

TALK of the TOWN

January 2026

Happy New Year!



From the MAYOR'S DESK

Understanding Sherwood's Wastewater Systems

There has been confusion about wastewater systems in Sherwood stemming from information shared on social media during the bond initiative. My hope is that this article will be educational, informative, and reassuring.

During periods of heavy rainfall, especially when large amounts of rain fall in a short period, stormwater can infiltrate a wastewater system. This occurs when sewer lines develop cracks that allow water to enter. Over time, this can happen due to the materials used to make the pipes, the age of the pipes, or even tree roots. In some cases, pipes must be replaced; in others, a rubberized liner can be inserted to seal the existing pipes. Sometimes the problem is not the pipe itself but the manhole, where infiltration may also occur.

When a system receives too much stormwater, it can cause wastewater to overflow from a manhole. All wastewater systems experience this issue to some degree. If you ever observe this happening, it is important to report it to the appropriate wastewater district. Emergency contact numbers are provided at the end of this article.

Each sewer district or utility operates independently and is regulated by state and federal guidelines. Their budgets are funded by the rates charged to the residents and businesses they serve, and each district determines its own rates. Homeowners are responsible for the sewer line from their home to the

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sewer easement. Once the line reaches the sewer easement, maintenance becomes the responsibility of the wastewater district or utility.

There are several wastewater systems operating in Sherwood, including the Runyan Sewer Improvement District, Gravel Ridge Sewer District, North Little Rock Wastewater Utility, and the Sherwood Wastewater Utility. As Sherwood continues to develop beyond Bayou Meto, Jacksonville Wastewater Utility will serve that area. If you are unsure which district or utility serves your property, you can check your water bill or visit the City of Sherwood's official website (Sherwoodar.gov) and view the wastewater map.

Runyan Sewer Improvement District #211 has been in operation since approximately 1964. It is governed by three commissioners who serve lifetime appointments. Bob Evans has overseen operations for many years and has been with the district since around 1990. The district serves approximately 1,550 connections, with 80–90% located in the county. In 2021, the district conducted a sewer system evaluation study. Based on the results, extensive line and manhole rehabilitation was completed. The district is currently in the process of replacing its existing treatment plant due to the plant's age and its inability to meet current state discharge standards. The new plant is expected to be online and in compliance by mid-2026. Due to the scope of these projects, a substantial rate increase was approved by the commissioners in 2025 to finance the new plant. This increase was structured in three phases, and the district is currently in the second phase. Once the new plant is completed, Mr. Evans stated the district will be in good condition for many years.

The contact number for problems or emergencies within district #211, call 501-834-0473.

Gravel Ridge Sewer District #213 has been in operation since approximately 1975. It is governed by four commissioners who also serve lifetime appointments. The district is currently receiving bids for service line and manhole rehabilitation projects, which will reduce stormwater infiltration and improve overall system efficiency. A rate increase was approved by the commission approximately one year ago to finance this work. The district serves around 1,500 connections. Mark Phillips manages the operation. **For problems or emergencies, call 501-690-3490.**

North Little Rock Wastewater Utility was established around 1962 and is the largest regional wastewater system in the state. Areas of Sherwood served by this utility include West Lee, Maryland, Bear Paw, and Dee Jay Hudson. The utility is overseen by a five-member committee with staggered five-year terms and no term limits. Members are appointed by the mayor and approved by the North Little Rock City Council. The committee reviews program proposals, infrastructure investments, and the annual budget. Any sewer rate changes or bond issuances approved by the committee must also be approved by the City Council. In February 2022, the City Council approved a series of rate increases beginning in April 2022, with the final increase scheduled for January 2026. These increases were implemented to generate revenue needed for system repairs. The Executive Director is Michael Clayton. **For problems or emergencies, call 501-945-7186.**

Sherwood Wastewater Utility serves 6,212 connections and is the only wastewater system directly controlled by the City of Sherwood. The utility includes two treatment plants (North and South) and a satellite system. It is funded entirely by user fees. While the City Council approves the budget, the utility can only spend the revenue it generates, and its reserves are maintained separately. State law requires an annual private audit, which is submitted to the state for review.

