

# TALK *of the* TOWN

# June 2025

## What's Inside...



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

### *Intentional Investment*

The Sherwood Animal Shelter's construction began in 1988 and was dedicated in 1989. According to the 1990 census, Sherwood had a population of 19,129. Sherwood now has a population of over 33,000. Much has changed regarding best practices for shelters since the animal shelter was constructed. Research shows the importance of indoor/outdoor kennels, for example. Dogs having access to fresh air, sunshine, more room, and stimulation reduces the effects of long kennel stays—often referred to as “kennel crazy.” Sadly, this condition can lead to behavioral issues that make a dog more difficult to adopt.

The size of the shelter was adequate in 1989 but no longer meets the needs of our growing community. When we had the current shelter evaluated, we



*Above are examples of kennels that provide dogs with a choice to move between indoor and outdoor sides of their enclosures. This can help reduce stress and improve their physical and behavioral health.*

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unfortunately found significant rusting in the substructure, not to mention other costly problems. The building was also not designed to maximize the efficiency of day-to-day operations.

This is not meant as a slight in any way to the administration under Jack Evans, who oversaw the construction and dedication of the current shelter. Technology and research have evolved in this area just like in every other field. Investing money into a dilapidated, outdated structure is like putting a bandage on serious problems—and that is not a wise use of funds. It is certainly not an intentional investment in our future.

This month, we plan to reveal—for the first time—the proposed design for a new animal shelter. Much thought and consideration have gone into this proposed facility. We hope this issue will go before the voters in November.

This is not about economic development. This is about who we are as a community. Dogs and cats are not property or “things,” but rather living beings who are part of our families. They love us despite our faults. For some people, they are “fur babies.” For others, they offer a sense of protection, calm, and comfort. These animals are in the shelter through no fault of their own. Many are clearly sad after being abandoned. Sometimes, they are there because their owner has passed away.



SHERWOOD

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP : MAY 19 , 2025



*The current operating room, which is not designed as an operating room and is serving many purposes, including storage and record keeping.*

The animals in the shelter just want to be loved and cared for—they want their forever family. People choose different kinds of pets for different reasons. For example, my family believes strongly in adopting from shelters, and we are a cat family. Someone else may love a particular breed, like a dachshund. But whether it's a dog or a cat, a purebred or a mix, taking care of and loving animals makes us more compassionate people.

Therefore, I believe prioritizing the shelter is important for the City of Sherwood. Intentionally investing in a facility that meets the needs of our city—both today and 50 years from now—is both prudent and strategic.

Kindest regards,

*Mary Jo Heye-Townsell*

PS Happy summer, Sherwood! I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer. The pools and splash pad are now open. Go make some memories!

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** - A resolution regarding an appeal of a building official's decision pursuant to ordinance NO. 2074, regarding 200 Hillcrest Road, Sherwood, Arkansas. This is for a business to use an exterior wall covering that is not permitted by the ordinance. This modification requires council approval. (Mayor Heye-Townsell)

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (AS AMENDED)** - An ordinance amending ordinance 2460 regarding the speed cushion/traffic calming policy for the City of Sherwood. This made a few modifications to the existing criteria for speed cushion approval including the exclusion of minor arterials, changing the volume of cars maximum from 5000 to 3000 cars per day, increasing the percentage of signatures required from 60% to 70% and increasing the distance of area to get signatures from 250 feet on either side to 300 feet. The amendment was that evaluations on a street can only occur once in a 12-month period. (2nd reading, read 1X at April meeting). (Council Member Wade)

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** - A resolution amending the 2025 General Fund Budget, approving purchases, and for other purposes. This was modifying a line item in the budget to change two positions from full-time to contract labor. No changes occurred to the bottom line of the budget. (Mayor Heye-Townsell)

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** - An ordinance to adopt the Sherwood Police Department Policies and Procedures. For transparency, the Municipal League recommends that the Sherwood Police Department bring this document before the council for approval. Before it is brought before the council, it is reviewed by ALEAP, MLA, and the City Attorney. (Mayor Heye-Townsell)

**OLD BUSINESS** - Next month, drawings and pricing will be presented for different projects identified for the potential bond initiative.

