

OCTOBER SHERWOOD 2024

TALK OF THE TOWN

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From the **MAYOR'S DESK**

Safe Haven Baby Box

Since being Mayor, Sherwood has had three babies whose lives tragically ended too soon. These heartbreaking situations weighed heavily on me and led me to sponsor legislation for the expenditure and installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box. This legislation was passed unanimously. The baby box has been installed at the Lantrip Fire Station and will be dedicated later this month.

In the state of Arkansas, a mother can surrender a baby within the first 30 days at a hospital, police station, or fire station with no questions asked. However, fire stations have proven to be a popular place because it is not as visible as a hospital, allowing parents anonymity and a less intimidating location than a police station. In Benton, Mayor Farmer relayed the story of one of their 3 surrenders. The mother had driven past two hospitals and a police station to get to the fire station that had a baby box where she felt comfortable surrendering her child.

Since its inception in November 2016, the baby box program has been a resounding success. With no reported box failures, these life-saving devices are now operational in 20 states, with 267 active boxes and 68 more planned for installation this year. In 2021, 31 babies were abandoned nationwide in unsafe locations, leading to 22 tragic deaths. However, this year, 52 babies have been safely surrendered in baby boxes, and 153 were handed off at baby box locations nationwide. That's a total of 205 babies saved so far this year!

In Little Rock, two babies have been surrendered this year. Benton has had three total since their baby box was installed: two in 2023 and one in 2020. Conway had one in 2022, and Maumelle had one in 2021. It is

amazing to see that they are working as anticipated in central Arkansas, just as they have in other places around the country.

So, how does the Safe Haven Baby Box work? The boxes are climate controlled. The parent has to open the box and place the baby in it, which contains a medical bassinet. The box must be on an outside wall, and no cameras can be pointing in this area. This area must have easy access. When the box is opened, the first 911 call happens. When it is closed, the second 911 call occurs. Upon closure, the box cannot be opened from the outside; it can only be opened inside the fire station. A silent alarm goes off, and the first responders are notified. The box is thoroughly tested for several weeks before it is officially declared open and available. The box is large enough to hold an older infant. The first responder then takes the baby to Arkansas Children's Hospital. They do a thorough search to make sure that this baby is not a missing child. There is information on the outside of the box, including instructions and a Crisis Line phone number. The Crisis Line was used in 153 hand-off surrenders this year.

The state recently allocated \$250,000 total for Safe Haven Baby Box grants, and it included reimbursements. The city applied as soon as the grant opened. However, at the time of this article, no announcements have been made as to who the grant recipients are.

The dedication ceremony for the Safe Haven Baby Box at the Lantrip Fire Station will be announced and celebrated this October. This event is a significant milestone in our community's commitment to child welfare and safety. I am personally thrilled that Sherwood will now be part of this life-saving initiative.



SHERWOOD
 PARKS AND RECREATION

KIDS
 SWIM LESSONS

If you've taken group lessons before, please
 contact Hannah at the Bill Harmon Recreation
 Center 501-835-6893 in regard to which level is
 appropriate.

- Ages 4 - 12 years
- Swim Academy booklet
- \$75 per child
- 30 minutes long

Classes are Monday–Thursday
October 14–17
October 21–24

Level 2: 9:30–10:00a / 3:30–4:00p
Level 3: 10:00–10:30a / 4:00–4:30p

SUMMARY REPORT SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING



PASSED - 6 for, Wade absent, Broderick against - A resolution amending Sherwood Master Street Plan and the Vision Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This was the same master street plan that was tabled last month but the street classification for Oak Forest Lane from Oak Forest Circle to Mine Road was changed from collector to local. The purpose of this resolution is to increase road connectivity as well as park land access for the future. It also updates the master street plan to reflect both current and proposed future development of the Oakdale area.

2nd READING - An ordinance amending the official zoning districts map for the property located at Lot 19RR Meriwood Addition. This ordinance rezones the corner of Pennwood and Kiehl from C-2 to C-3. The individuals that are requesting this change have the property under contract and stated that they wanted to put a coffee Kiosk on the property. This would not be allowed with current zoning. This zoning is in keeping with the Vision 2040 plan. One of the residents that resides on Pennwood that spoke against this last month did so again. She expressed concern about an increase in traffic on their street due to this zoning. Several Council Members spoke against this proposed zoning if there would be an ingress or egress onto Pennwood. The mayor suggested the proposed business owners to reach out to the adjacent property owner about connecting parking lots and utilizing an existing driveway. It will go to the third reading next month.