The satellite system is located in the southern part of the city and includes sewer lines owned by both Sherwood and North Little Rock. All wastewater from this area is treated at North Little Rock's Five Mile Plant near Trammel Road. Sherwood Wastewater Utility pays North Little Rock Wastewater Utility to treat wastewater from approximately 2,500 Sherwood connections. Most of the wastewater treated at this plant originates from North Little Rock, not Sherwood.

In 2024, the Sherwood City Council approved its first sewer rate increase since 2016. This increase was structured in three phases, with the final phase occurring in January 2026. The increase supports repairs and rehabilitation of sewer lines, manholes, and overall operations. A \$7 million project is scheduled to begin in January 2026, with Crist Engineering awarded the project.

This project focuses on the satellite system and includes interceptor lines (larger sewer lines) and manholes, which are among the city's oldest infrastructure and the source of many system issues. Crist Engineering will conduct evaluations, engineering, and flow metering analysis. Once completed, the project will be put out for bid. Rehabilitating these lines and manholes will significantly reduce stormwater infiltration and help prevent overflows.

The project area extends from Trammel Road to Coolhurst, travels to Henson Park, crosses Club Road, turns toward Highway 107, and ends at 900 Club Road. Oversight is provided by an advisory committee consisting of five members appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council. Members serve staggered five-year terms with no term limits. Any major changes, including rate increases, must first be reviewed by the Wastewater Committee and then approved by the City Council. Scott Greenwood has managed the Sherwood Wastewater Utility since 2017.

For problems or emergencies, call 501-833-4418.

Hopefully, this information has provided some insight into the complexity of Sherwood's wastewater structure and the work being done to maintain and improve it. While the systems are varied and independently operated, each is taking responsible steps to ensure reliable service and long-term stability for the community.

Sincerely,



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK

City of Sherwood Arkansas - Government

INSTAGRAM

cityofsherwood_ar_gov

TIKTOK

city.of.sherwood

BEHIND THE BADGE:

Updates from the Sherwood Police Department



Congratulations to our newest Joint Police Academy graduates!

- **Elias Bishara**
- **John Epperson**
- **Landon McIntyre**
- **Amber Phillips**
- **Dylan Sewell**
- **Dawson Smith**
- **Ja'Meshia Washington**

Officer Sewell earned both the Physical Fitness and Overall Academy Awards, setting a new Joint Police Academy record with the fastest mile-and-a-half run in the academy's history.

Congratulations to each and every one of you. We're excited to see the incredible things you will accomplish throughout your careers!



CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP:

DECEMBER 15, 2025

Watch all meetings at:

<https://www.cityofsherwood.net/watchnow>

Passed Unanimously - Rezoning of 10403 Highway 107 to C-3, consistent with the City's Master Zoning Plan.

Passed Unanimously - Resolution for appointments and re-appointments to various committees due to expiration or vacancies Audit and Finance- Beverly Williams, Joint Emergency Medical Services-Marina Brooks, Park and Recreation- Anita Pitts and Justin Bybee, Planning Commission- Sydney Dozier, Retirement- Alex Centeno

Passed Unanimously - Resolution supporting reviving the state-run Federal Surplus Property Program. This was a request from the Arkansas Municipal League because this program helps cities and counties (especially smaller ones) save money.

Passed Unanimously - Ordinance authorizing acquisitions of easements for the Powerline Trail. This trail is a grant project of 20/80 that is with Metroplan. This is the section through the Links Apartments.

First Reading - Ordinance amending the retirement committee structure for the City of Sherwood. This committee provides oversight of the 457 (b) plan. Since the committee is no longer overseeing the former pension plan, the structure and duties are changing.

Passed 6 for, Townsend & McCullough Against - 2026 General fund budget passed as amended.

Passed Unanimously - The annual budget resolutions for all other budgets and bonds.

Passed Unanimously - Resolution awarding Crist Engineering the contract to proceed with the interceptor rehabilitation engineering of the wastewater lines in the five-mile basin areas to reduce sanitary overflows.