**NEW BUSINESS** - The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for a grant for Duran Park.



THIRD THURSDAYS IN THE PARK  
**FREE CONCERT**

# CLIFF & SUSAN

JUNE 26 | 7 PM

CITY HALL PARK SHERWOOD

*Thank you to our sponsors: Bank OZK & Michelle Phillips & Co. Realtors*

# MOVIE NIGHT



# STAR WARS

Saturday

**21**  
JUNE

8:00 pm

501-835-6893  
Thornhill Pool  
2201 Thornhill Dr

June 19



## The Day of Freedom **JUNETEENTH**

*As we remember our past, let us also protect our future. As the fight against racism continues, we must teach the future generation to be proud and united.*

In observation of the Juneteenth Holiday, City Offices will be closed on June 19, 2025. Please note Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Friday 6/20. Recycle will run one day late for Thurs. & Fri. Outdoor pools and Splash Pad will be open.

# GET READY, SHERWOOD!!



Mark your calendars, Sherwood! Fireworks & Food Trucks is back and bigger than ever on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at The Greens at North Hills. Following last year's record-breaking success, we're turning up the volume for 2025 with more food, more fun, and a fireworks show that will illuminate the night sky like never before.

This annual Independence Day celebration has quickly become a cherished Sherwood tradition, and this year promises to be our most thrilling yet. The festivities kick off at 6:00 p.m., and you can expect an evening filled with crowd favorites and exciting new additions.



## FOOD TRUCKS GALORE

We're doubling down on flavor with even more food trucks serving up a delicious variety of eats and treats. Come hungry and sample your way through everything from BBQ and burgers to snow cones and sweets.



## FIREWORKS THAT WOW

Once the sun goes down, get ready for a dazzling fireworks display sponsored by the Sherwood Advertising and Promotions Commission. Local fireworks show producer Joey Piwet is returning once again to deliver a jaw-dropping spectacle. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs—it's going to be a show to remember!

## FAMILY FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

We're also doubling the family fun with more inflatables, face painting compliments of Atelier School of Art, and a crowd-favorite DJ to keep the energy high all evening.

## BALCONY BLAST FUNDRAISER

Join us upstairs in The Greens events center for the Balcony Blast Fundraiser, featuring a delicious meal and premium views of the fireworks.

All proceeds benefit the Sherwood Police Department's COPPS division, helping support important community programs like COPPS Kids Christmas and Coats for Kids. Tickets go fast. Scan for tickets or see page 10.




This event is made possible by generous local sponsors, tireless volunteers, and the enthusiastic support of our community. Whether you're coming for the food, the fireworks, or just to spend a summer evening with neighbors and friends, Fireworks & Food Trucks 2025 is the place to be.

## Fireworks & Food Trucks 2025

 Thursday, July 3

 Course opens at 6:00 p.m.

 The Greens at North Hills (7400 North Hills Blvd, Sherwood)



# **FIREWORKS**



# **FOOD TRUCKS**

## **JULY 3, 2025**

**FIREWORKS - KIDS ZONE - FOOD TRUCKS**

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**COURSE OPENS AT 6 PM  
FIREWORKS AFTER DARK**

**GREENS AT NORTH HILLS  
7400 HWY 107, SHERWOOD**

**FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY THE SHERWOOD A & P COMMISSION**

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: **TORI-BETH POLAND**

### *Miss Diamond Lakes*

Tori-Beth Poland, a 2023 graduate of Sylvan Hills High School and current junior at Hendrix College, earned the title of Miss Diamond Lakes at a Feb. 8 pageant, qualifying her to compete in the upcoming Miss Arkansas competition this June 8–14 at Robinson Performance Hall in Little Rock.

Raised in Sherwood by parents Meredith (and husband James) Townsend and Chad Poland, Poland is majoring in Health Sciences at Hendrix, where she is also a cheerleader and active campus leader.

The Miss Diamond Lakes competition—an affiliate of the Miss America organization—included five phases: private interview, onstage conversation, evening wear, fitness, and talent. Each contestant also promotes a community service initiative. Poland's platform, 3D-YOU (Disabilities Don't Define YOU), focuses on disability awareness and advocacy.

***"I want to break the stigma surrounding disability and create an environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their own experience."***



During the competition, Poland demonstrated her poise and confidence in both the interview and onstage Q&A, and performed a self-choreographed jazz routine for the talent portion. Her performance highlighted her skill, creativity, and love for dance.

