

# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

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## Lighting Up A City

### Expanding Sherwood's Potential & Enhancing Our Lives

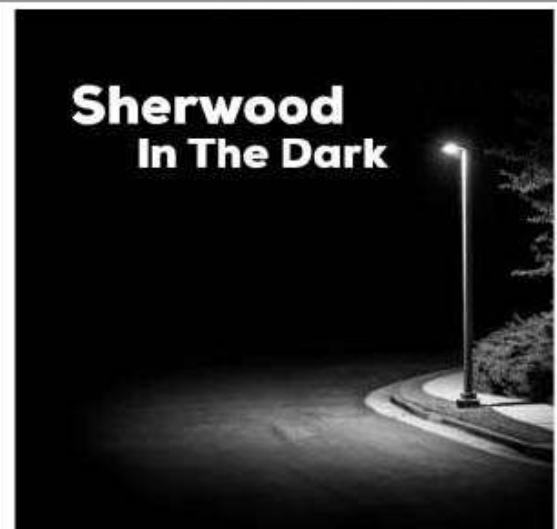
Darkness covers half of our lives. While we sleep most of this time, all of us are required to be out and about during night time hours to some degree. During these night time excursions, how a city is planned and lighted can impact our lives. Well-designed night-time lighting can influence the way people use and enjoy a community. It not only affects the way people move around the streets, but it also affects the way people feel.

Safety is an essential component of good lighting. The safety can come in several forms. Lighting deters potential offenders by increasing the likelihood that they could be seen when committing a crime. Good street lighting also reduces the fear of crime and enhances feelings of community safety. By illuminating roads, parks, and other public spaces, cities reduce the risks of accidents and injuries by improving visibility. In a publication on Sustainable Energy for All it states that studies have shown that public lighting can reduce crime by 20% and traffic accidents by up to 35%.

Additionally, public lighting supports economic growth. Not only are people more willing to spend time outdoors in evenings but studies have shown that it improves the amount of business for both restaurants and entertainment.

Lighting also makes people feel welcomed to a community. An example of this that can be seen locally is in the city of Conway. Whether you approach Conway from either east or west on I-40, you know by the interstate lighting alone when you enter Conway. You can not say the same for North Little Rock. And along that stretch of I-40 in Conway have popped up lots of hotels, shopping, and restaurants. Why is this area lit so differently then the rest of I-40? Because the city leadership required it. ( See LIGHT Page3 )

## Sherwood In The Dark



# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

Sherwood Parks & Recreation Department

## *Easter* EGG HUNT



Bring Your Own Basket • Ages 0-10 • Prizes at Each Location

### 2 P.M. SHARP ~ SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Find us at a park near you:  
FAIRWAY PARK - 800 Fairway Ave. ~ INDIANHEAD PARK - 33 Deerfield Drive  
SHERWOOD FOREST - 1111 W. Maryland Ave. ~ HUGHES PARK - 31 Glade Road

# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

**(LIGHTS Continued from Page 1)** . If it meant that the city had to pay extra to have the extra lighting, then it did it because it paid dividends.

There are different kinds of lighting, and all are important because it creates a layering affect. There is vehicular lighting and pedestrian scale lighting on streets. The regular streetlights are taller lights that light the streets for cars moving at the speed limit. Lower, more frequent lights are the pedestrian lighting and they provide a comfortable light for walkers on sidewalks. Good lighting accommodates both types. Further, distinctive lighting features can be used to create a great sense of place. Period fixtures and sleek, low-profile fixtures can re-enforce the character of different areas of the community. Off the street, building lighting, landscape lighting, and area lighting all create a pleasing effect. Up-lighting on trees and well-lit benches add dimension to open spaces in the evenings, too. Light fixtures also give you opportunities to add community banners and hanging flower baskets, especially pedestrian scale lighting poles. Intended effect, even more than cost, is the critical factor here.

