



THE GATEPOST of Sharon Woods



WINTER 2022

SHARONWOODSCA.ORG

The 2022 State of the Association

BY JOHN KIRKPATRICK, PRESIDENT

In reflecting on 2021, I'm struck by what we've been able to accomplish in Sharon Woods despite less-than-perfect circumstances. I want to thank each person who stepped up and helped make our community stronger this past year. I also want to encourage each resident in Sharon Woods to consider how they can take opportunities in 2022 to bring positive change to the lives of their neighbors. Here is my "State of the Association" address for our neighborhood...

Looking Back at 2021

I'm proud to report that we ended 2021 with a total of 266 new members in our association! Our members take an active role in improving Sharon Woods, and their annual dues help us become a more effective organization in service to our community.

Sadly, several programs were put on hold as a result of COVID. We're now looking at the possibility of bringing back our Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July Parade, and Santa visits as soon as possible. More on that later...*so stay tuned!*

That being said, we were still able to host our monthly association meetings (both in-person and online), Chalk the Walk Community Contest, Community Garage Sale, Holiday Lighting Contest, and more. Our association was also represented well at Northland Community Council (NCC) meetings, ensuring Sharon Woods residents are taken into consideration in regards to local development and initiatives.

We saw considerable volunteer engagement in 2021. Many went door-to-door to deliver our summer *Gatepost* issue, and others helped to clean up the islands at 161 and Sharon Woods Boulevard several times. Flowers for that entrance were donated by Nextdoor Lawn & Landscape, LLC. Several people helped maintain our sign, trees, and grass at Schrock Road. Chris Colarosa repaired our sign at 161 after someone hit it with their car, and Paul Benjamin generously donated \$500 for our 2021 scholarship program. *We are truly blessed with incredibly generous neighbors!*

To renew your membership, check out [page 7](#) or visit SharonWoodsCA.org/Membership.

Looking Ahead to 2022

We had a very engaging meeting last month, in which we discussed the opportunities that lie before us in 2022. Check out the **next page** for a list of upcoming events: monthly association meetings, a Community Safety Update Zoom Call, the Sharon Woods Easter Egg Hunt, an Island Update Day, the Northland Community Fourth of July Parade, and the Sharon Woods Community Garage Sale.

In the coming year we're looking forward to launching (or relaunching) several initiatives: the Sharon Woods Welcome Committee, the monthly Yard of the Month Award, and a redesigned website for our association. We also hope to plant another pine tree at our Schrock road entrance because one of those trees died two years ago.

How You Can Help

There are a number of ways that you can help make our neighborhood stronger.

First, stay informed. Visit SharonWoodsCA.org and sign up for our email list, or opt-in using the form on **page 7**. You'll be the first to receive updates via email as we publish new posts on our site. *Second, become a member.* By purchasing an annual membership, you help our association operate and fulfill its mission of bettering our community. Just fill out the form on **page 7**. *Third, help out.* As you receive news about what our association is up to, consider stepping up as a volunteer or joining one of our committees to help develop upcoming activities. We're also looking for new Trustees who will attend our meetings and take an active role in furthering our mission. *Finally, attend our meetings.* We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, and we invite you to come and make your voice heard. Check out the **next page** for more info.

I'm excited about what the future has in store, and I invite you to jump in. If you have questions about getting connected, just send me an email (John@SharonWoodsCA.org) or call/text **614-600-2469**. *Let's make 2022 a great year for Sharon Woods!*

Upcoming Events

Save the dates for these upcoming events and plan to participate!



2022 Association Meetings

All residents are invited! We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd (6176 Sharon Woods Boulevard) and on Zoom. Our upcoming meeting dates are: March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, September 1 (no meeting in August), October 6, November 3, and December 1 (dinner meeting).



Community Safety Update Zoom Call

Join Vice President Leila Ba for this informative Zoom call on Sunday, March 20, from 5:00–6:00 PM! Leila will review recent safety updates for Sharon Woods, including local crime statistics and information from Columbus Police Department Representative Officer Larry Geis. Sign up for our email list to receive the Zoom link and meeting details.



The Sharon Woods Easter Egg Hunt

Save the date: Saturday, April 16, at 10:00 AM. Join our email list for details!



Island Update Day

At 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 21, we'll meet in the Jiffy Lube parking lot located at 161 and Sharon Woods Boulevard. Come help clean up and remove weeds from the island. Once it's clean, we'll mulch and plant annuals.



Northland Community Fourth of July Parade

The parade will begin at 11:00 AM on Monday, July 4, near the intersection of Morse and Karl Roads. It will travel 1.7 miles north on Karl Road to the intersection at East Dublin Granville Road (161). For more information, visit NorthlandParade.org.



The Sharon Woods Community Garage Sale

If you live in the Sharon Woods community, consider hosting a garage sale on Labor Day weekend this year! By hosting your sale on September 2, 3, 4, and/or 5, you'll benefit from heightened visibility thanks to the many households also hosting sales in our community. Each household will be responsible for organizing and hosting their own sale.

