

Sherman Garden Cooperative Apartments

A monthly publication for residents of Sherman Garden Apartments, 1856-66 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Tucked away in the southeast corner of the courtyard is this gorgeous pot planted by Luchi and Allen Feuerstein (1860).

Photo by Diane Petersmarck



ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Allen Feuerstein (1860), SGAA President

Hello Neighbors,

The association meetings are starting up again. There are a number of exciting things to discuss this year. We plan to get a Halloween Committee together again. The October 13 meeting will be especially important this year. There will be three parts. The auditor report, "Ask the Trustees", and Association issues.

The October meeting has always been a critical meeting since the auditor reviews the Sherman Garden financial report. Prior to the meeting, the management company usually provides these financial documents. Plus, this year, I am sure you will want to ask questions about the parking lot concept.

I would like to revisit something that is very important to our community. The Newsletter is a vital part of Sherman Garden Life. I have sent out emails asking owners to participate by providing articles of interest to our community. You do not need permission to submit an article. However, the article should benefit the community interests but not be political or divisive in nature. Diane Petersmarck and Cindee Bath have put in a lot of time, and cannot do it all. They need help with people writing articles of interest to Sherman Garden residents. Email them your ideas.

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TRUSTEE REPORT

PARKING GARAGE PROPOSAL

We are reaching out for information from a lot of sources and want to re-assure you that we will make this decision fully informed. We don't actually have anything concrete to share right now, but we will keep you as up-to-date as possible.

BULK TRASH PICKUP ON FRIDAY 9/17

Bulk trash pickup for residents of Sherman Garden Apartments is Friday, September 17th. Please note that our driveway cannot be blocked with your items until after the regular Friday yard waste is picked up, so do not bring things out until after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon.

WHO DO I CALL?

Because this seems to be a question asked frequently, we thought we'd review the answers.

1) For most non-emergency issues, please check in first with your building coordinator. LIST

2) Homeowner Services, our maintenance staff, or a Trustee would be your go-to if you can't get an answer from your BC. Depending on which option you're most comfortable with and the urgency of the situation. Homeowner Services do not work weekends, holidays or evenings, but there a 24-hour answering service on

that line for emergencies only. Maintenance staff work 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, but do not work Sundays or holidays. There is an answering machine on the boiler room telephone line, as much of their day-to-day work keeps them out and about.

3) Trustees are good for after-hours help. If it isn't urgent though, please use email.

NEW RULES & REGULATIONS

After a lot of work, spearheaded by Keith Johnson (1856) the 2021 version of the Rules and additional information will be ready to go soon. Look for it in your inboxes if you use email, under your door if not, and also on the website:

<https://shermangardenevanston.com/>

To all those who resident-owners who had input and helped edit, please accept our gratitude.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!

A safety note: please make sure you have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen. This can save lives. **You also need to know how to use one**, so if you don't know how, please read the instructions on the can and pantomime – do not actually pull the pin - the movements (most of them have pictures). Make sure everyone in your household knows where it is and at least the basics of how to use it.

UNITS FOR SALE

1860 - 6/7SC - \$110,00
3BR/2B Townhouse Unit
Listing Agent: Dana Gerstenschlager
@Propertues
Telephone No: 432-0200
MLS No: 11147033

1864 - 2SW - \$72,000
2BR/1B
Listing Agent: Barbara Kramer
Coldwell Banker
Telephone No: 866-8200
MLS No: 11136192

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SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

The public is invited to attend a memorial ceremony from 7:30am-8:30am in Fireman's Park (the corner of Simpson Street and Maple Avenue).

* This year's program will include presentations from Mayor Daniel Biss, Fire Chief Paul Polep, Fire and Police Chaplains, and others. For more details please see: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/18130/250>

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SGA ASSESSMENTS

By Allen Feuerstein (1860)

The topic of our assessments has come up a few times. A few people have expressed to me that the assessments will force them to move. I investigated a few condo and coops listed on Zillow to compare

assessments.

I focused on two calculations. First the assessment and what was included and Second, The price differential of the properties and calculated the additional loan per month which effects the monthly expense.

I found a few properties with lower assessments than ours, but then looked carefully at what was included. For example, 1567 Ridge, 1 Bedroom listed for \$139,900, (792 sq ft.) assessment is \$460, but \$2812 property tax is not included. So that comes to \$694. Second calculation is the cost differential. This one bedroom is \$50,000 more than SG. That cost amortized over 20 years is at least \$208 Add that additional monthly cost and now you are at \$902.

