner and several event signs.

Bounce houses and face painting were generously sponsored by **DREAM Academy**, and a DJ stationed on the outdoor balcony added to the festive ambiance. Additionally, **Bank OZK** sponsored free water for everyone to help combat the hot and humid conditions.

The Balcony Blast Fundraiser, held upstairs in The Greens events center, was another highlight of the evening. This sold-out event offered a meal of catfish, shrimp, chicken, and sides catered by Adams Catfish, with beer and wine sponsored by **Golden Eagle**.

**Adams Catfish** generously donated several meals to the total, giving more proceeds to the COPPS division of the Sherwood Police Department. In total, \$2,300 was raised for COPPS. These funds will be reinvested into our community through various programs such as COPPS Kids Christmas, Coats for Kids, Stuff the Trunk, Sherwood's Night to Unite, and other programs as needs arise. Additionally, **FAB&T** provided desserts and snacks. **Unique Furniture, Courtyard by Marriott, Saltgrass, and Edward Jones** donated door prizes, and **Sherwood Chamber of Commerce and Eagle Bank & Trust** provided valuable volunteers, all contributing to the success of the Balcony Blast Fundraiser.

Given the overwhelming success of this year's celebration, the city is already planning to grow the event next year. With more food trucks, additional entertainment options, and further improvements to the venue, the Fireworks & Food Trucks event promises to become an even more beloved tradition in our community. The goal is to keep our Independence Day celebration growing and make it the best in Arkansas. This event is not just a celebration but a testament to our community's spirit and unity. Sincerest thanks to all our generous sponsors and volunteers. Stay tuned for more details as we look forward to an even bigger and better celebration next year!

See more photos on the following page.

# JULY 3

## Photo Recap



# TRAGIKLY WHITE

## Live at City Hall Park

As a part of the popular Third Thursdays in the Park Free Concert Series, City Hall Park will host **Tragikly White** on **September 19** from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Known for their mix of dance and rock, Tragikly White promises a night of great music.

For years, Tragikly White has entertained audiences across the United States with their live shows. Their production and energy make them a top touring act. Whether you're a fan of Usher, the Bee Gees, AC/DC, Kanye West, Chuck Berry, or Buck Cherry, Tragikly White's setlist covers a wide range of artists.

This Arkansas-based band, voted the Best Band in Arkansas in 2011 by Rock 103.7 and the Arkansas Free Press, has been a key part of the state's live music scene for over three decades. Their recognition in The Arkansas Times as one of Arkansas' Best Bands underscores their talent and popularity.

Celebrating 30 years in 2023, Tragikly White continues to deliver memorable performances. Don't miss your chance to see them live at **City Hall Park** for the final concert in the Third Thursdays in the Park Free Concert Series – it's going to be a night to remember!



# FREE CONCERT

TRAGIKLY  
WHITE

SEPTEMBER 19  
7 - 9 PM  
CITY HALL PARK  
SHERWOOD



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# JOSH PENLAND

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



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

I have been with the city for about 4 1/2 years. I was hired in late 2019 as the Traffic Sign Technician. I ran the city's sign shop for a little while, and then I was promoted to assistant director of public works.

### 2. What does your job entail?

Public Works consists of the city's sanitation services, streets and drainage, and the city's garage. I manage and help oversee all of these areas and projects and fill in when needed.

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

#happydad #thoughtful #caring #easygoing

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

Staffing; finding and keeping qualified employees. Recovering from storms as quickly and safely as possible.

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

Praying, and getting people to calm down when they're upset about something.

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

An Iced Blondie from 7brew and keeping a "to-do" list.

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

Being a great dad and having an awesome son first and foremost, owning my own home, having a truck that's paid off that still runs, and my Class A CDL license.

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

My home and Senior Tequila.

### *A little something extra...*

Josh Penland and his son have taken a proactive stance against litter by adopting a spot in Sherwood through Keep Sherwood Beautiful. This initiative, aimed at promoting cleanliness and beautification, allows participants to choose an area, such as a park or non-residential street, to maintain. After registering and gaining approval, the Penlands received a sign recognizing their efforts. They are dedicated to keeping their adopted spot clean and beautiful, contributing to the community's mission to Keep America Beautiful by reporting the number of trash bags collected and improvements made. Their commitment exemplifies civic responsibility and community pride.





