

SHERWOOD

TALK OF THE TOWN

November

2024

From the MAYOR'S DESK



Sherwood Awarded \$4 Million Grant for Jacksonville-Cato Project

In October it was announced that Sherwood was awarded a \$4 million Metroplan Grant for Jacksonville-Cato. This was the maximum amount allowed and awarded to any community. This grant is a transportation block grant that is federally funded through Metroplan. Sherwood must match the funds with \$1 million which is available from the street bond initiative.

The street bond monies are the result of the .75 of one cent sales tax passed by the voters in June of 2018. This initiative has been instrumental in advancing a series of critical street projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure, drainage, connectivity, and safety on our roads. Notable completed projects include: Baring Cross, Greenview Circle, Whitewood Drainage, E. Lee Culvert, Country Club Road, Maryland Avenue, and Hemphill Road. The initiative also includes future projects such as Brockington Road and Jacksonville-Cato.

The Brockington Road project, a \$2 million city obligation on a \$10 million project with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), is a key development slated for completion in late 2026. This project aims to widen the Brockington/Kiehl intersection and improve the area between this

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intersection and the access road to significantly enhance traffic flow and safety. With over 30,000 cars using this road daily, the project is crucial for the city's commercial and residential growth.

Because Jacksonville-Cato came into Sherwood through annexation it was not built to city standards. This road is unpassable in heavy rain events and has hairpin curves, resulting in numerous accidents. This is also the primary road used by school buses, faculty, and parents for traveling to and from Cato Elementary and Sylvan Hills Middle School. With the Jacksonville-Cato project, this street will be elevated, to bring it out of the flood plain, and the curves will be softened. The new road will be wider and will have improved drainage, curbed and guttered sidewalks on one side and a bike/ped lane on the other, improved lighting, and two large roundabouts. There will even be a pedestrian underpass so that kids can safely cross under the street to get to school. This road will be a critical piece to north Sherwood's growth. Large residential areas are also in development, and they are proposing estate lots like Oakdale Road with extensive neighborhoods similar to Miller's Glenn behind them.

This \$4 million Metroplan Grant was critical because the street bond money was projected to run short due to overages on completed projects. The overages were due to several factors, but the biggest was

inflation. The city would have had to pull any extra money needed out of its general fund reserves, and although Sherwood has the funds to cover it, this would not have been ideal.

Jacksonville-Cato was broken up into two phases, and phase one is currently under construction. Phase two is in the final stages of right-of-way acquisition and the required environmental analysis. Utilities will be relocated, and the project put out to bid. Then, the project will then be awarded so construction can begin.

Sherwood has much to be proud of these days. Being awarded such a large grant is just one more accomplishment to add to that pride. Sherwood is continuing to improve and become stronger.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Hey-Townell



WINTER FEST

DECEMBER 7
10 am to 8 pm
CITY HALL PARK

PARADE  LIVE MUSIC  SANTA
CHRISTMAS MARKET  FOOD TRUCKS
FREE FAMILY FUN

Vendor & Parade Registrations



PARADE



VENDOR

Cookie & Gingerbread House Registrations



COOKIE



GINGERBREAD

Website: www.cityofsherwood.net
Facebook: City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government
Phone: 501-413-8030

SUMMARY REPORT

October 28, 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY - A resolution for consideration by the Sherwood City Council to allow the mayor to negotiate a lease for the use of the Duran Youth Center building with Atelier School of Art.

ZONING REQUEST WITHDRAWN - 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. However, some residents from the adjacent neighborhood opposed the zoning based on traffic concerns.

SECOND READING - An ordinance amending the official zoning districts map for the property located at 8900 Highway 107. 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 third reading in November.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY - A resolution authorizing the mayor and city clerk to execute a deed conveying lands from the City of Sherwood to Property Owners Associations. This is a part of the Trammel Estates development.

READ ONE TIME - An ordinance approving the use of eminent domain for acquisition for the Power Line Bike/Ped Trail project. There are several parcels where clear title cannot be obtained. This would allow the project to move forward. No homes are involved.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY - A Resolution approving the acquisition of temporary construction easements and permanent easements for the property owned by the Austin Gardens Property Owners Association for the Powerline Bike/Ped Trail project.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY - A resolution appointing Ashley Williams to replace Jody Abernathy and serve on the City of Sherwood Planning Commission.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY - A resolution re-appointing and appointing certain persons to serve on various Sherwood boards and commissions. Edward Williams for the Public Facilities Board, Jeff Herald and Kimberly Housley for the Advertising and Promotion Commission.