Outside the pageant world, Poland is involved in academic research and campus life. She has worked with Dr. David Hales in the Hendrix Chemistry Department on protein denaturation and presented her findings last March at the American Chemical Society campus in San Diego. She is also studying melanoma and cancer biology at UAMS through the Hendrix Odyssey Program.

On campus, Poland is a member of MD2B (a pre-med club), the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Dance Ensemble, Campus Kitty, and the Hendrix Cheer Team. She is the first Hendrix student in 15 years to compete in the Miss Arkansas pageant.

The Miss Arkansas Scholarship Program is part of the Miss America Scholarship Opportunity, which provides educational scholarships and personal development opportunities for young women across the state.

Tori-Beth, the Sherwood community is proud of you. We want to wish you well as you compete for the Miss Arkansas Crown this month.

**Tune into KARK 4 to watch the pageant finals on June 14<sup>th</sup>!**

# BEHIND THE BADGE:

## Updates from the Sherwood Police Department



### CADET PROGRAM

Did you know that Sherwood PD offers a Cadet Program that allows one cadet per year to join the department and gain hands-on experience before becoming a certified officer? It's a great opportunity for young adults interested in law enforcement but who haven't yet reached the minimum age of 21.

Meet our cadets, Dalton and Jadan!

Dalton joined the program last year and has rotated through many areas like dispatch, support services, and warrants, learning the ins and outs of police work.

Jadan, our newest cadet, comes to us straight out of Security Forces Tech School in the Air Force. His role at the PD allows him to pursue his passion for law enforcement both in the military and on the civilian side too!

We believe this program helps shape well-rounded future officers by giving them real-world experience early in their careers. We're excited to see where this journey takes them!

### DRUG TAKE BACK APRIL 2025

The numbers are in from April's National Drug Take Back!

455lbs of unwanted and unused prescription drugs were turned in to Sherwood PD.

We have two permanent drop off locations that can be used at any time! Gravel Ridge Sub Station (drive thru) & Sherwood Police Department (outside the main doors).



*Cadet Dalton*



*Cadet Jadan*



*Ofc Faircloth & Sgt Harris at Drug Take Back in April*



cont. from page 8

## ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

The Gettin' Reel with First Responders Kids' Fishing Derby, held on May 3 at Sherwood's City Hall Park, was a huge success, drawing more than 300 children for a day of outdoor fun and community connection. Sponsored by the Sherwood Police Department and Sherwood Fire Department, with a special appearance by MEMS, the event featured plenty of smiles, laughter, and excitement as kids reeled in fish and created lasting memories alongside first responders. More than 400 hotdogs were served, and the pond was bustling with activity as families enjoyed the beautiful day together.



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN 2025



**Special Olympics**



## **BALCONY BLAST 2025: Tickets on sale now!**

The Balcony Blast Fundraiser is a limited capacity cover-charge event including BBQ pork sandwiches, sides, and non-alcoholic beverages catered by the Saucy Pig. Tickets are \$24 per adult and \$10 per child (12 and under). All proceeds for this event will benefit outreach programs through the COPPS division of the Sherwood Police Department. COPPS stands for Community-Oriented Policing and Problem Solving. In addition to patrolling and keeping our streets safe, this division of our police force provides community support through various programs such as COPPS Kids Christmas, Coats for Kids, Stuff the Backpack, Fishing Derbies, Chili Cook-off, Cops and Cones, Coffee with a Cop, Unsheltered Outreach, and other programs as needs arise. Space is limited, and tickets are first come, first served. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1364543870449?aff=oddtcreator> or scan the QR code below.



# Balcony Blast

FIREWORKS & FOOD TRUCKS | JULY 3, 2025 | 6 PM



JOIN US ON THE BALCONY AT THE GREENS FOR THE PREMIER VIEW OF THE FIREWORKS SHOW ON JULY 3. FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INCLUDED. PROCEEDS BENEFIT COPPS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS.



ADULTS \$24 | 12 & UNDER \$10

# SHERWOOD WELCOMES

## *New Horizon Senior Living*

The City of Sherwood is proud to welcome New Horizon Senior Living to our growing community. Located at 230 Indian Bay Drive, this brand-new Level II assisted living center is set to open its doors in mid June, bringing a high standard of care and comfort to seniors in Central Arkansas.