# Husband and Wife Elected to Lead the State's Largest Veteran's Organization

A historic event has occurred within the American Legion Department in Arkansas: a husband-and-wife duo has been elected to lead the state's largest veteran's organization. Antoine "Tony" Gordon and his wife, Pearl were elected during the 105th American Legion Arkansas State Convention in June. Antoine will serve as the state commander of the American Legion, while Pearl will serve as the state president of the American Legion Auxiliary. This marks only the third time in the organization's history that a husband-wife team has held these positions.

The Gordons describe their roles with a simple yet profound motivation: a heart for serving. "We enjoy doing that, and if anyone has a heart for serving, then this may be an organization for you," says Pearl. Many veteran groups have praised Tony and Pearl for their leadership, finding inspiration in their united approach. "That's what makes it special, to see people tell us how inspiring it is to see us doing this as a family," says Tony.

Combining their experiences, Pearl and Tony have significantly impacted many veterans and their families. Tony shares a touching memory of helping a veteran receive mental health care, a gesture that the veteran credited with saving his life. "I walked him over to the mental health clinic at the hospital and sat down and waited for him to receive treatment. Soon after that, he received compensation for the service connection. That, in turn, turned his life around. Now he's a member of the American Legion," Tony recalls.

The Gordons emphasize the importance of community in their organization. "Our membership is our greatest asset. Without the members, we cannot work the mission," says Pearl. They encourage anyone with a servant's heart who enjoys donating, working with veterans, or engaging with the community to contact the American Legion Auxiliary.

On June 27, the American Legion Post 74 held a reception honoring the Gordons at the Jack Evans Senior Center in Sherwood. The post holds its monthly general post meetings on the first Saturday at 9:00 am at the same location. The Gordons, who live in Jacksonville, celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary in July. They also have two children.

For more information about the American Legion, please contact Commander Antoine "Tony" Gordon  
Phone: 501-508-0238  
Email: [www.arlegionpost74@gmail.com](mailto:www.arlegionpost74@gmail.com)

Source: Dehaghani, D. (2024, June 30). [KATV.com](http://KATV.com). Updated June 30, 2024, at 11:15 PM.

Cones & Car Seats

Saturday, August 24th  
10AM-12:30PM

DQ POLICE

Check safety of previously installed car seats

Learn how to correctly install your child's car seat

Kiddos can check out police cars and will receive a DQ coloring sheet while adults complete checks and training

FREE cone for those who complete car seat safety checks and installation training

Dairy Queen Sherwood  
1550 Country Club Road, Sherwood, AR 72120

# >>>BEHIND THE BADGE:

## Updates from the Sherwood Police Department

### CAPTAIN JAMES HARPER RETIRES

The Sherwood Police Department proudly announces the retirement of **Captain James Harper**, who has served with outstanding dedication since November 1995. Captain Harper's career has been distinguished by his unwavering commitment to the residents of Sherwood.

Starting as a patrol officer, Captain Harper was a steady presence on our streets. As a detective, he played a crucial role in numerous investigations. Rising through the ranks, he served as a sergeant in various divisions, including Support Services, Communications, Patrol, Training, and Narcotics.

As a lieutenant, he led a Patrol Shift and the Criminal Investigations Division, where he supervised five



homicide investigations in one year. Finally, as captain, he guided the Patrol Division with strong leadership, patience, and respect.

Captain Harper was honored with a retirement ceremony on June 28, a fitting tribute and his daily presence and leadership will be greatly missed. It has been an honor to have him serve our community. We wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement. Captain Harper, you truly deserve it!

## PROMOTIONS



**Lieutenant Drew Edwards** has been promoted to Captain, taking on the role of Patrol Division Commander. Drew's dedication, leadership, and exemplary service have significantly contributed to our department's success. We are confident he will continue to excel in his new position, leading the Patrol Division with the same commitment and excellence that has defined his career.



**Sergeant Aaron McDurmont** has been promoted to Lieutenant and will serve as a Patrol Shift Commander. Aaron's commitment and performance have been outstanding throughout his tenure. His leadership has been instrumental in maintaining the high standards of our patrol shifts, and we look forward to his continued success in this new role.