2nd Annual

WINTER FEST

From Parade to Drone Show: Winter Fest Delivers Holiday Magic

The second annual Winter Fest was truly merry and brilliantly bright, at least in spirit, since everyone who was there knows the sun decided not to join the festivities. From an action-packed parade featuring more than 70 participants to a full day filled with over 40 vendors and food trucks, live performances by Cliff and Susan, the Calvary Academy Choir, and Bad Habit, plus the carousel, train rides, and photo opportunities with Santa, the Grinch, and a certain familiar sister duo...the day was pure magic from start to finish.

A huge shout out goes to our parade participants, who went above and beyond with floats that were festive, imaginative, and perfectly on theme. We love seeing the creativity grow each year and cannot wait to see how the designs continue to evolve. (See *right*)

Once the sun went down, Sherwood's Christmas tree lighting and our first ever drone show took the celebration to a whole new level and created an unforgettable finale.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the sponsors who dedicated their time and resources to help make this event a success. Our presenting sponsor, McLarty Auto Group, along with Gwatney GMC, River City Hydraulics, Sherwood Florist, the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce, First Electric and Connect 2 First, Sherwood Parks and Recreation, and the Sherwood Advertising and Promotions Commission, all played a crucial role in bringing this day to life.





Our events team is always working to make each year better than the last. After this year's event, we sat down and discussed ideas to elevate the experience even more. One big takeaway was condensing the schedule with a later parade start time and a shorter overall event window, which we believe will help keep the energy high throughout the day. We are also planning to add even more free family activities, including more rides. And because December weather keeps us guessing from fans one year to heaters the next, we are preparing to increase the number of heaters and create a stronger plan to keep everyone warm and comfortable.

Sherwood is quickly becoming a true destination during the holiday season, and we are grateful to be part of the magic that helps shape the traditions of our community.

We are incredibly thankful to everyone who came out and celebrated with us. We hope to see you again next year, and if you have not been able to join us yet, go ahead and mark your calendars for December 5, 2026. It is shaping up to be the best Winter Fest yet!



CLEARING THINGS UP:

How City Processes Really Work

From time to time, questions about City operations generate a lot of discussion, especially on social media. While residents are often well-intentioned, some suggested “solutions” are not legally possible or do not reflect how City processes actually work. To help provide accurate, reliable information, we are introducing a new newsletter segment designed to explain common questions and clarify how certain City procedures function.

This edition focuses on property re-zoning, outlining what the law requires, who makes decisions, and how the public can participate in the process. The information below was prepared in collaboration between the City Planner and the Economic Developer to ensure clarity and accuracy.

What happens if a property owner wants to rezone their property?

Any property owner may request a zoning change and the city is required to vet the request. When a property owner seeks to rezone their property or submit a development proposal for review, the application is processed and formally presented by the City’s Planning Department. The Planning Commission reviews the request for compliance with the City’s adopted plans, ordinances, and applicable zoning standards, and considers public testimony at a scheduled public hearing. The Planning Commission then forwards a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council serves as the final decision-making authority on all zoning amendments and related land use requests.

Can the city choose to deny a property owner’s request for a zoning change?

The City cannot deny or block a zoning amendment request initiated by a property owner or a representative authorized to act on the owner’s behalf. It is the responsibility of the Planning Department to comprehensively review the application for consistency with the City’s adopted Comprehensive Plan, Sherwood Vision 2024. Staff then prepares a formal staff report, which is published and presented at a regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting that includes a public hearing on the item. The Planning Commission considers the request, hears public comment, and formalizes a recommendation by vote to the City Council. The City Council is the final authority to approve or deny any zoning amendment.

Any resident interested in a more in-depth review of the requirements set forth for a zoning amendment is encouraged to review the Sherwood Zoning Code at www.sherwoodar.gov, specifically the minimum requirements for any zoning amendment application as outlined in §14.02.09, Zoning Amendments.

Can the city choose to deny a property owner’s request for a zoning change?

When a zoning amendment is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to City Council by submitting a letter to the Planning Department within 30 days of receiving written notice of denial from the Planning Commission Secretary. The applicant must then follow the appeal process including public notification requirements. If no appeal is filed, the Planning Commission denial stands as the final action. After final action, an amendment application may not be filed for a site that has received final denial action within one year from the effective date of the denial action unless authorized by the City Council. Information regarding effect of denial in relation to zoning amendments can be found in Section 14.02.09.E.4.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

GLENNERA MCEWEN

COURT BOOKKEEPER

1. How long have you been with the city?

33 years

2. What positions have you held?

Deputy Clerk, Bookkeeper 2

3. What does your job entail?

Docketing court records, balancing accounts, preparing morning jail dockets, troubleshooting records in (3) court operating systems, balancing and issuing reports/checks for end of month for the city, county and state, etc.