PASSED - 7 for, Wade absent - An ordinance to approve a conditional use permit for the property located at 8801 Highway 107. This property is where the Walmart Neighborhood Market resides. They proposed adding a Filling Station on a section of the existing lot.

READ ONE TIME - An ordinance amending the official zoning districts map for the property located at 8900 Highway 107 and for other purposes (Mayor Heye-Townsell). This is the property across the street from Walmart that is a long-term senior residence facility. This would put the existing facility in compliance. However, there is concern that the zoning classification, R-3, could result in apartments. This will go to a second reading in October.

FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND - 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 library millage to be levied by the City of Sherwood on the taxable real and personal property for the tax year 2024. This aims to increase revenue to offset the rising costs of public safety. This millage would be approximately \$34 a year on the average-priced home in Sherwood. One resident spoke against the millage. Council Member Harmon made the motion to pass the ordinance. However, no Council Member would second it. The Police Chief expressed his frustration that five of the Council Members had pledged their support. Williams, Harmon, Thomas, and Sanders were council sponsors of the ordinance. He asked the Council to be honest with him in the future because he would not have proposed this if they hadn't pledged their support. Motion died for lack of a second.

PASSED - 7 for, Wade absent - Mayor Mary Jo asked for a motion to add another Ordinance onto the agenda to certify the 1.3 millage for the library that is required for the County each year by October.

AMENDED/PASSED - 7 for, Wade absent - An ordinance establishing regulations concerning the sleeping or camping on public property, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes. This ordinance was to protect the public property from uses that can be detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Sherwood. These activities can cause unsanitary conditions, fire hazards, and environmental degradation as well as impairing public access and use of public parks, sidewalks, and other public areas. (Friendly amendment to change the word citizen to resident.)

PASSED - 7 for, Wade absent - A resolution expressing support by the city council of Sherwood Arkansas for the passage of the initiative known as Act 4 Sherwood

PASSED - 6 for, Wade absent, Broderick against - A resolution amending the 2024 General Fund Budget and for other purposes. The jail bill went unpaid in 2022. This was due to questionable billing practices by the County. The city has been working to get caught up on this debt. The budgeting for the jail bill has been difficult due to its irregular billing practices. However, the billing errors have begun to levelize and the city feels comfortable projecting through the end of the year. They asked for the allocation of funds to get caught up.

PASSED - 7 for, Wade absent - A resolution amending resolution 68-2023 to reallocate funds to allow the purchase of radios for the police department and for other purposes. This is a reallocation of existing capital funds that were not going to be used this year. The radios are no longer being made and no parts are being made so repairs are not possible.

OLD BUSINESS – None; **NEW BUSINESS** – The December meeting has been moved to the 16th.

ADJOURNED @ 7:59 PM



THE CITY OF SHERWOOD

WINTER FEST



DECEMBER 7
CITY HALL PARK
10 am to 8 pm

WINTER FEST is coming! Sherwood is gearing up for a festive celebration this December with the introduction of Winter Fest, a new holiday event that promises to become a cherished tradition in the community. The event will kick off at 10 a.m. with the Annual Sherwood Christmas Parade, a proud tradition that began on December 7, 1974. Sponsored by the Sherwood A&P Commission and McClarty Auto Group, this year's parade theme is "Hometown Christmas." The parade will travel on its traditional route - starting at Lantrip and Kiehl, making its way up Kiehl Avenue, and concluding at Oakbrooke and Kiehl. Participants will compete in categories such as Bands, Dance, Cheer, Spirit, Non-profit, Commercial, Church, and School.

After the parade, City Hall Park will host the inaugural Winter Fest, featuring a Christmas



Market with a wide array of holiday items, gifts, crafts, jewelry, clothing, baked goods, artwork, home decor, accessories, and more. It's the perfect opportunity to get some holiday shopping done while enjoying live music and delicious offerings from various food trucks.

