



The Sherwood Forest CRIER for July 2024
Newsletter of the [Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association](#)



Quarterly General Meeting Wednesday, August 14th — Special Guest Speaker:

Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager for [Columbia Water](#), will provide an overall update about key issues and initiatives for the City's water and wastewater utility. Topics will include an update on the recovery of the Columbia Canal, water quality news, and customer service improvements. Please plan to join us for this informative briefing.

Join us at the Sherwood Forest ARP Church from 6:30 – 7:30 pm or on Zoom. Door opens by 6pm to allow for set up and collaboration. Please bring a snack to share. Agenda will be published prior to the meeting with Zoom login instructions.

Forest Friends: It's too hot to plant trees right now, but you can take care of existing trees, especially newer ones, by mulching underneath them, and you can order a free tree for cooler weather!

MULCHING – Key points in mulching are to **keep the mulch AWAY from the tree trunk by at least 6 inches**, more for larger trees, and **mulch no more than about 3 inches in depth**.

- Mulch that touches the trunk encourages rot and infestation.
- Mulch that is too deep can actually smother the roots and prevent water from getting into the ground.
- The best mulch is free! Use the leaves or pine straw that fall off the trees in your yard. Retain the nutrients the trees have drawn from the soil to grow and produce the leaves rather than throwing them away!
- If you buy mulch, make sure it doesn't have added dyes or chemicals (many of the bagged mulches do!).

FREE TREES FOR THE FALL AND WINTER – In lieu of our neighborhood annual tree give-away, see the links below for how to get a free tree through the City of Columbia and Columbia Green. They have received a grant to help reduce urban heat through tree planting.

- * Trees can reduce summer temperatures up to 10 degrees.
- * Trees that shade buildings can reduce AC energy costs by 10-50%!
- * Trees create a healthier environment by capturing water runoff and air pollutants.

Find out more by signing up [NOW](#) for a free lunch on July 13th: If you can't make the lunch, go [here](#) to sign up.

Note that these trees can be planted anywhere in your yard and are larger than the typical trees our neighborhood gives away. You will be responsible for planting and care, but the program delivers the tree and "tree diaper" that helps with watering.

You can also get on the City of Columbia's list for street trees by emailing or calling **Weston Beck**. Email: weston.beck@columbiasc.gov Phone: 803-545-3863

Please email Valerie Marcil at vallg29205@gmail.com or Regina Monteith at regenamonteith@gmail.com if you **decide to order a tree** or if you have questions about any of this

USC Belser Arboretum:

All are invited to Arboretum Open House, the 3rd Sunday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Gates open at 4080 Bloomwood Rd. and on Wilmot Dr. just west of Duncan. Open weekly for visitors and volunteers: Wednesdays & Saturdays: 9 a.m. - Noon, Thursdays: 4 p.m. – dusk. Weather and work schedules may change these times.

Contact Us: arboretum@sc.edu. The June Issue of the [W. Gordon Belser Arboretum newsletter](#) is now available. To join the mailing list for upcoming newsletters click [Here](#).

Letter from the President:

What a wonderful community we live in. I want to share a Behind the Scenes look.



We have recently installed two gateway signs at each end of Wilmot to welcome people to our neighborhood and remind us all to love our delightful urban forest. Thanks to Dave Johnson and Lani Stringer for the branding and design work and Pat Mason for the grant paperwork, fabrication coordination and persistence with SCDOT on installation options. We plan to install 6 more signs in the next few years as funding allows.



Our thanks to Larry Hembree and Henry Nechemias for tackling a massive pile of paperwork to reinstate our charity status as a neighborhood association. This helps pave the way to getting an Art performance grant, that will lead to an Arts in the Park event at the USC Belser Arboretum (date TBD).

The City and County have been given additional funding to share with our neighborhood for trees and park development (see Forest Friends article above).

In coordination with the Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church, we are seeking funds to incorporate a dog park, native garden, and land reclamation project. This will take several grants, commercial development, legal support and time – probably three years. We have the support of the City Parks and Recreation and our neighbors. Join the development team by contacting me (kernalwojo@aol.com) or Pat (pmason@carolinalive.com).