New Horizon Senior Living offers a unique, personalized approach to assisted living and memory care. The community will accommodate up to 75 residents, including 51 in spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments and another 24 in a secure memory care neighborhood designed to support individuals with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

"Being a smaller community allows us to not only meet residents' healthcare needs, but also get to know them on a more personal level," said Executive Director Shannon Holt. "Our goal is to deliver consistent excellence in every aspect of care, ensuring a warm and enriching environment for all residents."

Residents will benefit from 24-hour care provided by licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants, with services tailored to individual needs. The community also offers assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and medication management. In addition, New Horizon will provide restaurant-style dining, housekeeping, laundry service, transportation, and a wide range of social and recreational activities.

To help residents maintain independence and stay in familiar surroundings as long as possible, New Horizon Senior Living will also offer home health services, hospice care, therapy (occupational, physical and speech), diabetic care, and visiting physicians.

On-site amenities will include a movie theater/chapel, library, salon, bar/bistro, putting green and more.

**For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Kelly Adcock, director of business development, at 501-471-7130.**



# OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

## LT. KAYLA PLEDGER



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

I have been with the Sherwood Police Department since May of 2012. I have worked Patrol (Day and Night Shift) and as an FTO (Field Training Officer), CID (Criminal Investigations Division as a Detective (primarily investigated crimes against women and children), Patrol Sergeant (Night Shift), CID Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant (Day and Night shift), and now I'm in the Administrative Lieutenant's position. I have also served on our SRT (Special Response Team) and am currently over our CNT (Crisis Negotiations Team).

### 2. What does your job entail?

As the Administrative Lieutenant I'm primarily over all things paperwork. I evaluate and verify our jail bill for accuracy, provide monthly numbers which include the NIBRS verifications (Nation Incident-Based Reporting System) and stats that will assist in our audits. I also assist our officers getting set up with many of their computer log in's. I help maintain our policy and procedures manual, and I am the Lieutenant over our Professional Standards/Training Division, COPPS/SRO's, and Warrant and Records. There is also that all-encompassing rule of "other duties as assigned."

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

#pray #praise #theWord #blessed

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

Learning how to be a leader and not just a supervisor. There is a huge difference between the two. I fail sometimes, as all humans do, but I am always striving to do and be better for our officers and our community.

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

I wouldn't say no one knows about it, but I like to bake and decorate cakes.

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

I try to lead by example, and if I don't do my part to the best of my ability, what kind of example does that set for others.

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

When it comes to work, I am the proudest when I see the officers I have trained or led grow and succeed in this career. Their accomplishments mean more to me than anything I can imagine achieving myself.

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

Travel more! My husband and I have vacation plans coming up, but on our bucket list is going to Hawaii, Ireland, and Scotland.

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

On my lunch break a few coworkers and I enjoy working out at the recreation center and walking/running around City Hall Park. If they can't come then I spend time working out while listening to worship music. Those places, people, and positive music help rejuvenate me, and get me refocused and motivated for the second half of my day.

# PROMOTING SMALL BUSINESS

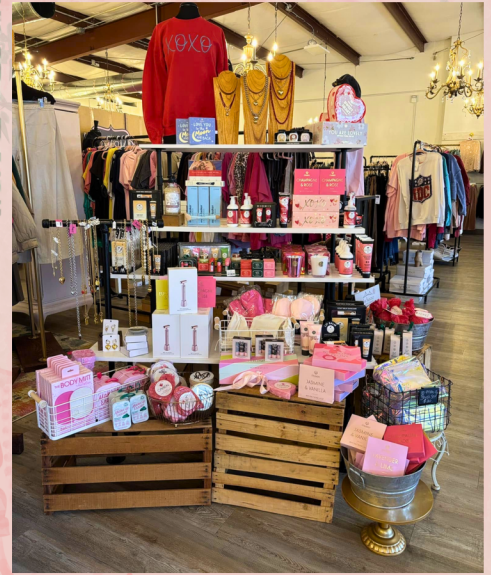
## Sage Boutique & Marketplace

Located in the Apple Valley Shopping Center in Sherwood, Sage Boutique & Marketplace has become a staple in the local shopping scene since opening its doors in 2013. Known for its stylish and diverse selection, Sage offers women's and men's clothing, jewelry, bath and body products, and a wide array of gift items. But what truly sets this boutique apart is its thriving multi-vendor marketplace, where handpicked vendors showcase only brand-new, high-quality merchandise. This model ensures that every visit offers something fresh and exciting for customers.

