

The Woods Watch

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Sardis Woods Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue 3

September, 2008

SEMI-ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9th AT 7:00 PM
EAST BAPTIST CHURCH
6850 MONROE ROAD
(Next to East Mecklenburg High School)

Bring your questions and comments regarding our Sardis Woods and join your neighbors for a chance to talk to Robert Gallup of street department of Charlotte, as well as Officer C. Brent Helms, our neighborhood contact with the Independence Police Division.

Our community meetings give all of us a chance to discuss neighborhood needs, ideas, and brings us in contact with those who are ready to be a positive influence in our neighborhood.

Coffee and desserts provided.



HUMP IN THE ROAD

As we reported in the last edition of the Woods Watch, the city has studied Sunnywood Road and determined the street is eligible for road humps. The city plans to install the road humps on Sunnywood after contacting all Sunnywood residents in the next 30-60 days. The road humps are scheduled for installation in 2009. Residents will have the opportunity to respond to the city's plan. Robert Gallup, the city officer responsible for the plan will be at the community meeting on October 9th to answer questions.

Get the 411 on CharMeck 311

So much information is right at your fingertips, probably more than you had ever thought. The city of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County offer a variety of helpful services using 311, the phone number for non-emergency services and government information.

Here are some of the free services you can utilize when you dial 311:

Animal Services: Find out what pets are up for adoption and see if your lost pet was picked up by Animal Care and Control. You can also call to report a dangerous animal in your neighborhood.

Tax Information: Call with any questions regarding your vehicle tax or personal property bills.

Road Improvement: Call to report a pothole or request improvements to roads, street signs or traffic lights.

Solid Waste Requests: Request a bulky item pickup by calling 311. The operator will set up a date for you to place your items on the curb. They also can answer any of your questions regarding local garbage and recycling services.

Non-Life Threatening Emergencies: If you need to request an officer or would like to report a complaint regarding noise, graffiti, truancy or loitering, you can call anytime without burdening 911.

Parks and Recreation Information: Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are filled with numerous parks that offer programs and facilities. Call to reserve a park facility, register for programs, report problems related to facility or park cleanliness or to request a permit or map.

Utility Information: For more information about Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility services or to access your account, you can call 311 anytime.

Storm Water Information: Call if you need to report storm drain blockage or storm water erosion.

All calls to 311 are answered by a live operator, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Or, email CharMeck 311 at webrequests@ci.charlotte.nc.us.



Go Green To Save Some Green

Unplug Things That Glow

Unplug appliances and electronics that glow and you could save \$200 a year! Anything that has an LED (light emitting diode) that glows even after you turn it off continues to draw power (that you pay for). Your TV, cell phone charger, and printer are likely culprits. Unplug the offenders from wall sockets and plug them into power strips instead. When you leave a room, flip the strip switch to cut the flow of electricity.

Recycle Your Electronics

Americans tossed out 5.5 billion pounds of electronics -- TVs, stereos, cell phones, and computers -- in 2005. Millions of pounds of chemicals and heavy metals ended up in the ground even though it's easier than ever to recycle electronics.

Go to: www.mygreenelectronics.org to help people find a place to recycle your electronics. (There are 2 places in Matthews). Sell unused cell phones to greenphone.com. You'll receive about \$35, and the phones will be refurbished and resold. If 1 million people recycled one cathode-ray tube TV this year, we'd keep 4 million pounds of lead out of the ground.

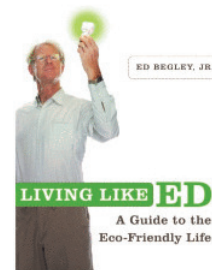
Do Full Loads

Whenever you wash just a few clothes or dishes at a time rather than waiting for a full load to accumulate, you're wasting water, power, and money. The average American family of four washes about 540 loads of laundry a year, which consumes up to 21,000 gallons of water, and more than 150 loads of dishes, which uses about 1,500 gallons. Most of the energy consumed by washers goes toward heating the water -- about 90 percent in the clothes washer and 80 percent in the dishwasher. Combining half-loads, choosing short cycles, and using cold or warm rather than hot water in the clothes washer racks up savings. Wash two fewer loads of clothes and one fewer load of dishes a week and save up to 4,500 gallons of water a year! (Also save money in utility fees!).