The event will feature a variety of family-friendly activities, including a gingerbread house competition, a Christmas cookie contest, a hot cocoa station presented by the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce, carousel rides sponsored by First Electric and First Connect, and photos with Santa at the beautifully decorated gazebo, courtesy of Sherwood Florists.

Throughout the day, attendees will be treated to show-stopping performances on the McClarty Stage, including Nate Persson Band, Little Uncles, Mike Bentz Band, Donna & Barry Humphries, and Calvary Academy Choir.





The festivities will culminate in a closing ceremony featuring a performance by the Top of the Rock Women's Choir, who will set the scene for the official lighting of the City Hall Christmas Tree, sponsored by the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce. Following the tree lighting, the day will conclude with a headliner concert by Midnight South, ensuring a memorable end to this festive day.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a magical day of holiday cheer at Sherwood's first-ever Winter Fest!



Parade Participants/Vendors
contact Lorn or scan QR codes
below. 501-413-8030
lalexander@cityofsherwood.net

PARADE REGISTRATION



VENDOR REGISTRATION



To register for the cookie
competition or gingerbread
house competition, please use
the QR codes below:

COOKIE COMPETITION



GINGERBREAD COMPETITION



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BETH FLETCHER 911 COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR



1. How long have you been with the city?

I have been with the city for 25 happy years. I started with the police department March 16th, 1999, as a 911 dispatcher and detention officer. I wanted to eventually go to patrol, but it was very clear that I had found my path. I took initiative and kept learning. Those efforts led me to my current role managing our 911 center.

2. What does your job entail?

We are a 24/7/365 emergency communications center. We have a massive responsibility towards our citizens' and first responders' safety. Aside from managing personnel and operations within our center, I must also make sure we are compliant with relevant laws, training requirements are met for employees, developing procedures for the most effective outcomes in emergency situations, quality review of calls, ensuring staffing levels, interviewing, monthly reports, yearly reports and so much more!

3. What hashtags describe your personality best?

#mamabear #outdoorsy #servantsheart #loyal
#diligent

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

Navigating the state legislation to consolidate 911 centers has certainly been challenging for all of us. At this point, there's a lot of uncertainty, and it's tough to see exactly how things will unfold. But amidst all the changes—whether it's advancing technologies or regulations, we are all committed to duty and that duty is clear: we're here to ensure that people get the help they need in emergency situations. So even though, this transition is difficult, I believe in our ability to rise to these challenges. By staying focused on our mission and supporting one another through these changes, we can adapt and continue to provide the critical services our communities rely on.

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

I'm not sure I have any. I used to play the clarinet and French horn.

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

Morning coffee is a big help! I also rely on my to-do lists to keep priorities at the forefront. It's easy to be motivated because I'm surrounded by a great team and strong leadership.

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

Professionally, getting our community Text to 911. If you are in our city and are unable to call 911, you can text, not every city has that yet. Getting systems in place that support our local businesses and systems that improve our 911 capabilities. Personally, being a mom, and now, grandma. It's the best.

8. Tell us something that is on your "bucket list."

My grandson was born in Japan and now he's in Germany. Facetime just isn't enough! A trip to Germany is at the top. He's the funniest, most loving little guy and the apple of my eye. Sidenote: My first granddaughter will be here by the time this posts! 😊

9. What is your happy place in Sherwood?

I have two! I love our flea markets. I like finding a piece of nostalgia or something vintage. Sams Club. If I'm making a shopping haul, it's always my first stop.

Beth was nominated for the Employee Spotlight by Chief Jeff Hagar.

ECONOMIC NEWS - FALL 2024



The sale of beer and wine is more than a simple grocery store aisle feature; it is a critical factor in how large grocery chains determine future store locations.

In this election, North Sherwood residents will have a pivotal decision to make regarding the future of this community. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated resident canvassers, who spent the summer gathering signatures, the question of legalizing alcohol sales in the portions of North Sherwood that were formerly part of the Gray Township will officially be on the ballot. This initiative is the result of Act 671 of 2023, a piece of legislation that gives North Sherwood the chance to separate itself from the former Gray Township and legalize the sale of alcohol in its area. Act 671 of 2023 expires on December 31st of 2024, offering a single opportunity for North Sherwood voters to make their voices heard on this critical issue. This decision has far-reaching implications not only for consumer convenience but also for the economic future of the city.