Advertise Your Sale: If you would like to advertise your garage sale to the community for just \$5, be sure to fill out the application on **page 7**. If you purchase an advertisement, your address and sale date(s) will be published alongside other sellers' info on a community flier and our website. *Please submit your advertisement purchase before August 19. Only ads from households located in the Sharon Woods community will be accepted.*

Get Connected

Connect with us online and you'll be the first to hear about what's going on in your community.



Our Website

Visit SharonWoodsCA.org for updates, volunteer opportunities, our calendar of events, previous editions of *The Gatepost*, annual membership application/renewal, and more!



Email Notifications

When you visit our website, sign up to receive updates via email. When we publish new posts on the site, you'll receive a copy in your inbox. We won't spam you or sell your email address to anyone.

You can also opt-in to our email list by filling out a membership form on **page 7**.



Follow Us on Facebook

If you're on Facebook, be sure to follow Sharon Woods Civic Association for photos, news, helpful reminders, and more.



Call or Text

Want to get in touch with a board member or trustee? Just call or text **614-600-2469** and your message will be sent along to the appropriate person.



Calling All High Schoolers...

BY JORDAN REEVES, TRUSTEE

Our association is seeking high school students who would like to become Associate Trustees.

Becoming an Associate Trustee for the Sharon Woods Civic Association is a great opportunity for those who are interested in community service by making Sharon Woods a better place. Students don't have to live within the boundaries of Sharon Woods. Associate Trustees can attend association meetings, offer their input, and update association members on what's happening at their schools.

Associate Trustees would also be able to serve on committees! Our committees include: Social Media, Easter Egg Hunt, Beautification/Cleanup, Yard of the Month Contest, Chalk the Walk Contest, Northland Community Fourth of July Parade, Holiday Lighting Contest, and more!

Please spread the word to any high school student who may be interested. Just send me an email (Jordan@SharonWoodsCA.org) with any questions or if you are interested in this opportunity.




PSA: Beware of Crooks Stealing from Post Office Dropboxes

Residents beware! Our association has received multiple reports of mail being stolen from blue USPS drop boxes in our area. Crooks breaking into these drop boxes can steal checks being mailed out. The crooks will then wash the check and use it to steal money from the sender's checking account.

Sharon Woods residents have reported losses in the thousands of dollars, not to mention the hassle of working with their bank's fraud department, changing bank accounts, and updating billing info with service providers.



USPS personnel have recommended that residents bring mail *inside* a USPS facility rather than using these drop boxes. Residents can also switch to online billing with their service provider to avoid mail altogether.




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AD

The 2022 Sharon Woods Civic Association Scholarship

BY KAREN OSMOND, TREASURER

High school seniors, apply for this scholarship by April 13!

Our association will award a \$500 scholarship to one graduating high school senior residing in Sharon Woods, which can be used toward their college career or trade school. To be eligible for this scholarship, each student must:

- Complete all fields in the form below;
- Carry a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher;
- Complete at least 30 hours of community service during the student's junior or senior year; and
- Submit an essay (no more than 750 words) explaining the community service completed by the student, how the community service has affected the student, and how the student intends on continuing to serve their community in the future.

It is with great pride that we offer this opportunity to a soon-to-be college or trade school student in recognition of their support for the community. We hope this will inspire the student to continue in community service throughout life.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Completed applications should be mailed to the Sharon Woods Civic Association (P.O. Box 297974, Columbus, Ohio 43229) or emailed to Info@SharonWoodsCA.org. Upon review of applications and at their discretion, the association may schedule personal interviews (in-person or via Zoom) before awarding the scholarship. Please send me an email (Karen@SharonWoodsCA.org) for more information.

2022 Sharon Woods Civic Association Scholarship Application

First & Last Name:

Street Address (In Columbus, Ohio 43229):

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Name of High School:

Name of Principal/Guidance Counselor*:

Community Service References

Include full name and phone number for each reference, and type of service.

Reference #1:

Reference #2:

* A current high school transcript can be submitted in lieu of principal/guidance counselor information.



Snow Removal Assistance in Sharon Woods

Our association facilitates connections between those who need help with snow shoveling/plowing and those who would like to provide that service at a reasonable rate. If you fall into one of those groups, please visit SharonWoodsCA.org/Snow to submit your info.

Once our association receives submissions, we will furnish a list of snow removers to the residents in Sharon Woods who need help. Sharon Woods residents can then contact snow removers at their convenience to establish a mutually beneficial arrangement. These relationships may also come in handy during the spring and summer months when other outdoor work begins!

Advertise in *The Gatepost*

Support our association and connect with Sharon Woods residents at the same time!