4. What hashtags describe your personality best?

#loyal #honest #dedicated

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

Working with the Pulaski County Jail on inmate intake/releases on a daily basis

6. What's your secret talent no one knows about?

I play the violin

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

I was raised with a strong work ethic and sense of right and wrong so the courts are a good fit for me.

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

Having raised with my husband of 44 years a close loving family that are strong in the Lord.

9. Tell us something on your "bucket list."

Italy

10. What is your happy place in Sherwood?

My home

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Athena's Esthetics Studio



Athena's Esthetics Studio, located at 14208 Highway 107 in Sherwood, is quickly becoming a favorite destination for skincare and relaxation. Locally owned and operated, the studio opened in late August and offers a unique blend of specialized spa services and boutique shopping.

The studio's signature service is its Japanese Head Spa, a deeply relaxing treatment that has gained strong word-of-mouth attention in the community. Athena's Esthetics Studio also provides luxury facials and results-driven skincare services focused on long-term skin health. In addition to spa treatments, clients can browse a curated boutique featuring handmade jewelry, unique purses, and professional Image Skincare products.

The owner and lead esthetician was inspired by a lifelong passion for beauty and wellness and a desire to create a space where clients feel genuinely cared for. After years of planning and hands-on work, she transformed a long-vacant space into an intimate studio designed to offer privacy and personalized attention.

What sets Athena's Esthetics Studio apart is its focus on advanced skincare and skin revision, supported by specialized certifications and clinical training. Combined with the Japanese Head Spa, offered by only a few providers in the area, the studio delivers services that go beyond surface-level treatments.

Despite being new, Athena's Esthetics Studio has already earned five-star reviews across Google, Facebook, and Square. To welcome new clients, the studio is currently offering 10% off all services for first-time clients through the end of January.

Community connection is also important to the business. Originally from Colombia, Athena incorporates the owner's heritage by featuring handmade Wayuu bags and jewelry crafted by indigenous women. These items allow the studio to support traditional artisans while offering something distinctive to Sherwood customers.

Looking ahead, Athena plans to continue growing its client base, expand boutique offerings, and introduce new treatments as the business evolves. Their goal is for Athena's Esthetics Studio to remain a trusted, five-star destination for specialized skincare and relaxation in Sherwood.



www.athenasesheticsstudio.com



501-392-8101



@athenasesheticsstudio

Holiday Notice

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 19, 2026

City offices are closed Monday, January 19, 2026, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The garbage and recycling schedule for the holiday is as follows:

- Garbage routes for Monday, January 19th will be picked up on Tuesday, January 20th.
- This is not a recycle pickup week.



SHERWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

JAN 5TH-FEB 20TH, 2025



REGISTER ONLINE



- \$90 FEE
- \$10 EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT UNTIL JAN. 16



501-835-2154



sherwoodathletics@cityofsherwood.net



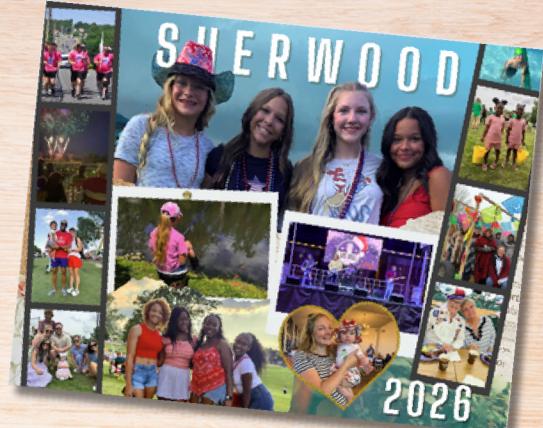
408 Dee Jay Hudson Dr.

Get your 2026 SHERWOOD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

This handy calendar showcases Sherwood's landmarks, events, and community spirit.