Don Schollenberger (1864) wrote; "Having been a Realtor for over thirty years I have seen how many condominiums and cooperative apartments are managed or for that matter mismanaged. When I take a client to see a condo or coop with a low assessment and

a low reserve, I have warned them to be aware that Special Assessments are almost inevitable if any major repairs are needed. In some of the larger complexes along Lake Shore Dr. I have seen Special Assessments per unit as high as \$25,000 or more.

The history of Sherman Gardens is that there has only been one Special Assessment and that was in 1951. When the Trust Agreement was revised in the late 1980's so financing could be obtained on the units, the Trustees then began building up the Reserve and obtaining a Line of Credit which would be sufficient to handle any major damage. At the same time it was set up so that roofing repairs and tuck pointing would be done on individual buildings on different years, not all done on the same year. "

Julie Lamberti (1860) wrote "When we were looking to move from our little house in south Evanston and wanted to stay in Evanston and move to a condo, we found that Sherman Gardens was our only affordable option despite the assessment. At first, we shied away because of it being a co-op (not sure why) and the assessment. But then we took a look and liked what we saw. It's a great community and excellent location. Also, our good friend Walt Henebry lives here, which is a plus! We were looking for a two bedroom with elevator, given our age. When I did budgets for other condo options, Sherman Garden came out the most affordable when you considered what the assessment covers – water, gas, heat, cooling, electricity, taxes, in addition to maintenance. Plus, condo purchase prices were more expensive than SG. They were even more than the sale value of our home, on which we still had a substantial mortgage. I even looked at renting and that was unaffordable. Not sure what we will do if ever we cannot afford SG because we never want to leave Evanston. We continue to be exceedingly happy with our choice of Sherman Gardens!"

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CALLING ALL RENOVATORS!

By Jack Stern (1862)

Over the last few years, a number of apartments have been renovated. The pursuit to do updates continues today. In the midst of those beginning this challenge, the same question comes up... Do you know someone that can do this or that?

The many stories, mostly not good ones, do not have a positive recommendation. Since this is information we

can all use as a guide, I am asking you to share your experiences with me.



My goal is to create a list of various tradesmen that would be recommended, AND, those people who you would NOT recommend. This would be very helpful information for all of us who are sometimes desperate to find good people.

Please contact me on my landline, (847) 733-0552 to share your information.

###

STUCK IN YOUR UNIT DURING A FIRE ALARM?

From Nancy Funk (1860)

There was a fire alarm in 1860 Wednesday night. Three of my neighbors came to make certain I had heard the alarm and was alright. Wasn't that great? Makes me proud to think of how quickly neighbors respond to a call for help.

I checked with the fire department yesterday on their protocol for a fire in a high-rise when some people can't get out and down the stairs. They called me today and said that those who can't leave their apartments should call 911 and tell them there is a fire in the building, and give them their apartment number. That information will be passed on to the firefighters on the scene and a firefighter will come to your unit. You should stay in your own apartment but make certain the door is unlocked.

FIRST WARD NEWS

By Jane Wooley (1862)



I attended Clare Kelly’s (our city council member) coffee meeting at D&D market on Noyes on August 13th. First of all I knew about it because I subscribed to her newsletter; actually, I think it carried over from my subscription to Judy’s newsletter.

To subscribe to her newsletter, go to cityofevanston.org. Click government. Click city council. Click Clare Kelly. Click subscribe to the first ward newsletter. Put in your email and submit. Secondly, I found out that the 1900 Sherman development has asked for a major adjustment and that they have to go through the approval process again. Watch for more news on this plan.

Process and Schedule

The process for taking action on the proposed amendments will be the same as for a new planned development application.

Tentative Schedule

I. Public Meeting (optional)	September 8, 2021
II. Design and Appearance Review Committee (TBD)	September, 2021
III. Plan Commission	October 13, 2021
IV. Planning and Development Committee	November 8, 2021
V. Full Council Action	November 8, 2021

The following is from her newsletter: Many residents have expressed interest in getting involved in First Ward committees. Please let Clare know which of the following committees you are interested in joining by emailing her at ckelly@cityofevanston.org]:

- Parks and Lakefront
- Public Safety Committee
- Ward Wonderful Cultural Events
- Downtown Evanston Revitalization Citizens Group
- Parking in Evanston
- Our Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee
- Homelessness
- Fair Housing

At Clare’s 1st Ward meeting at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center on August 19th, I learned that Trammell Crow is getting ready to propose a ten-story office building on the Burger King site. It will be a research incubator for

Northwestern professors who want to develop new products.