**Officer David Christman** has been promoted to Sergeant, assuming the responsibilities of a Patrol Shift Supervisor. David's hard work and professionalism have been invaluable to our team. We are excited to see him embrace this new challenge and are confident in his ability to lead and inspire his fellow officers.

## PROMOTING SMALL BUSINESS

# 13 PEAKS TRADING COMPANY



13 Peaks Trading Co. specializes in disc golf equipment and accessories, offering various products such as discs, bags, and baskets. This small business prides itself on helping customers find the perfect disc for their experience level and knowledge.

The inspiration for 13 Peaks Trading Co. came from the founders' passion for disc golf and their desire to continue being active after retiring from the Air Force, each having served for 21 years. Covid disrupted their plans, but during a camping trip, they decided to turn their love for the sport into a business. This November will mark their fourth year in operation.

What sets 13 Peaks Trading Co. apart is its impressive selection of disc golf equipment and accessories, the largest in Arkansas. Last year, they expanded their reach by launching an online store and doubling their physical space to serve their growing inventory and customer base better.

Community involvement is not just a part of 13 Peaks Trading Co., it's at the heart of everything they do. They actively support local disc golf tournaments, including the Arkansas Open, which raises funds for



Camp Sunshine, a camp for pediatric burn patients. The business donates discs to schools, charities, deployed military, and churches, and offers discounts and "closest to pin" donations to local disc golf clubs.

Starting a business during a pandemic and without prior experience was undoubtedly challenging. The owners of 13 Peaks Trading Co. learned the essentials of business operations through trial and error, from generating price tags to managing online sales and website maintenance. Despite these hurdles, they never gave up. Their determination and resilience have not only kept the business afloat but have also helped it thrive.

For more information, visit [www.13peakstrading.com](http://www.13peakstrading.com) or find them on Facebook and Instagram.



# UPCOMING EVENTS: *August*

**August 3: Stuff the Trunk** Sherwood Police school supply drive @ Wal-Mart Super Center, 10 am - 2 pm; supplies will be distributed on 8/15 at the Sanders Library, 10 am - 2 pm; see ad page 2

**August 3: Sales Tax Holiday**

**August 3: Amy Sander's Birthday Celebration** @ Sanders Library, 10200 Johnson Dr, 2 - 4 pm

**August 7: Fairway Pool closes** for the season; see ad on this page

**August 9: School Supplies Drive** @ Sherwood Pools, free entry with donation, 501-835-6893

**August 12: Senior Luncheon** @ 2301 Thornhill Drive, 11:30 am, 501-834-5770

**August 15: Third Thursdays in the Park Dive-in Movie Night** @ the Thornhill Pool, movie begins at 8 pm, see ad page 2, Note: no family swim at BHRC on this date

**August 15: School Supply Distribution** @ Amy Sanders Library, 10 am - 2 pm



**August 17: Sherwood Volley Skills Evaluation** @ BHRC, [www.arkansasvolley.com](http://www.arkansasvolley.com)

**August 19: First day of School for PCCSD**

**August 26: City Council Meeting @ Council Chambers**; 2201 E. Kiehl Ave, 6:00 pm

**August 24: Cones & Car Seats w/Sherwood PD** @ Sherwood Dairy Queen, 10 am - 12:30 pm, 501-833-3568, [mfaircloth@sherwoodpolice.org](mailto:mfaircloth@sherwoodpolice.org); see ad pg 8

**August 27: Mayor's Youth Council Kick-off Meeting**, 6-8 pm, 501-658-8684, [rzkassees@cityofsherwood.net](mailto:rzkassees@cityofsherwood.net)



September 2: Labor Day Holiday. City offices closed. Monday's garbage will be picked up on Tuesday.

September 12: Chamber Fish Fry @ Sherwood Forest, 5 pm

September 19: Third Thursday in the Park Free Concert—Tragikly White @ City Hall Park, 7 - 9 pm; see article and ad page 6

October 3: Sherwood Police Department's Night to Unite @ City Hall Park, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

November 7: A Night of Remembrance @ City Hall Park, 6:30 pm

November 8: Veteran's Day Tribute @ Jack Evans Senior Center, Time: TBA

November 11: Veterans Day Holiday, city offices closed

November 28 - 29: Thanksgiving Holiday, city offices closed.