I must publicly recognize my Vice President, Pat Mason. Since taking this position two years ago, he has been a tireless servant of pursuing a fresh look at our neighborhood, what this community means and what it can be in the future. He led surveys and branding teams, learned about grant opportunities and their timelines, coordinated with city and county leadership in getting both funding and recognition for our interests, and joined the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods as an officer--improving the way neighborhood associations relate with the city and county. His retirement as Director of "Carolina Living" was our gain in time and attention. We applaud his selfless efforts and look forward to the betterment of our community with his continued support.

All of these people, and many other unnamed Behind the Scenes heroes, make this place we live in a little better every day. Take pride in your home. Nurture your family and friends. And love your forest and neighborhood. As always, we look forward to your ideas anytime. Our next General Membership meeting is August 14 at 6:30 pm.

****Gail Wojtowicz, President, Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association****

Sherwood Forest "Friends" Concept:

With high hats-off to Valerie Marcil for her creation of "Forest Friends", her concept is taking-on-life as we "build pride" and "nurture roots".

We now have the capacity in the resident database to include identifier codes for those willing to find maybe, an hour a week, to support a rainbow of "friends" vision. So, if you want to play with one of

these groups, just email pmason@carolinalive.com to register. Then, watch for notices of fun engaging activities.

- Forest Friends ... being green.
- Business Friends ... growing a business.
- Doggie/Park Friends ... Reclamation project behind Presbyterian Church.
- Block Captain Friends ... Ten of 25 SF Zones remain open for volunteer leaders.
- Artist Friends ... So far, Larry Hembree has found about 25 artist-in-residents to join. (Includes, performing, culinary, graphic, sculptor, paint, animator, crafter, poet, designer, ++)
- Clean-up Friends ... David Nelson is perpetually welcoming all to find two hours a quarter keeping the forest tidy.
- Safety/Traffic Friends ... Gail Wojtowicz leads communications with City officials.
- Honorary Friends ... (like USC Belser Arboretum & Sherwood Forest Associate Reformed Presbyterian ARP Church)

SF Business Friends News:

It's our genuine pleasure to welcome **TRUE Pharmacy** on Devine as our newest "Business Friend". Owner Kyle McHugh has acquired the former Burnette Cleaners property and is in the process of a total renovation.



And, long time business owner/Richland County Council Member, Don Weaver, has renewed his **Weaver Realty** Business Friend affiliation. Watch for their banners on our media platforms.

Hoorays!



Status of 4210 Blossom Residence:

Many, many neighbors have been involved with this property over the past few years. Owner behavior and the suffering of Dog CASH leashed to the front tree are behind us. The winning bidder (about \$250K) in a recent foreclosure auction has introduced himself as Ming Guo. Be assured we will be on watch to ensure City code enforcement officers are aware of any violations.

Note: When you notice potential violations (parking, trash, unkept, parties, noise, etc.) send email with details and photos to: Shawn McNicoll, Code Compliance Inspector: Shawn.McNicoll@ColumbiaSC.gov

Hurricane Season is Upon Us!

Now is the time to review your preparations for a potential hurricane. What you should do before, during and after a hurricane hits needs to be planned ahead. Here is a valuable resource from the [American Red Cross](http://www.AmericanRedCross.org).

Have You Paid Your Annual SFNA Dues?

If you haven't yet, please pay your \$20 dues. If you're not sure, send a text or email (henryn215@aol.com) and our treasurer will let you know your status. And, now that we are a 501(c)(3) organization, you may be able to deduct it as a charitable donation.

Your \$20 pays for parties, events, signage, doggie poop bags, the gardens outside of the arboretum, Forest Friends free tree distribution, web & domaine fees, and other such costs. You can send or deliver a check to Henry

Nechemias, Treasurer, 4 Robin Hood Ct. 29205, pay through PayPal or set up an automatic annual payment also through PayPal: [Pay Dues Online - Sherwood Forest Neighborhood - Columbia SC](#)

[What are the benefits of membership?](#)

[Join the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association](#)