

# The Woods Watch

Visit Our Website at <http://www.sardiswoods.org/>

Sardis Woods Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue 2

June, 2008



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation has presented a unique opportunity for neighborhoods with an interest in building connections among each other, like ours. The Front Porch Grants program awards small grants up to \$2,500 to individual organizations whose projects foster bridge building between individuals, communities, and neighborhoods. If awarded the grant, we will use it to support gatherings, activities, or events that directly connect us to our neighbors through person-to-person conversations and other types of interaction that allow people with similar and different backgrounds to get to know and better understand one another. Sardis Woods has an advantage over many neighborhoods nearby in that we are already very diverse with differences including race, age, culture, professional, employment, offspring, educational level achieved, and economic status. Ideas to facilitate a connection to all of these differences include a block party or sponsoring a SARDIS WOODS ENGLISH "CAFE". A group of neighbors have teamed up to apply for this grant, including Judy Clark, Suzanne Butler, Katie Prastaro, and Pat Carter.



## NEIGHBORS, LET'S MAKE CHARLOTTE SAFER!

Residents all across Charlotte are coming together to make our city safer. They are voicing their concern and taking action to make our city stronger. Currently, Charlotte is 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for property crime and ranked 8<sup>th</sup> for violent crime. The ratio of police officers to residents has dropped over the past decade, while crime rates have risen. Mecklenburg County is projected to grow 44% over the next decade – are we ready? Residents who want to take action and make a difference can go to [www.neighborsforasafcharlotte.org](http://www.neighborsforasafcharlotte.org) for more information.

## STAY IN THE LOOP

If you would like to be included in updates regarding the neighborhood, please send your email address to Danielle Creech at [df13986@yahoo.com](mailto:df13986@yahoo.com). She is the block captain for the even address numbers on Surreywood (if you are coming from Covedale the left side of Surreywood that crosses over Riverwood).

All neighbors are encouraged to log on to: <http://www.sardiswoods.org> and click on 'Contact your Block Captain' on the left hand side. Then view the list provided to know which block captain is assigned to your street. By providing your block captain with your email address, you will receive the latest news and safety alerts affecting you and your surroundings much more efficiently. Also, your block captain wants to hear about what's important to you. Please let your block captain know if you are interested in a block party this summer.



## A BUMP IN THE ROAD

Some of you may have signed a petition to facilitate the much needed speed bumps on Sunnywood, the city has made a change to how that approval process will now take place. The city no longer requires the signatures of the affected residents, if the representatives of the neighborhood association request such an installation. The motion was made by Suzanne Butler and seconded by Nancy Kute that we request speed bumps installed as already approved by the city streets department for Sunnywood. The motion was passed unanimously by the block captains in attendance. They will be installed in the summer of 2009 and the city will inform the residents of the affected area. The fall meeting of the Sardis Woods Association will provide opportunity for discussion.

### HOT TOPICS: WATER CONSERVATION

In the last edition of The Woods Watch, we asked what creative things you are doing to limit and/or conserve water. Thanks to those who responded with clever and inspirational ideas, here are a few of them:

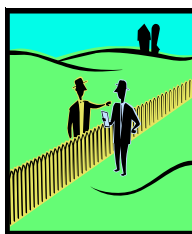
1. We find a great deal of water is lost waiting for water to get hot so I keep a large pitcher on the counter and use it to catch water until the water is hot. I transfer that into a tea kettle that I am keeping on low most of the day. This gives me water to wash a stray dish or two or wash my hands at the sink as well as be ready for tea etc.
2. "Camp showers" get wet, turn off the water, scrub up with soap and then turn the water on to rinse off. Turning off the shower while you shampoo and condition your hair will save about 50 gallons of water per week! (Source: [GreenDaliy.com](http://GreenDaliy.com))
3. Keep a bucket in the bathroom to collect water from the shower while you wait for it to get hot. You can then use that water to fill a humidifier, bird bath outside, or on a stray bush.
4. Another idea while waiting for the shower to warm up is to get in and brush your teeth.
5. Turn off the water going to your toilets and implement a grey water system in your house by using the water from your shower bucket (see #3 above).
6. Do not flush after every use.
7. Dish pans can be used to do some of the dishwashing of things that don't go in the dishwasher. That water with a bit of soap added can also be used to water the plants outside, and as an added bonus, the phosphorus in the soap will benefit the plants.
8. Use one drinking glass per person, per day.
9. Your recyclables don't need to be spotless. Plastics need a hardy wipe but cans and glass are subject to intense heat that will vaporize food residue.
10. Instead of dumping leftover ice cubes, put them in your plants.
11. Use rain barrels, (up to 80 gallons each) or even large trash cans, (20 to 30 gallons each) to capture rain water from your downspouts. They fill up quickly during a rainstorm. Cover for safety after the storm, and to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
12. Save any left-over coffee, tea, water or other drinks, along with some of the "rinsing out" water, to dilute it. Great for any acid-loving plants: Shrubs, (Boxwood, Holly, Laurel, Azalea, Rhododendron, etc.) Gardenia, Day Lily, roses, tomatoes, trees, etc., etc. (Ever heard of MirAcid?) This also accumulates very quickly.

### NEXT EDITION: GAS SAVING TIPS

And now we leave you with something that I'm sure is on everyone's mind, and that is, the rising cost of fuel. With vacations on the horizon and just normal everyday computing, what are you doing to make your gallon of gas go further? Email [k\\_pane@hotmail](mailto:k_pane@hotmail) with your ideas and tips and we'll publish them here in the next Woods Watch.

### NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Have you had a time in which you needed support, either needing your lawn mowed due to an injury, or stranded without transportation temporarily? Or maybe you have a neighbor in which this need exists? Please email [webmaster@sardiswoods.org](mailto:webmaster@sardiswoods.org) with your need or request and the Block Captains will make every effort to fulfill that need as confidentially as possible.



### NEW NEIGHBORS IN THE WOODS

We would like to welcome new neighbors to the Sardis Woods neighborhood:

- Harps Mill has A new neighbor:
  - Bryan McDonough moved here from California.
- Winterset has new neighbors as well:
  - Ashley and Brian are new to Winterset Drive, they moved here from the Selwyn area of Charlotte

We all hope you love this place as much as the rest of us do!



### NEWEST NEIGHBOR IN THE WOODS

Sardis Woods has a brand new neighbor! Elizabeth Ann Nordstrom born on March 2, 2008. She is the first child of Amy and Pete on Longbrook Drive. Welcome to the world and to Sardis Woods, little Elizabeth!

## AFLOAT AFTER THE FLOOD

*With the ongoing drought, the thought of your house flooding is probably the last thing on your mind. However, one Sardis Woods family was recently faced with this nightmare and is still recovering from the damages. In hopes that this won't happen to anyone else, the family wanted to share their poignant story with their neighbors.*

Back in mid-April, a homeowner on Longbrook saw some water trickling from the base of their downstairs toilet and called a plumber immediately. But after explaining the problem, the plumber advised them that this wasn't a plumbing issue -- it was a city sewer line backing up.

Within hours, the entire downstairs was flooded and everything was ruined. The damages added up to \$43,000, plus the cost of staying in a hotel for a month. To this day, the family is still picking up the pieces.

The homeowners learned that their house was built below the sewer line, which isn't permitted anymore, but was allowed back in the 80s, when their house and other homes in Sardis Woods were built. The backup of the sewer line is caused by people pouring grease down the drain of their sink and tree roots growing into the sewer line itself.

Apparently, before this family moved in, the exact same thing happened in 2001. The city repaired the line, but obviously not well enough.

When they informed the city of the latest incident, officials agreed to cover only \$250 worth of damages. Fortunately for the homeowners, their insurance, State Farm, covered all of it. But not all policies cover this type of thing.