How Beer and Wine Sales Shape Retail Development

The sale of beer and wine is more than a simple grocery store aisle feature; it is a critical factor in how large grocery chains determine future store locations.

Major grocers rely on the ability to sell alcohol as part of their business model, using it to attract a wider range of customers. Without the ability to offer these products, North Sherwood will continue to struggle to attract the types of large grocers that act as economic engines for local communities. Not to mention that any new grocer would be at a tremendous competitive disadvantage against the largest retailer in the U.S. with two stores currently located in the wet area of our city.

Allowing beer and wine sales in this portion of Sherwood will make the city more attractive to grocery chains looking to expand or establish new locations. These stores are catalysts for other types of businesses to move into the area, providing food and goods to residents and new restaurant offerings, jobs, and sales tax revenue.

The Power of Retail Synergy

The presence of large grocers doesn't just benefit the store itself—it benefits the entire local economy through a concept known as retail synergy. Grocery stores are often referred to as "anchor retailers" because they draw in significant foot traffic, which helps nearby businesses thrive. A grocery store offering beer and wine has an even greater ability to pull in customers, making nearby retail spaces more desirable for other businesses like restaurants, cafés, and specialty shops.



This synergy creates a thriving economic ecosystem where the success of one business helps others flourish. Retail centers built around anchor grocers become local hubs for commerce, ensuring shoppers stay in town instead of going to neighboring cities for their needs. It also brings in money from outside of the city. These centers keep money circulating within Sherwood, leading to sustained growth and development.

Why This Matters for Sherwood's Future

The decision to legalize alcohol sales in Sherwood's portion of the former Gray Township could shape the trajectory of Sherwood's economy for years to come. With just one opportunity to make this change, residents must consider the potential benefits that large grocers—and the retail synergy they create—can bring to the area. Beyond convenience, this vote represents an investment in the future prosperity of Sherwood, offering the chance to attract major retailers, boost local businesses, and generate jobs.

As November approaches, it's now up to the residents of North Sherwood to act. Their actions will determine the economic trajectory of the entire City of Sherwood. The City Council passed a resolution expressing support for this initiative.



The Office of Economic Development strongly encourages those who live in North Sherwood to vote "YES" on the ballot issue titled "Special Election for the Portion of Defunct Gray Township within the Corporate City Limits of Sherwood, Arkansas." A vote "YES" is vital for the city's long-term prosperity.



Join us for a Veterans Day Tribute

NOVEMBER 8, 2024
8:00 AM
JACK EVANS SENIOR CENTER
2301 THORNHILL DRIVE

SPONSORED BY AMERICAN LEGION POST 74,
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, AND THE
CITY OF SHERWOOD.



BEHIND THE BADGE



What are the police doing in a parked unit?

Over the past few months, many of you have asked: "What are those police doing in a parked unit?" It's a great question and one that's become increasingly relevant over the last two years as you've likely noticed more stationary police vehicles around Sherwood.

So, what's going on? In an effort to enhance service efficiency, the Sherwood Police Department applied for a government grant to equip their units with in-car computers. These technological additions have been in use for the past two years, significantly boosting police productivity.

Here's how:

First, these in-car computers enable officers to write police and accident reports directly from their units. In 2023 alone, the Sherwood Police Department generated 4,895 police reports and 681 state accident reports—breaking down to 13.4 police reports and 1.8 state accident reports per day. That's a significant amount of time spent on paperwork! By allowing officers to complete this work in their vehicles, valuable time is saved, allowing for increased neighborhood patrols.

Second, by staying in their units, officers are already in position to respond swiftly to calls for service. In emergencies, every second counts.



Having officers ready to go at a moment's notice means they can get to the scene faster, providing quicker assistance to the public.

So, the next time you see a parked police unit, rest assured that the officer inside is not just writing reports but is also poised and ready to respond to any emergency that may arise. They are working hard to keep our community safe and efficient.

PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS



The Sherwood Police Department would like to congratulate Sergeant Markus Peters on his well-earned retirement! Sergeant Peters began his law enforcement career at Sherwood in 2011.