Now let's talk about Sherwood, we suffer from not only from a lack of attractive lighting fixtures, but also a lack of adequate lighting. Brockington Road is now only second in traffic to Hwy. 107, - barely second. It spans the geographical center of Sherwood. However, for anyone who has travelled it at night, it is less than an inviting street. It is highly underlit with no pedestrian scale lighting at all. The street lighting is spaced too far apart with several long, dark stretches. With this road holding the economic key to our future, how are we creating an inviting area for businesses and restaurants? What are we doing for placemaking? While there are sidewalks on both sides of the streets, they do not welcome you to walk down them at night. Without good pedestrian lighting, they feel scary and unwelcoming.

Even our neighborhoods are not generally well lighted. Drive down any our residential streets and you will frequently see long, dark stretches. This is true in either

the more grid-like streets of old Sherwood or the curvilinear subdivision streets of newer areas of Sherwood. My street is darker than I am comfortable with. Looking from one pool of light under a street light across a pitch-black stretch to another distant pool of light, even an adult can be forgiven for wondering what troubles lurk in that darkness.

And it's not just city streets. The other evening after coming out of a Chamber of Commerce event at Sherwood Forest, I was shocked at how dark the parking lot was. Several of the elderly attendees were scared to walk through it for fear of falling. This is a public venue. Certainly, all of Sherwood's public venues and city owned parking lots should be well lit. The city should set the example.

Clearly, lighting is an area where Sherwood can dramatically improve.

## **Brockington Road Lighting**

Below is a night time photograph of Brockington Road (top) and a photograph of a well-lighted street (bottom.) Which street looks more inviting?



# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

## My Vision for Sherwood and Lighting

We can use lighting to bring quality of place to so many areas. For example, Brockington needs to be dressed up with more street lighting as well as pedestrian scale lighting. (See Photo previous page) This street is going to be our economic driver in the future. It is the next major commercial/shopping area in our city. Let's make it feel warm and inviting both day AND night. Give it an elevated visual platform on which businesses can build. If we want the majority of commercial developers to put in quality developments, bringing in the quality restaurants and businesses that we are all craving, then we must do our part and set that stage.

Kiehl Avenue is another area that has the potential to be so much nicer with good lighting. The lighting of the street along Kiehl shows each separate era the land on the street was developed. City Hall sits about midway along Kiehl and could be a show piece area for the city. However, it sits in the dark at night. Walt Barnhardt was instrumental in creating the pond and park area by city hall. The area is referred to on city maps as Thornhill Park, but it was actually named Barnhardt Park. This park and the pond as well as the entire municipal complex could become a nighttime jewel for the city that appeals to city residents and visitors alike.

Think about the park and municipal complex area in its current state at night. It is very dark except for the obnoxiously bright electronic message board sign. The administration installed some cute lantern lights in the back parking lot. While the lighting is good, the decorative lights in a more utilitarian space are, in my opinion, such a waste and missed opportunity. Put the cute pedestrian scale lantern lights along the sidewalk in front of the complex. Light the walking bridge on both sides with white lights. Light the walking path around the pond. Put a lighted fountain in the middle of the pond which also helps ( See VISION Page 5 )



# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

(VISION Continued from Page 4 ) keep down the mosquito population. Use up lights to light the trees throughout the park and in front of City Hall and the Police Station. And light up the walking bridge that crosses Kiehl. Put lighting on the municipal buildings themselves to create interest. Out of the dark of night, the Municipal Complex would shine with good lighting.

Would this increase nighttime usage of the Municipal Complex park area? Of course! And how great would that be? There is already plenty of parking available. You are right by the police station, can't feel any safer than that when good, welcoming lighting is added to the area. And now you have created a city show piece on Kiehl. People can have a wonderful meal at Bennett's and then take a stroll around the park. The city now has created an amazing evening atmosphere that can be built and expanded on. (And don't worry those who are faithful readers know how important I think sidewalks are for Kiehl.) This would encourage more upscale restaurants to be located in this area because great lighting invites people and restaurants want to go where people want to go. Good lighting is a huge economic driver for restaurants.