Although the homeowners certainly hope this is an isolated incident, they wanted to pass on the following advice in case the need arises:

1. Check your homeowners insurance policy. Often, an addendum to the policy is needed to cover such an incident.

2. If this does happen to you, call the City Utilities Department immediately before it's cleaned up and prepare to provide proof to both the city and the insurance company. (In their case, they had the plumber as proof.)
3. Be aware that while you're cleaning up, the water is extremely toxic and hazardous.

We can all work together to help keep this from happening again here in Sardis Woods!

When grease is poured down drains, it causes sewer pipes to clog. And that's a recipe for disaster.

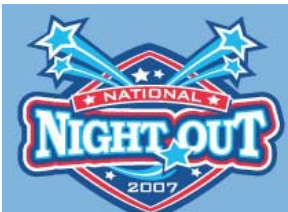
Why?

- Clogged pipes can cause raw sewage to back-up into your home, (as in this case) your yard, your streets and waterways.
- Grease in your sewer pipes leads to increased plumbing costs.
- Money spent on costly cleanups of sewage spills leads to increased utility bills.

How can you help prevent grease buildups from blocking sewer lines?

- Never pour grease down the sink drain.
- Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash can and garbage bags and dispose of properly.
- Pour cooled grease into an empty can or plastic bottle and then place it in the trash.
- Use rubber scrapers and paper towels to remove oil and grease from cookware.
- Avoid using the garbage disposal.
- Put baskets or strainers in sinks to catch food scraps, and then, empty them in the trash can.

And – it's not just cooking oil. Dairy products, mayonnaise and salad dressings all contain fats and oils that can clog our pipes too!



NO NATIONAL  
NIGHT OUT IN  
SARDIS WOODS  
THIS YEAR

**National Night Out** will not take place this year as a result of excessively hot temperatures the past two years. More to come on a large group gathering currently in the planning stages for the fall.

### Gado Gado



The 'Writing Women of the Woods' decided to try out the new restaurant in Matthews. We arrived around 8 on a Friday night, and it was a full house. The doorman greeted us at the back door, and we were taken across a beautifully decorated dining room to the front near the bar to wait for the hostess. The

fact it took 16 months to revamp and reconstruct a restaurant from a bank was evident. The décor was tasteful and well thought out and the original artwork was an added gift. We agreed to sit on the patio because it was a perfect night out. The patio had a buzz of laughter and every plate we walked by seemed to be a work of art. We decided on a couple 'adult beverages' and some appetizers to share, a salad, entrée and chocolate cake (it was really simple, nothing too terrific). The descriptions of the dishes are taken from the website, and our review of the each below:

#### Fried Mozzarella \*\*\*

Homemade mozzarella, served with our house marinara sauce

*We enjoyed this, but felt the portion size was too small for the price. Not enough to share with the table.*

#### Spinach Artichoke Dip \*\*\*\*

With grilled pita wedges

*This was very good, homemade and enough for the table.*

#### Arugala Salad \*\*\*

Crispy prosciutto, pine nuts, caramelized apples, shaved asiago with a basil vinaigrette.

*Delicious salad with a nice balanced taste. The prosciutto added just the right amount of saltiness while the apples and the vinaigrette added sweet and tangy hints. It was a little pricy for an appetizer salad but the quality was excellent.*

#### The Gado Gado \*\*\*1/2

Grilled zucchini, squash, shallots, red onions, fennel,

red peppers, wild mushrooms, with extra virgin olive oil and fresh herbs; served with sweet green pea & wild mushroom risotto.

*With this being the restaurant's signature dish, I expected it to have a bit more pizzazz. However, all of the vegetables were tasty and perfectly cooked, and the risotto was spot on.*

#### Seafood Linguine \*\*\*

Mussels, Clams, Shrimp or a combination of all. Choice of homemade marinara or white wine sauce.