OLD BUSINESS – Presentation by Baldwin Shell detailing features of the new design of the Public Works/Police & Fire Training Facility as well as the cost to build.

ADJOURNED @ 7:45 PM



Sherwood's TRAIL OF LIGHTS *

Opening November 29

Sherwood's Trail of Lights is ready to shine bright once again this holiday season! This year the Trail of Lights will open on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 29, and the last operating day will be Monday, December 30.

Last year, the Sherwood Police Department and City of Sherwood introduced a reservation system to ease traffic and wait times. While it helped with traffic flow, managing the system presented new challenges. This year, we're excited to announce several updates designed to make your visit even smoother and more enjoyable.

What's New for 2024:

- 1. No Reservations Needed:** Come when it's convenient for you. 
- 2. Extended Hours:** The trail will now be open daily from 5 p.m. to midnight, giving you more time to enjoy the lights. That's 3.5 more hours to visit the trail daily, and over 100 more hours of viewing time throughout the season. 
- 3. Quicker Access:** City staff and volunteers will no longer be manning the trail, allowing for a more streamlined experience. Sherwood Police will monitor traffic only during peak times. 
- 4. Faster Flow:** No brochures or candy canes will be handed out to keep traffic moving smoothly. 
- 5. Contactless Donations:** Access to the trail remains completely free of charge, but donations are greatly appreciated. To reduce delays, cash donations will not be collected on-site. However, you can easily contribute by scanning the QR codes available at the trail. All donations go straight back into making next year's display even better. 

Key Details to Remember:

- Entrance:** 420 Dee Jay Hudson Drive in Sherwood, **Exit:** Sherwood Forest, 1111 West Maryland Avenue.
- Keep it Moving:** Please don't stop along the trail.
- Come Back Later if Busy:** Please help keep traffic flowing to avoid backups onto Hwy 107 by coming back later if you see vehicles backed up on Dee Jay Hudson Drive. While waiting for the line to shorten, please consider dining locally to help boost the local economy, which in turn supports city amenities like the Trail of Lights.

Each year, the operation of the Trail of Lights is proudly sponsored by the Sherwood Advertising & Promotions Commission and organized by the Sherwood Parks & Recreation Department. For any questions, reach out to lalexander@cityofsherwood.net or 501-413-8030.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT A "GOOD BOY"

Hashbrown's Journey Home



On October 14, 2022, Hashbrown, a 4-year-old Pit Bull Terrier mix, arrived at the Sherwood Humane Animal Shelter. For two long years, he waited for a family to call his own. Despite his affectionate nature and playful spirit, Hashbrown faced a significant challenge: Sherwood's Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), which prohibits Pit Bulls from being adopted within the city limits.

During his stay, Hashbrown's DNA was tested, revealing he was 17% Border Collie, 17% Golden Retriever, and 66% American Staffordshire Terrier. Often labeled a "pit bull," the American Staffordshire Terrier is one of several breeds associated with the term, which includes American Pit Bull Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers, among others. This label made it difficult for Hashbrown to find a local home, as similar breed bans exist in nearby

cities like North Little Rock and Jacksonville. Despite these hurdles, Hashbrown became a favorite among shelter staff and visitors. Known for his loving heart and adventurous spirit, he quickly won people over, though his chances of being adopted locally remained slim. Everything changed on October 9, 2024, when The Dodo, a popular animal website, featured Hashbrown's story. The heartwarming article resonated with thousands, earning over 13,000 Facebook likes and over 2,200 shares.

Followers nationwide were eager to see Hashbrown adopted, with many advocating for homes in regions without breed restrictions. Within days, Hashbrown's story found its happy ending. A family from Annapolis, Maryland, saw the post and knew he would be the perfect addition to their household. On October 16, 2024, Hashbrown received a proper send-off from the Sherwood Shelter with pup cups, gifts, and formal wear. The next morning, Hashbrown departed Sherwood with his prizes to journey 1,049-miles across the country to meet his new family.