Sage Boutique was founded with a passion for bringing something unique to the community—a place where shoppers could find fashionable pieces and one-of-a-kind gifts all under one roof. In June 2024, the boutique made a significant stride forward by inviting select vendors to join their newly expanded Marketplace space. This move created a more dynamic shopping experience, further cementing Sage's place as a must-visit destination in the area.



The boutique's commitment to quality and variety hasn't gone unnoticed. Sage Boutique was proudly voted Best Boutique by AY Magazine readers for both 2024 and 2025, a recognition that speaks volumes about their reputation and loyal customer base. Shoppers love the ever-evolving inventory and friendly atmosphere.



Community involvement is also at the heart of Sage Boutique's mission. The business regularly donates to local schools to support their fundraising efforts, demonstrating a strong commitment to giving back. This spirit of generosity has helped foster strong community ties and reflects Sage's role not just as a business, but as an engaged and caring neighbor.

Of course, running a small business comes with its challenges. For Sage, one hurdle has been encouraging residents of Sherwood to shop local rather than turning to big-box stores or online retailers. However, by offering a diverse array of vendors and continually refreshing their inventory, Sage has managed to give shoppers plenty of reasons to choose local. Their innovative multi-vendor model ensures there's truly something for everyone in their storefront.

Looking ahead, Sage Boutique is excited about future possibilities. The team is currently working on plans to open another location, expanding their reach and bringing their signature blend of style and community spirit to even more customers.

**Sage Boutique**

**[www.instagram.com/shopsage](https://www.instagram.com/shopsage)**

**501-834-7243**

**8000 Hwy 107, Suite 14**



# June EVENTS

June 2: THV11 Summer Cereal Drive at the Sherwood Wal-Mart, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

June 2: Tennis Clinics (pg 14)

June 7: Vendor Fest @ City Hall Park, 8 am - 1 pm  
email: [amberpotter2118@gmail.com](mailto:amberpotter2118@gmail.com)

June 10: Senior Luncheon, 11:30 am, Jack Evans Senior Center, 2301 Thornhill Drive, RSVP 501-834-5770

June 14: Educators Appreciation Day: Free pool entry with a valid school ID, (pg 14)

June 15: Happy Father's Day!

June 19: Juneteenth Holiday, City Offices Closed. Thursday's garbage will be picked up on Friday 6/20. Recycle will run one day late for Thurs. & Fri.

June 21: Movie Night at the Thornhill Pool, *Star Wars*, (pg 3)

June 26: Third Thursdays in the Park - Cliff & Susan, 6 - 8 pm, City Hall Park (pg 3)



## SAVE THE DATE

July 3: Fireworks and Food Trucks at the Greens at North Hills Golf, course opens at 6 pm, (pg 4)

July 3: COPPS Balcony Blast, 6 pm, (pg 5 & 10)

July 4: Independence Day Holiday, City Offices Closed. Friday's garbage will be picked up on Monday 7/7. Recycle will run one day late for Friday.

July 5: Movie Night at the Thornhill Pool, *The Sandlot*



# SHERWOOD

PARKS AND RECREATION



## EDUCATOR APPRECIATION

### JUNE 14

### SHERWOOD POOLS



## FREE ENTRY WITH VALID SCHOOL ID

Including past and present AmeriCorps and Peace Corps members



FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:  
AQUATICS COORDINATOR -  
HANNAH CALHOON  
(501) 835-6893



### 2025 SUMMER

## JUNIOR TENNIS CLINICS

Classes begin June 2



**MONDAY WEDNESDAY**

8-9 AM	Orange	Orange
9-10 AM	Yellow	Yellow

Approximate ages:

Orange	10 and under
Yellow	10+

Contact Gary Jones

870-273-3888

[monarchtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:monarchtennis@hotmail.com)

Sherwood Tennis Center  
420 Dee Jay Hudson Drive