Over the years, he has served in many positions within the department, demonstrating leadership, integrity, and honor day in and day out. Markus, thank you for your time and dedication to Sherwood Police Department. We hope you enjoy retirement!

Please join us in congratulating Officer Shane Edwards on his promotion to Sergeant! This promotion is a well-deserved recognition of Sergeant Edwards hard work, dedication, and exemplary service to our community. Congratulations, Sergeant Edwards!



SHERWOOD MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

UPDATE

The Sherwood Mayor's Youth Council Program kicked off the school year with a successful Meet & Greet Orientation on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, where members shared their enthusiasm for the upcoming year over a meal generously donated by The Bistro at Courtyard by Marriott.

Mayor Mary Jo addressed the council members, outlining her responsibilities and vision for Sherwood. She discussed topics such as city events, Parks & Recreation, and her goal to help the members develop leadership skills through structured activities. Her passion for fostering a strong sense of community resonated throughout her speech.

At the second monthly meeting, held on September 3, 2024, Sherwood Police Chief Jeff Hagar spoke about the mission of the Sherwood Police Department. He detailed his approach to leadership and strategic planning for maintaining the city's safety. Council members gained insight into how partnerships with the community and problem-solving techniques help address crime and other issues.

Throughout the year, other city department heads and elected officials will be the guest speakers. They will share insights into the various roles they play in municipal government.

These featured speakers are inspiring the Youth Council members as they look toward the future, sparking excitement and eagerness to grow and lead. The council is ready to learn and make a positive impact on our community.



Keep an eye out for these dedicated young leaders as they volunteer and contribute their talents to Sherwood!

Fun Facts About Our 15 Council Members:

- Tyson Baker: "I trap shoot for a team in Jacksonville."
- Jaxon Crews: "I love SpongeBob."
- Nia Evans: "I'm a cheerleader and run track at Sylvan Hills High School."
- Kamorean Mathews: "I used to play football and run track."
- Aubrey Messick: "I have my pilot's license."
- Ramsey Messick: "I play the French horn and practice taekwondo."
- Morgan Perry: "I love to paint."
- Douglas Reeves: "I have a titanium bar inside my chest."
- Tate Schultz: "I'm in a bluegrass band with my dad and brothers."
- Isabella Seibel: "I have a Yorkshire terrier named Wednesday and I'm in a homeschool drama program."
- Jakayla Washington: "I'm one of 31 students with the highest GPA in my grade."
- Caleb Watson: "I enjoy playing pickleball and have identical twin sisters."
- Annie Zimmerman: "I have a scar from being hit with a saxophone cleaner."
- Hunter Montgomery: "I play the alto saxophone."
- KaMya Tackett: "I was the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Governor."

PROMOTING SMALL BUSINESS

Rock City Epoxy

Address: 2200 E. Maryland Ave, Sherwood

Phone: 501-408-6160

Facebook: Rock City Epoxy

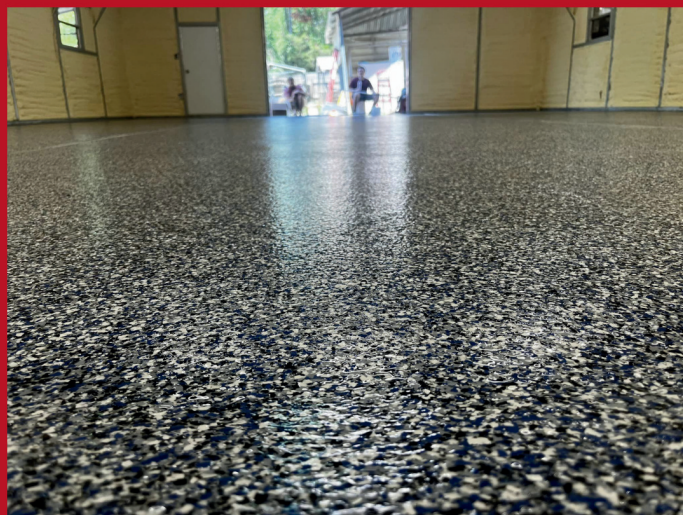
Rock City Epoxy has quickly become a go-to for Sherwood's high-quality concrete and epoxy flooring services. Specializing in stained and polished concrete and all epoxy coatings, the company caters to both small home projects and large commercial jobs, making them a versatile option for all flooring needs.