Funded by the Sherwood Advertising & Promotions Commission.



**Available Now at All City of
Sherwood Facilities!**

ADOPT A
NEW FRIEND

SHERWOOD HUMANE
ANIMAL SHELTER

501-834-2287



CLAIRE

BLIND
DATE
with a pet

CALL THE SHERWOOD HUMANE ANIMAL SHELTER TO SCHEDULE YOUR DATE.
COMPLETE A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE WHEN YOU ARRIVE, GET MATCHED WITH
A FURRY FRIEND, AND SEE IF SPARKS FLY.

501-834-2287

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE GARBAGE & RECYCLE PICK UP

HOLIDAY	OBSERVED	GARBAGE SCHEDULE	RECYCLE SCHEDULE
NEW YEAR'S DAY	THURS., JAN. 1	WILL BE PICKED UP ON FRIDAY, 1/2	RECYCLE WILL RUN ONE DAY LATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY	MON., JAN. 19	WILL BE PICKED UP ON TUESDAY, 1/20	N/A
PRESIDENTS' DAY	MON., FEB. 16	WILL BE PICKED UP ON TUESDAY, 2/17	N/A
MEMORIAL DAY	MON., MAY 25	WILL BE PICKED ON TUESDAY, 5/26	N/A
JUNETEENTH	FRI., JUNE 19	WILL BE PICKED UP ON MONDAY, 6/22	RECYCLE WILL RUN ONE DAY LATE
INDEPENDENCE DAY	SAT., JULY 4 OBSERVED JULY 3	WILL BE PICKED UP ON MONDAY, 7/6	RECYCLE WILL RUN ONE DAY LATE
LABOR DAY	MON., SEPT. 7	WILL BE PICKED UP ON TUESDAY, 9/8	RECYCLE WILL RUN ONE DAY LATE
VETERANS DAY	WED., NOV. 11	WILL BE PICKED UP ON THURSDAY, 11/12	N/A
THANKSGIVING DAY	THURS., NOV. 26	WILL BE PICKED UP ON WEDNESDAY, 11/25	N/A
DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING DAY	FRI., NOV. 27	WILL BE PICKED ON MONDAY, 11/30	N/A
CHRISTMAS EVE	THURS., DEC. 24	WILL BE PICKED ON WED, 12/23	N/A
CHRISTMAS DAY	FRI., DEC. 25	WILL BE PICKED UP ON MONDAY, 12/28	N/A

UPCOMING EVENTS

january

Jan 1: New Year's Day, city offices and facilities closed, Thursday's garbage and recycling will be picked up on Friday, January 2.

Jan 5: Baseball & Softball Registration Begins, see pg 9

Jan 6: Senior Breakfast, 9:30am, Jack Evans Senior Center, RSVP 501-834-5770

Jan 10: Lark Volleyball Girls Volleyball Clinics, see left

Jan 19: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, city offices closed; Trash will be picked up on Tuesday, 1/20.

Jan 26: City Council Meeting, City Council Chambers, 6 pm



February: Presidents' Day, city offices closed, Monday's garbage be picked up on Tuesday, 2/17, recycle will run one day late

☎: (501) 641-6915 LARKSNESTVB@AOL.COM

LARKS NEST VOLLEYBALL

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CLINICS

9-12 YEARS OLD

13-16 YEARS OLD

A SIGNED WAIVER IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE. WAIVER AVAILABLE AT REGISTRATION TABLE & THROUGH THE WEBSITE

PRIVATE LESSONS

\$25 PER PLAYER

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOMED

AGES 9-12: 6-7PM
AGES 13-16: 7-8PM

Bill Harmon Recreation Center
51 Shelby Rd, Sherwood, AR
72120

GET UPDATES ON ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS ON THE LARKS NEST VB FACEBOOK PAGE!

SHERWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Registration Begins March 17



\$100 REGISTRATION FEE

GRADES 1-6

WEEKLY FEE:

- \$100 FOR ONE CHILD
- \$150 FOR TWO CHILDREN
- \$200 FOR THREE CHILDREN



Bill Harmon Recreation Center
51 Shelby Road
501-835-6893