*I chose shrimp only and based on the recommendation of our server, went with the white wine sauce. It was good but forgettable. The shrimp were big and cooked just right, not too chewy, but the sauce was bland*

(based on a highest score of 5 stars \*\*\*\*\*)

Overall it is a lovely place, and we all were thrilled to support a new, creative place in Matthews. The staff seemed educated on the menu and were all professional and well dressed. While we observed the menu was a tad pricey (\$16-\$25 per entrée), we felt the ambiance, details and clientele can support it. In my opinion, it is refreshing to have a nicer place in Matthews, not just another wing or dollar beer and shrimp joint.

INFO: Gado Gado Restaurant, 157 North Trade St., Matthews. 704-844-8686. Hours: Monday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.; dinner Monday through Thursday 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Full service bar open all day. Patio. Major credit cards. [www.gadogadousa.com](http://www.gadogadousa.com)



Another Gado Gado offering, Tuna niçoise



### Are you *CRAZY* about Babies?

Since 2006, I've had the wonderful opportunity to attend or host a brunch for all of the new and expecting moms in Sardis Woods! Well, we're doing it again...but this time the brunch will include a BabyCrazy party. [www.babycrazy.com](http://www.babycrazy.com). BabyCrazy was founded in 2002 and carries the latest and best baby products available, often products not available anywhere else. The sales rep will have prizes and plenty of merchandise for us and our babies to experiment with. Even if you're not in the market for kids toys and gear, bring your little one and join us for food, fun, and plenty of laughs on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM at the home of Kathleen Haley. Please RSVP at [k\\_pane@hotmail.com](mailto:k_pane@hotmail.com) or 704.321.7845.

### English Conversation Group



Would you be interested in an English Conversation Group meeting for the purpose of practicing English (if English is your second language) or meeting neighbors in Sardis Woods who have come to America from other countries? As a teacher of ESL (English as a Second Language) I am aware that the opportunity to practice English conversation with others who have that need is difficult to find. I am also aware of the benefits of being an American born and having the opportunity to make friends with people from other countries, to learn about their culture while encouraging them in their development of English skills. It is a win/win for all involved. If such a group would interest you, please contact me at 704-845-1130 or email [judysincharge@carolina.rr.com](mailto:judysincharge@carolina.rr.com). I look forward to the possibility that such a group would enhance our great neighborhood.

- Judy Clark

GET THE LATEST NEWS, LINKS AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION ON THE SARDIS WOODS WEBSITE AT:  
<http://www.sardiswoods.org/>



### I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Ice Cream!

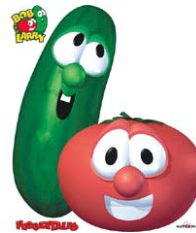
Calling all families and ice cream lovers! Join us for Sardis Woods Family Day and Ice Cream Social at James Boyce Park, off of Sardis Road, on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We'll have fun things for the kiddies including sidewalk chalk, bubbles and lots of ice cream! Bring an ice cream sundae to share.



### Girls Night Out

Hey ladies, get out of the house or stop by after work, we'll be at Salsa's on Sardis Road North (behind McDonald's) on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Especially any new neighbors, we want to meet you! Let's kick back and get to know one another with margaritas and appetizers. Hope you can join us!

### Okay guys, it's your turn...



Put down those BlackBerry's and weed whackers, you deserve a night out too! Anyone interested in planning a social activity for the men of Sardis Woods, please email your announcement/invitation to [k\\_pane@hotmail.com](mailto:k_pane@hotmail.com).



### Sardis Woods HS Student Looking For Summer Work

Hi, my name is Nabil. I am a 15-year-old student at Butler High School and a hardworking, honest, and responsible person. I enjoy helping others as much as I can. During the summer, I always keep myself busy by working and being active. If you need assistance with yard work, please contact me, via our Sardis Woods Website email, at: [swana\\_contact01@sardiswoods.org](mailto:swana_contact01@sardiswoods.org) with your name and phone number. I will then call you to discuss the particulars. Thank you for your consideration.