Even our parks facilities proper can be enhanced by lighting. All our parks need to be sensitive to lighting to

to create the atmosphere needed for full family usage. When we talked about disc golf at Parks and Recreation Committee, one of the new trends is night disc golf with glow-in-the-dark discs. I suggested up lighting select trees on the course to give the course a warm, magical effect and help direct disc golfers around the course. This makes it special not just for disc golfers, but also as a pretty place to walk around. All of our parks need to be looked at from a different set of lenses to see how they can be enhanced with lighting.

Neighborhoods that are not adequately lit need to be identified and there are plenty. A work schedule for the purpose of adding lighting to these underlit neighborhoods each year can be created. Plan your work and follow your plan. All dark areas can't be fixed over night, but you just keep chipping away at the problem much like we *should* be doing with sidewalks.

Lighting a city correctly will cost money, but it is primarily a one-time expense which can pay dividends to those of us who call Sherwood home. And of course, I am talking about using lighting that is energy efficient and Dark Sky rated. Our city has so much potential. It just takes vision and strong leadership. Sherwood, together we can make our city become what it was truly meant to be. **MJHT**



A Welcoming Evening Stroll



Public Buildings Can Be Lighted

# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

## Miscellaneous Notes

Sherwood Heritage and History Museum will have its grand opening on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am. The public is invited. 510 Sherwood Avenue

Keep Sherwood Beautiful is hosting SHRED-A-Thon  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am – noon  
Jack Evans Senior Center

**SHERWOOD'S**  
Pet Fair Silent Auction Adoption Event  
Join  
SHERWOOD ANIMAL SERVICES  
Sherwood Animal Shelter Helpers & Other Central AR Animal Rescue Groups  
**MAY 14 2022**  
Saturday 10am - 3pm  
ADOPTABLE PETS (Dogs, Cats, Rabbits & Guinea Pigs)  
at Sherwood Forest  
1111 W. MARYLAND AVE.  
**Door Prize**  
UP TO \$200 VALUE  
For more Information 501-834-2287

Jack Evans Senior Center  
2301 Thornhill  
Sherwood, AR



## Fish Fry

April 30, 2022

Doors Open @10:30 am

Serving Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
\$10.00 per person  
\$5.00 Children under 10

### \*Sweets Auction (12:30 pm)

Special Cakes, Pies, Brownies and Cookies will be auctioned to the highest bidder



\*\*\*Funds will be used to help purchase needed items for the Center.\*\*\*  
For more information contact:  
Senior Center  
834-5770

## Big Thank You

to all those who give of their time to help the youth of Sherwood. Watching the Opening Day Ceremonies of Little League, I saw so many men and women shepherding those kids around the bases serving as coaches. I know that we have volunteer coaches in lots of other sports like basketball and soccer. To all the coaches out there, you never really know how much you may impact a child. Kids look up to their coaches adoringly. Our community would not be the same without adults willing to step up and help teach and mentor the kids! And thank you to those behind the scenes making these important programs possible. Kids, especially these days with all that they have been through in the past two years, need the positive physical activities. Sometimes the world right now can feel crazy but, looking into those sweet excited faces was so life affirming.

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## City Clerk Position Changes in Advance of 2022 Election

The City Clerk has officially changed to a part-time position. Further, the position no longer also acts as City Treasurer. The City Clerk is still an elected position. The City Treasurer will become an appointed position. The filing period for the Clerk position is from May 4 to May 24. The requirements are that you need to be a Sherwood resident, at least 18 years of age, and mentally stable. The current City Clerk has already announced her retirement.