There is a new subcommittee on affordable housing and affordable housing will be discussed at the city council meeting on the third Monday of September. More information on all these things will be sent to those who subscribe to Clare’s newsletter.

Another proposal that came up at both meetings was to close off the streets near Fountain Square on summer weekends for art, concerts, and outdoor restaurant eating.

UPDATE TO MASKING GUIDELINES

Wear a mask in public indoor settings, even if fully vaccinated

The City's Health & Human Services Department has [updated its masking guidelines](#) in alignment with the latest guidance from the CDC, IDPH and Cook County Department of Public Health. Key points include:

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FILE OF L.I.F.E

“Designed to speak for you when you can’t!”

FILE OF LIFE

Pick up a **File of L.I.F.E.** pouch

The File of L.I.F.E., a plastic pouch with a red sticker, contains an information sheet for residents to indicate their medical history, prescriptions, allergies and emergency contacts. Free File of L.I.F.E. pouches can be picked up at the Levy Senior Center or at any of Evanston's fire stations.

cityofevanston.org/fileoflife

The City is encouraging residents to participate in the File of L.I.F.E. (Life-saving Information for Emergencies) program, which allows them to communicate with emergency responders even if they're unresponsive.

The File of L.I.F.E., a plastic pouch with a bright red sticker, contains an information sheet for residents to indicate medical history, prescriptions, allergies and emergency contacts. The pouch is placed inside the individual’s freezer, where emergency response personnel have been trained to look when responding to medical emergencies. The pouch can also contain other important documents, such as power of attorney, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR), and a living will.

The File of L.I.F.E. is available online at cityofevanston.org/fileoflife, at the Levy Senior Center, located at 300 Dodge Ave., and at [all five Evanston fire stations](#). Community members are encouraged to print or pick up a form, fill it out, and place it in their freezer. Pouches available for pick-up also contain a static cling sticker, which can be placed on a resident's freezer to notify first responders that a File of L.I.F.E. form is inside.

This free community program is sponsored by the Evanston Police & Fire Foundation.

For more information, please call or text [847-448-4311](tel:847-448-4311). For convenience, residents may simply dial 3-1-1 in Evanston.

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A TELEPHONE FOR THE DEAF - ONLY 15 YEARS OLD

By Tim Mahoney (1860)

If you are reading this, chances are you grew-up with a telephone in the house. Memories of the kitchen phone hanging on the wall with a 25 or 50 foot curly cord that would stretch into other rooms of the house. Every time you picked-up the handset, there was a dial tone letting you know to dial the phone number of the person or business you wanted to call. Catching-up with friends and family anywhere, conversations could go on for hours. The longest phone call for me was a whopping 6.5 hours. Where is all this going? Alright, let's dive into it.

Imagine you are born deaf, anytime before the year 1990. Most think, shucks. No music. A radio is useless. Watching T.V. is blah with closed captioning. Afterall, at times the captioning is so fast the words vanish from the screen before you finish. No computer / internet yet.

Now we come to the telephone. 100% useless. No phone means you are isolated from the world unless you have a TTY/TDD. (an electronic typewriter you put the handset in to send/receive text to someone who also has a TTY/TDD). Similar to text messages on a cell phone. Most deaf used it when it was a priority because a typical 10 minute phone call that we hearing people have = 1 hour or more on a TTY. One person at a time, take turns, at the end of typing a sentence, add 'GA'. (Go Ahead – your turn). Deaf people have never heard language. Twenty plus years ago the average deaf person's reading level was around the fourth grade level. Understanding written/ typed English might be some guesswork involved. There is no singing Happy

Birthday. The joy of recognizing a family member's voice after years gone by... Not possible in the deaf world. Text. If you wanted to call a restaurant to order food – ask a hearing person in your house to call for you.



Fast forward to the year 2004. The video phone was just starting to be released to the deaf community. Exciting! A telephone for the deaf. Suddenly the world has just opened up to you. After being on the waiting list, some more than 6 months to finally be installed in your home. Functionally equivalent to a hearing person's telephone. Pick it up and call anywhere you want. But wait. We hearing people have had a phone as far back as we can remember. We know how it works. Culture, courtesy, what to say when we answer and when it's time to hang-up, how to converse using the phone, on and on. This cannot be taught overnight to a deaf person.