The Sherwood Humane Animal Shelter staff received this heartwarming update from his new family on October 22, 2024:

I am delighted to update you on Hashbrown. He arrived in Maryland just before 5 a.m. on Saturday morning, October 19th. My husband, our 10-year-old daughter, and I picked him up. We drove nearly two hours and arrived at our house in Annapolis around 7 a.m.

It's clear that Hashbrown was deeply loved and well cared for by all of you. We bought him far too many toys, bones, blankets, etc., so with everything he brought along, plus what we bought, he now has two full toy boxes! I love that he's so spoiled!





Hashbrown's First Days at Home

Day 1 - We went on a long walk where he explored the community and was a bit skeptical of the sandy beach and the bay (we live on a peninsula). He loved every minute of walk time and was quite intrigued by the squirrels and deer. I coach two travel soccer teams, and he enjoyed coming to a game, meeting many new human friends, and going on a two-hour walk in the woods around the field with his new human grandfather. In total, on Day 1, he went on **seven walks**. Walking seemed to be his happy place as he decompressed and explored his new community. He was excited to meet his new grandparents, two human sisters (ages 13 and 10), mom, dad, and his canine sister Luna (who is 3 years old and fully deaf and blind in one eye). That night, he slept with his big sister and cuddled with her throughout the night.

Day 2 - This day included four walks, zoomies in the backyard with Luna, resting, and getting to know the family. **Hashbrown fell in love with the sandy beach and the water**, getting all wet and sandy while zooming into the water. He loved playing fetch and running around the backyard. Once again, he slept with one of his human sisters, enjoying lots of cuddles.

Day 3 - Hashbrown went on four walks again. He took a long, cozy nap on the blanket that came with him and snuggled up with his sloth at his dad's feet. **His dad is definitely his favorite person**, but he loves the entire family. He had another great day, enjoying car rides and going anywhere with us. Oh, and he let us know that belly rubs are a favorite, so they became a frequent part of the day. He's made it clear that he likes to go to bed early, gently nudging his sister to head upstairs for bedtime together.

Day 4 - His days start with a long morning walk with me, and Hashbrown loves it. He seems relaxed and was slow to crawl out of bed with his sister (so cute). **He is such a good boy**, and the entire family is absolutely in love with him. We love seeing him settle in and show his fun, playful side. His excitement for life is infectious. Today, he and Luna are lying by my feet as I work in my office.

For transparency, I want to share that not everything has gone perfectly, but nothing has been too concerning. He didn't want to eat on Day 1, but by Days 2, 3, and 4, he was eating well. We have a part of our fence where he can see the neighbor's backyard, and he tried to jump it to chase squirrels (**his passion for squirrels is a 10/10!**).

While he didn't manage to jump the fence, he has some serious hops (as you probably know), so we're replacing that section of the fence with a privacy fence that's a bit taller to match the rest, just to be cautious. Hashbrown and Luna are still getting comfortable with each other and our routine at home. Since Luna has hearing and sight challenges, we're taking things slowly. There haven't been any issues, but we want to give them both time to adjust properly. They enjoy walks

“He is such a good boy, and the entire family is absolutely in love with him.”

together and love playing outside, especially in the sand! They’re both fun and lively pups. Finally, I must admit I’m lousy at remembering to take photos, but I did manage to capture a few.

Thank you all for your love and care for Hashbrown. I’d like to stay in touch so you can see how loved he is by his whole family. I’m sure saying goodbye to him wasn’t easy, but I hope these updates and some pictures help you celebrate the next chapter of his life. **We are so grateful to have him as part of our family—he’s a perfect fit and fiercely loved.**

Hashbrown’s journey took him from a shelter dog hindered by BSL to a beloved family member. His story is a testament to resilience, hope, and the power of adoption. After two years of waiting, he will now spend his days surrounded by love, joyfully embracing every walk, car ride, and belly rub.

His story is also a powerful reminder of the importance of looking beyond stereotypes and welcoming the unconditional love that rescue animals offer. For Hashbrown, the long wait was worth it, and his future is now filled with the love and security he always dreamed of.

To learn more about Breed Specific Legislation in Sherwood or to become a shelter volunteer, please contact the Sherwood Humane Shelter at 501-834-2287.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at the Jack Evans Senior Center.

Veterans Day Tribute



NOVEMBER 8, 2024

8:00 AM

JACK EVANS SENIOR CENTER

This event is brought to you by the American Legion Post 74, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the City of Sherwood.