Though Rock City Epoxy has been operating in Sherwood for less than a year, the team brings over a decade of experience in the industry. According to the owners, the business was born out of a passion for making people happy while doing what they love. Their dedication to quality is evident in their commitment to using only the highest-grade materials on every project.

In addition to serving residential and commercial clients, Rock City Epoxy is actively involved in the community. Recently, they donated their time and services to Nova Star Rescue, installing efficient and healthy flooring in the new facility for both animals and staff. The company is also a proud Sherwood Chamber of Commerce member and looks forward to working with the city on future projects.

The business is excited about expanding into larger commercial projects, with a few major jobs slated for October that will showcase their flake epoxy flooring and concrete work. Though they handle residential floors, Rock City Epoxy is fully equipped to take on industrial projects from coast to coast!

For more information or to inquire about their services, you can reach Rock City Epoxy at 501-408-6160.



OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

This month, the Sherwood Fire Department will visit our local schools and talk with students about fire safety. They will also conduct **"Hydrant Testing" from October 21st to November 1st.** This maintenance is done twice a year to ensure proper water flow in case of an emergency.

If you see brown water in your neighborhood it should clear up if you let the faucets run for a few minutes. If any resident has further questions regarding water quality, they can contact Central Arkansas Water at 501-210-4916.



A Night of Remembrance

November 7, 2024

6:30 pm

City Hall Park



Sherwood Parks & Recreation

BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION

1ST - 7TH GRADES

September 9TH - October 15TH
(or until filled)

TRYOUTS

4th-5th grade:
Oct 21st 6:00pm

6th-7th grade:
Oct 22nd 6:00pm

*no tryouts for
1st-3rd grade*

REGISTER AT THE
BILL HARMON REC
CENTER
51 SHELBY DR.

Registration
\$100
per player

For more info: call 501-835-6893

A graphic illustration of a basketball hoop with a ball in the net. To the right, there is a silhouette of a person in a Native American-style outfit holding a bow and arrow, aiming towards the basketball hoop.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October

October 2: Coffee with a Cop @ Sunny Side Up Cafe, 7:30 - 9:00 am, see ad below

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

October 3: Sherwood Parks & Recreation Blood Drive @ BHRC, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

October 9: Pancake Breakfast @ Jack Evans Sr Center; 8:30 - 9:45 am

October 12: Sherwood Animal Shelter Adoption Event @ North Hills Animal Clinic, 7805 Hwy 107, 1 - 4 pm; 501-834-2287

October 14 - 17: Group Swim Lessons @ BHRC, Contact Hannah 501-835-6893, see pg 2

October 15: Basketball Registration Closes; see page 12

October 21: Early Voting Begins

October 21 - 24: Group Swim Lessons @BHRC, Contact Hannah 501-835-6893, see pg 2

October 21 to November 1: Hydrant Testing by Sherwood Fire Department

October 25: Pumpkin Bash @ BHRC, 6:00 pm, 501-835-6893; see ad pg 2

October 26: Shred-A-Thon @Jack Evans Sr. Center parking lot, 9 am - noon, 501-960-8360

October 26: Sherwood PD Drug Take Back @ St. Vincent Hospital on Wildwood and in front of Walmart Neighborhood Market, 10 am–2 pm

October 28: City Council Meeting @ Council Chambers, 6 pm



November 4: Last day of Early Voting

November 5: Election Day, polls open from 7:30 am - 7:30 pm

November 7: A Night of Remembrance @ City Hall Park, 6:30 pm, see pg 12

November 8: Veteran's Day Tribute Jack Evans Senior Center, Time: 8:00 am, see pg 8

November 11: Veterans Day Holiday. City offices closed. Monday's garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, 11/12.

November 25: City Council Meeting @ Council Chambers, 6 pm

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

December 7: Sherwood Christmas Parade & Winter Fest, see pages 4 - 5

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2024
7:30 - 9:00 AM
14306 AR-107
SHERWOOD**

Join your neighbors and Sherwood police officers for coffee and conversation on National Coffee with a Cop Day at Sunny Side Up Cafe.

COFFEE SPONSORED BY SUNNY SIDE UP CAFE