Go Green Continued...

Change a Light Bulb

Installing a compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) is the quickest, easiest way to save energy -- and money. Unlike incandescents, CFLs convert most of the energy they use into light rather than heat. They consume about 75 percent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer (10,000 hours as opposed to 1,500). Replace one 75-watt incandescent bulb with a 25-watt CFL and save up to \$83 over the life of the bulb.



Want to do more?

A great book to read is "Living Like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life" by Ed Begley, Jr.

Curbside Recycling Demystified

What you CAN recycle curbside:

Aluminum cans	ALL glass containers
Magazines and catalogs	Milk jugs
Spiral paper cans	Newspapers
Steel cans	Telephone books
Flat corrugated cardboard (no pizza boxes)	
Plastic soft drink and liquor bottles	

Additional materials you can drop off and recycle:

*Hickory Grove Recycling Center, 8007 Pence Road
Open: Tuesday - Saturday; 7am - 3pm*

CFL Light bulbs	Eyeglasses
Oil filters	Cooking oil
Tires (limit 5)	Plastic 6-pack rings
Paint: oil and water-based	Fire extinguishers
Household batteries (camcorder, laptop, camera, flashlight batteries, etc.)	
Appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, water heaters, etc.)	
Lead acid (car) batteries	
Scrap aluminum and ferrous metal (bed frames, swingsets, etc.)	
Motor oil/antifreeze/transmission fluid (NO brake fluids!)	
Propane tanks from gas grills (empty!)	
Used clothing in good condition	
Computers and Monitors	

Visit www.charmeck.org for more information**



Caffeine Highway

Ahhh...where oh where do I find a local coffeehouse that is inexpensive, I am able to *not* get my toddler out of the car and juggle hot coffee and her seat-belt...and that is easily accessible?

Viola! I have found Caffeine Highway. Conveniently located just up the road on Sardis Rd. North next to Steve and Barry's, it is easy to get to because of the traffic light right on the corner of each street. I pull up to see the great, big sign that lists it's (oh too many to choose from!) coffee and goodies (bagels, muffins, Chai, tea, etc) . Since I am a coffee snob, I decide to judge by the simplicity of a cup of coffee. Oh was I grateful when they offered to mix in the cream and sugar (no mess in my car!) and the clerks were oh so very nice.

It was early, and they were very cheerful already. I also got a dollar croissant and marveled at it's freshness as I inhaled it on the way out. Come to find out the owners are a local husband and wife team that put all their heart into this business. They hope to one day be Sardis Woods residents....I am certainly hoping for their success and strength in this economy. I always gravitate towards helping a local business...hope you all agree and enjoy a cup....



Girls Night Out

Since we had SUCH a great turnout in June, we decided to do it again! We'll be at Salsa's on Sardis Road North (behind McDonald's) on **Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00pm**. 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! RSVP k_pane@hotmail.com



Holiday Cookie Swap

Oh, it is that time of year again! Come join in the fun of swapping some sweet treats while gabbing and sharing in the holiday cheer (what is more fun than that?)

December 11th at 7:00

RSVP to Stacy at shamrockstac@yahoo.com
Details will follow. Hope to see you all there!



Covedale Entrance Improvements Are Coming...

The Sardis Woods landscaping committee responsible for the revitalization of the Covedale entrance signs has a work day planned for **Saturday October 4th at 9AM**.

The committee is asking for volunteers to help replace the dead shrubs, add pansies and freshen the mulch. Financial donations are also greatly appreciated as the committee tries to maintain the entrance area throughout the year.

Please contact Ellen Dillard to volunteer or donate (704) 846-8443, 9526 Covedale Dr.

We Want You!

Block Captains are still needed on:
8945—9234 Covedale
100—150 Sunnywood
500—535 Sunnywood
Wishing Well



In order to keep our neighborhood as alert and in touch as possible, we need your help! Volunteering to represent a few homes on your street by becoming a block captain is a fun way to get involved in your community and meet your neighbors. Block Captains are asked to distribute newsletters to their assigned neighbors and attend Block Captain meetings and socials. If you are interested in becoming a block captain please email: judyincharge@carolina.rr.com