SHERWOOD PUBLIC WORKS

Update FALL 2024

Leaf Vac Season

As the leaves begin to fall, the Sherwood Public Works Department is gearing up for its Leaf Vac Season, which starts on **November 4** and runs through **January 31**. Residents are encouraged to blow their leaves to the curb for collection. Please ensure leaf piles are behind the curb line and not in the street, and remember to keep sticks, garbage, and trash out of the piles. The number of passes the leaf vacs make through the city will depend on the volume of leaves, starting on Route 1. See the map on the following page for specific route information. To view it larger, please visit the website provided at the end of this update.

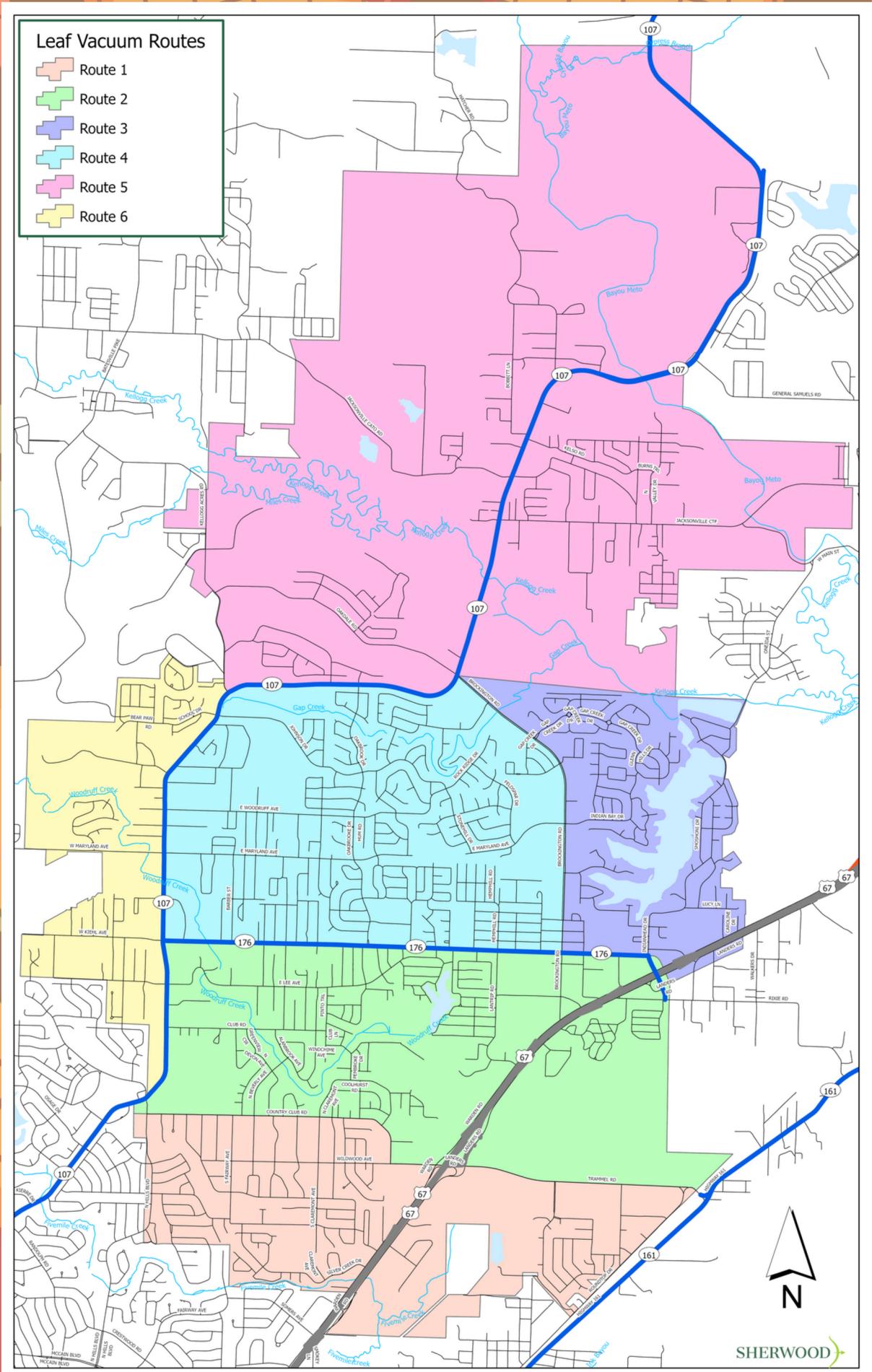
Holiday Schedule Changes

In addition to Leaf Vac Season, there are important holiday schedule changes to note:

- **November 11:** Veterans Day Holiday – City offices will be closed. Monday's garbage will be collected on Tuesday, November 12.
- **November 28-29:** Thanksgiving Holiday – City offices will be closed. Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Wednesday, November 27, and Friday's garbage will be collected on Monday, December 2.
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve – City offices will be closed. Tuesday's garbage will be collected on Monday, December 23.
- **December 25:** Christmas Day – City offices will be closed. Wednesday's garbage will be collected on Thursday, December 26.

Questions?

For more information, visit <https://www.cityofsherwood.net/444/Public-Works-Department> or call their office @ 501-835-3288.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

CALVIN ANDERSON CODE ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR



1. How long have you been with the city?

I have been with the city for one year.

2. What does your job entail?

I oversee all code enforcement activity from notices to enforcement of violations.

3. What hashtags describe your personality best?

#caring

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

Displacement of people from houses for life safety violations.

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

I officiate high school basketball and volleyball.

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

Knowing that I must be on my game every day because the day is full of challenges.

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

I am proud of officiating the high school basketball finals in Hot Springs and also officiating women's basketball in the Great America Conference.

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

Traveling.

9. What is your happy place in Sherwood?

Sherwood itself.

A Night of Remembrance

November 7, 2024
6:30 pm

City Hall Park



Calvin was nominated for the Employee Spotlight by Jill Ross.

Michigan Memories



Senior Center Trip 2024 - In mid-September, a group of 45 Sherwood senior citizens embarked on an exciting seven-day adventure to Northern Michigan, departing from Sherwood on the morning of Sunday, September 15. The trip promised scenic views, historic sites, and unique cultural experiences.

On their journey north, the group settled in for a comfortable ride in a spacious motorcoach. They arrived at their first hotel for a restful overnight stay before continuing their travels. The second day our seniors reached their destination in Northern Michigan, where they enjoyed dinner and checked into their hotel for a four-night stay.

Day three brought an adventure to Sault Sainte Marie, MI, where they took an exciting cruise through the Soo Locks and visited the Tower of History, offering panoramic views of the surrounding area. The next day, the group visited Mackinac Island. They enjoyed a carriage ride around the charming island, with stops at scenic spots like Arch Rock and Lilac Lane. After exploring the island at their leisure, they returned to the mainland for a lovely dinner.

On day five, the travelers took a guided tour of Mackinaw City, visiting the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and the historic Colonial Michilimackinac Village. The day ended with dinner and a chance to reflect on the rich history they had explored.

The sixth day of the trip featured a visit to the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, MI, before the group began their journey home, spending the night at a hotel along the way.

By Saturday, September 21, the group returned to Sherwood, having enjoyed a memorable trip filled with laughter, exploration, and camaraderie. The travelers shared stories of their experiences and began to plan their next adventure together. Don't miss out on the next trip. Reach out to the Senior Center and find out how to get involved, 501-834-5770.



BEHIND THE BADGE >>> Sherwood 911: Always Ready, Always Responsive

The Sherwood Police Department's Communications Center is dedicated to providing efficient emergency response services within the city limits of Sherwood. Operating 24/7, the center handles both police and fire dispatch, ensuring that help is on the way when it's needed most. Dispatchers work across three shifts and are equipped with advanced tools to enhance communication and response times for all emergencies.

Here are a few 911 features 911 that we would like to share with our residents:

- **Call or Text 911:** It's always best to call 911 if you can, as speaking directly with a dispatcher provides the fastest and clearest communication. However, if you are unable to speak or if it's unsafe to do so, you can text 911 in the city limits of Sherwood. This is especially helpful for those who are hearing or speech impaired or in situations where speaking might put someone at risk. The slogan to remember is: **“Call if you can, text if you can’t.”**



- **RapidSOS:** This system enhances response times by using location-based routing. When you call or text 911, RapidSOS provides dispatchers with your location and any Medical ID or emergency contacts you've set up on your phone. This helps first responders get to you quickly and with the right information.