The clerk's responsibilities include such duties as arranging the publications of ordinances, requests for bids, notice of hearings, notice of elections, and preparing City Council agendas. The clerk attends the City Council Meetings to keep and maintain a recording of the proceedings and minutes. They keep records regarding commissions and committees, act as custodian of the City's seal and records, sign official documents, provide all necessary notices as required by Arkansas Freedom of Information, and submit various government reports. Our current City Clerk would be happy to talk to anyone interested. There are not required office hours. Much of the job can be done online and there are full time employees that help out this position as needed. The pay is \$18,000 per year with full health insurance coverage, a \$50,000 life insurance policy while in office, and retirement of half the salary if you serve at least ten years. The elected term is four years.

If interested, reach out to City Clerk Angela Nicholson 501-835-5319. Packets to run for office can also be picked up at the City Clerk's Office.

The other positions that are up for election this November include Mayor and the City Council, Position 1 seats for each Ward. Half of the city council comes up for election every two years. Since I am running for Mayor, my current city council seat is open this cycle – Ward 2, Position 1 – and a new city council member will be elected to take my place.

## Proposed Mini Storage Facility Fails

The proposed 900-unit mini storage facility was **voted down** at the March Council meeting **7 to 1**. Outside of a final appeal to the city council by the applicant, there was little disagreement. Then, as discussed at their recent workshop, the council unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Sherwood Planning Commission propose language to amend the existing zoning code on mini-storage facilities to locate them by right only in I-1, Light Industrial zones. This resolution also imposed a 60-day moratorium on any new applications for mini-storage facilities to give time for this amendment to be enacted.

I truly felt like the citizen's voices were heard. Please make sure you communicate with your city council members about not only problems, but also issues that are important to you. Contact information can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

# Mary Jo's Heye-lights

www.theSherwoodSharks.com

## Join The Sherwood Sharks

The Biggest and Best Summer Swim Program In Central Arkansas

### Try Out Information

#### Dates and Time

Saturday, April 30th  
10:00 A.M to 12:00 P.M

Sunday, May 1st  
2:00 to 4:00 P.M

Saturday, May 7th  
9:00 to 11:00 A.M

#### Location

51 Shelby Rd, Sherwood  
Bill Harmon Recreational Center

#### Minimum Skills

#### Requirements:

#### 9 Year Olds and Older:

Must be able to 50 yards  
(down and back), freestyle,  
unassisted.

#### 7 and 8 Year Olds:

Must be able to swim 25  
yards (one length), freestyle,  
unassisted.

#### 6 year Olds and Younger:

Must not be afraid of the  
water and be able to swim half  
way down the pool unassisted.

#### Swim Season Practices:

Indoor practices begin May 16th at  
The Harmon Rec Center.

In June, practice times are  
available in the mornings outdoors  
and evenings indoors.

### Team Cost:

All Ages

\$100

AAU Membership

#### Price includes:

- All practice sessions
- All regular meet entrance fees
- Team t-shirt
- Swim caps
- End of season party
- All awards and trophies.

### Swim Meets:

All meets will be held at  
the Harmon Rec Center  
and in the greater  
Little Rock area  
please refer to website for  
meet dates

### Why Join the Sherwood Sharks

#### Your Child will:

- Learn sportsmanship
- Greatly improve swimming skills
- Meet new friends
- Get exercise
- Have fun
- Be part of the biggest and best summer league team in Central Arkansas

### More Information

Visit our Website at

[www.TheSherwoodSharks.com](http://www.TheSherwoodSharks.com)

Or

Scanning the QR code below  
for both additional information and  
to register your swimmer.

If neither one of those options  
answer your questions feel free to  
contact

Via call, or text

**Cynthia Schultz:**

501-680-2577





# Mary Jo's Heye-lights



## BILL HARMON RECREATION CENTER

Join us in celebrating the  
20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
Bill Harmon Recreation Center!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 | 10 A.M.-1 P.M.**

51 SHELBY ROAD SHERWOOD, AR 72120

- Free day passes all day
- Pickle Ball and other activities
- Refreshments
- Giveaways (while supplies last)

Be sure to enter your name in the drawing to  
win a **FREE** membership!