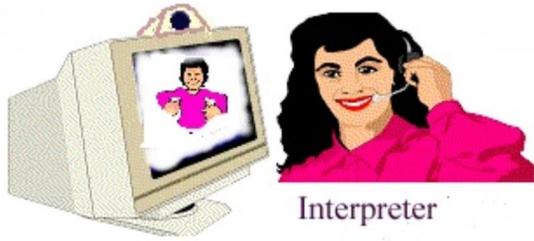
A videophone can be compared to using Facetime, Duo, Zoom, "face to face". A deaf person wants to make a phone call, lets say for example they want to call their doctor's office to make an appointment. They dial the phone number to call and press ENTER.

Sign language user



A sign language interpreter with a headset appears on their screen first and proceeds to call the number. The interpreter is going to use American Sign Language to

Video relay service



interpret what is being said on the phone. The deaf person 'sees' everything being said in their own language. Being able to ask your own questions, make an appointment. Hang-up and make another call Social Security. Another call to the mechanic about the car. Oh, let's call a friend in another state.

Voice telephone user



Deaf calling another deaf person, don't need the interpreter. It's direct like Facetime, Duo, etc. 1:1, chat for hours. Gone are the days of asking a neighbor to call the doctor for you, having to share the most personal and private medical issues with that neighbor so they convey that to the doctor's office.

I am a sign language interpreter and I process these phone calls. Basically, we work for the federal government (FCC). Interpreters have been working in call centers since approximately 2004 until COVID-19 hit. To ensure the telephone system for the deaf remains resilient, stable, without outages from interpreters being out sick. The FCC ruled that interpreters can work from home abiding by several rules and regulations. People always ask why I never answer my own phone, the doorbell intercom, knock on the door, delayed text and email response, etc. While working, the interpreter cannot leave the call. After the call ends, then you can sign-off for a short break if needed. An average phone call is about 5 minutes with the longest phone call that I've processed close to 4 hours. An average 5-minute call is 70 phone calls in a

typical workday. As long as one person is in the USA, the other end of the call can be anywhere in the world. Every work day in the life of a Sign Language interpreter working Video Relay is fresh and new. When the next call comes in,,,,, is it a pizza order? Is it a 9-1-1 call for an ambulance? A job interview? Conference call? One never knows. What an interpreter knows is that without being there, the videophone does not work. The deaf community cannot make a simple phone call or receive one. Since COVID, our average phone time use has increased with the need to feel 'connected' during these times of being home more often. In the video phone world = more calls means more demand for interpreters to make those calls. Have you ever made a call or answered the phone and heard "This is a sign language interpreted phone call. The caller is saying" " If you haven't had the experience, chances are it will be very soon!

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Stinky

Photo by Diane Petersmarck

Sherman Garden Trustees

Diane Petersmarck	Term ends May 2022
Keith Johnson	Term ends May 2022
Charles Fisher	Term ends May 2022
John Coughlin	Term ends May 2023
Tim Mahoney	Term ends May 2024

Sherman Garden Association

President, Allen Feuerstein, 1860
Vice-President, Mary Jo Huck, 1856
Secretary, Morris Phibbs, 1862
Treasurer, Julie Lamberti, 1864
Building Coordinators:1856 – Sherre Brutzkus, Lisa Noble
1860 – Allen Feuerstein, Tim Mahoney
1862 – Jack Stern
1864 – Sarah Vanderwicken, Rosa Alanis
1866 –Pat Rolfs, Walter Henebry

Sherman Garden Apartments is managed by

Heil, Heil, Smart & Golee

5215 Old Orchard Road, Suite 300
Skokie, IL 60077 847.866.7400

hsd@hhsg.net

Property Manager: Gregg Rithmiller

Building Engineers

Rafael Del Rio, Oscar Huazano

Boiler Room Phone: 847.864.6887

SGA Newsletter is edited by Cindee Bath. It is written by Roving Reporters Cherie Fisher, Diane Keely, Walter Henebry, Mary Jo Huck, Phil Osborne, and Jack Stern along with various other residents. Submissions are welcome. Produced by Diane Petersmarck.