If you own a local business, consider purchasing ad space in an upcoming *Gatepost* issue to showcase your product/service to the many potential customers in our community. *The Gatepost* is distributed quarterly to nearly 1,800 homes in the Sharon Woods community and over 2,800 email subscribers.

Visit SharonWoodsCA.org/Ads to get started.



Seasonal Maintenance Tips

Ready or not, Old Man Winter has moved to Central Ohio.

Hopefully by now you've been able to perform your pre-winter checklist to prepare your home for those chilly nights: clearing out gutters, testing your sump pump, insulating outdoor spigots, inspecting your chimney and furnace, and adding insulation to your attic if necessary. Here are some tips for making it through the next few months until spring...

If you haven't already, replace the batteries in your smoke detectors, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors. (Many people do this in March, but replacing batteries in January ensures they're fresh for when we run our heating appliances most.)

Reverse the direction of ceiling fans to force warm air down into the room.

Do your best to keep your driveway and walkways clear of ice and snow. Invest in some ice melting compound if necessary.

If you're leaving town, don't set your thermostat below 55° F. Otherwise, you'll risk freezing and bursting pipes between your walls.

Speaking of burst pipes...Make sure everyone in your family knows how to turn off your home's water supply in case of an emergency. This can prevent significant water damage if a pipe bursts.

Check your doors and windows for drafts. If you find any, add some weather stripping or caulk.

Keep an eye on your roof for ice dams. Icicles can be a sign of a poorly-insulated attic and a potential ice dam hazard.

Monitor trees on your property and make sure there are no large branches loaded down with snow which could become a dangerous hazard.

This isn't an exhaustive list, so consider researching other winter tips which can protect your home and keep your family cozy!



Roofing & Remodeling

Dan Hughes 614-203-5555

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Annual Membership Application / Renewal

Support your Sharon Woods community! Complete and mail the form below or visit SharonWoodsCA.org/Membership to apply for new membership, renew your existing membership, or make a donation.

Your annual membership dues and donations help the Sharon Woods Civic Association operate and fulfill its mission of bettering the Sharon Woods community. With about 1,800 residences in our area, we need all the help we can get to keep Sharon Woods safe, clean, and active! In addition to your membership and optional donation, consider serving as a volunteer or by joining our Board of Trustees (see reverse side for more information). *Thanks for your partnership in making our association a vital link between the residents of Sharon Woods and greater Columbus!*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Your membership renewal date is one year from the month you submit this form. If you need information on your membership status or renewal date, please contact Secretary Laura Bastin (614-600-2469; Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org).

Today's Date:

First Name:

Last Name:

Street Address (In Columbus, Ohio 43229):

Phone Number:

Email Address:

We do not share your email address; we use it to communicate with you only when necessary.

Member Type (Select One):

Household (\$18)

Senior Age 60+ (\$15)

Business (\$25)

Additional Options

of Christmas Eve Luminary Candles (3 for \$1):

Garage Sale Ad (\$5 Total):

Sept. 2 Sept. 3

Sept. 4 Sept. 5

Monetary Donation for Community Projects:

\$

Total Amount Enclosed:

\$

What can our association do to make Sharon Woods even better?

Mail completed form with payment to: Sharon Woods Civic Association, P.O. Box 297974, Columbus, Ohio 43229



The Sharon Woods Civic Association is a local not-for-profit corporation operated exclusively for the civic betterment of the Sharon Woods community.

Our vision is to establish rapport with the community, building and cultivating a strong commitment to represent common issues and concerns of all who live and are employed in Sharon Woods. To contact a member of our Executive Board or Board of Trustees, call or text **614-600-2469** with your message or send an email using the addresses listed below.

Become a member today and help us fulfill our mission to better our neighborhood. See page 7 for more information and instructions.

*Becoming a Trustee is a great way to give back to your community!
Email President John Kirkpatrick (John@SharonWoodsCA.org)
to learn more about this unique opportunity to serve Sharon Woods.*

Executive Board

Members of the Executive Board serve voluntarily for two or more years, overseeing official association business and stewarding association resources for the civic betterment of Sharon Woods.

John Kirkpatrick, *President*
John@SharonWoodsCA.org

Leila Ba, *Vice President*
Leila@SharonWoodsCA.org

Laura Bastin, *Secretary*
Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org

Karen Osmond, *Treasurer*
Karen@SharonWoodsCA.org

Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees are elected to serve our community voluntarily for two or more years by participating in association meetings, taking an active part in our activities, and overseeing one or more committees focused on the civic betterment of Sharon Woods. *We're currently seeking new trustees to serve!* If you're interested, please contact President John Kirkpatrick (John@SharonWoodsCA.org) to learn more.

Roger Heckel
Columbus Beechcroft Lions Club Liaison
Roger@SharonWoodsCA.org

Deacon Hooper
Deacon@SharonWoodsCA.org

Scotty Kuder
Scotty@SharonWoodsCA.org

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Marie Wallick
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How about you?
Email John@SharonWoodsCA.org to get involved.