- **Smart911:** You can create a personal 911 profile on this web-based platform, sharing important details like medical conditions, emergency contacts, or pets. When you call 911, this information is automatically available to dispatchers, which can be critical in situations where time or communication is limited.
- **what3words:** This app helps locate you if you're lost or in a remote area. It uses three unique words to pinpoint your exact location, which dispatchers can enter into their system to find you quickly. It's especially helpful for people who hike, camp, or travel.

In times of an emergency, your safety and well-being are our top priority. Remember, we are here to help when an emergency response is necessary. Stay calm, provide clear information to questions asked, and know that help is on the way. Stay alert, stay safe, and always know that help is just a phone call away.

OFFICER ANDY KURCZ RETIRES



Officer Kurcz began his law enforcement journey in September 1996 with Sherwood. Throughout his career, he served as a patrol officer, trained new recruits, and was a dedicated member of the SWAT team, ensuring the safety of our community and fellow officers in challenging situations.

Thank you, Officer Kurcz, for your years of service and dedication to the Sherwood Police Department. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



PROMOTING SMALL BUSINESS

Sunny Side Up Cafe

Sunny Side Up Cafe serves as a go-to spot for breakfast lovers in Sherwood. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 7 AM to 11 AM, the cafe offers a diverse menu, including classic egg plates, omelets, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, and breakfast sandwiches.

The cafe is the brainchild of a local business owner with a decade of experience running a successful donut shop in North Little Rock. With a desire to create something closer to home and recognizing the growth in the Sherwood/Gravel Ridge area, the owner saw the perfect opportunity to provide the community with a breakfast-focused eatery.

The cafe faced a significant challenge when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, having only been open for 15 months at the time. Thanks to available relief funding, Sunny Side Up was able to stay afloat, keeping its doors open and employees on staff. While they paused their lunch service during that time, they hope to bring it back soon.



Customers rave about their experiences, including one recent five-star review: "Just had breakfast at Sunny Side Up for the first time, and it was an absolute delight! The service was top-notch—friendly, attentive, and genuinely welcoming from the moment we walked in. The food was incredible; everything was cooked to perfection and bursting with flavor.



Whether you're in the mood for classic breakfast staples or something a little more unique, this place has it all. Definitely a must-visit if you're looking for great food and even better service in town!"

In addition to serving delicious breakfast dishes, Sunny Side Up Cafe has made efforts to connect with the community. They participated in the local Christmas parade, donated gift certificates to support local events, hosted the Rotary Club's annual event, and organized "Coffee with a Cop" to foster relationships between the police and local patrons, with plans to continue the event quarterly.

Sunny Side Up Cafe has become more than just a breakfast spot—it's a part of the Sherwood community. With its welcoming atmosphere, delicious menu, and commitment to local involvement, the cafe continues to grow and adapt, serving as a place where neighbors can gather and enjoy a hearty meal. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a regular, the cafe promises a warm experience and a meal to remember.

Address: 14306 HWY 107 Sherwood

Phone: 501-833-0496

Facebook: Sunny Side up Cafe



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2024

November 4: Last day of Early Voting

November 4: Leaf Vac Season Begins

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

November 8: Veteran's Day Tribute @ Jack Evans Senior Center, 8:00 am

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

November 12: Planning Commission Meeting @ Council Chambers, 6 pm

November 21: Special Called Council Meeting @ Council Chambers, 6pm

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

November 28 - 29: Thanksgiving Holiday, city offices closed. Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Wed, 11/27. Friday's garbage picked up on Monday, 12/2.

November 29: Trail of Lights opens for the season; see article on page 5



SAVE THE DATE

December 7: Sherwood Christmas Parade & Winter Fest, see page 3

December 14: Ugly Sweater Bingo 9th-12th Graders, 6 pm, Jack Evans Senior Center, see below

December 24 - 25: Christmas Holiday, City offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 for Christmas Eve. Tuesday's garbage will be picked up on Monday, 12/23. City offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day, garbage will be picked up Thursday, 12/26.

December 30: Last Night for the Trail of Lights

Sherwood Mayor's Youth Council Presents

UGLY SWEATER BINGO

DECEMBER 14, 2024
6 PM GAMES START

YOUTH: 9th-12th Graders

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER
2301 THORNHILL DRIVE, SHERWOOD

BINGO Winners & The Ugliest Sweater Win Prizes!

Admission: Two (2) Non-Perishable Food Items

RSVP: mharrison@cityofsherwood.net