



# WOODS WATCH

The Official Publication of  
The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association

August 2012  
Volume 7, Issue 3

## Eastland Re-energized

### City purchase of ghost mall a win-win for our area

On July 24, the Charlotte City Council voted to purchase the Eastland site, a decision that benefits East Charlotte, including Coventry Woods, which is just two stoplights south of the defunct mall.

Pieces of the mall and its parking lot were owned by seven companies; the fragmented ownership hampered efforts to maintain Eastland in recent years, and after it closed prevented the 80-acre site from being purchased and redeveloped.

The city plans to reassemble the parcels and consider its redevelopment options. There has been considerable interest by film- and TV-production companies to buy -- or buy into -- the site. Wilmington has a thriving film studio and film community; portions of "The Hunger Game" and other movies have been shot in the Charlotte area; Showtime's "Homeland" series is filmed in Charlotte, as well as "HBO/CINEMAX's Banshee", a TV series currently filming here.

The city's Neighborhood and Business Services department wants the outcome to spur East Charlotte's economic resurgence, both at the site and in the immediate vicinity. Eastland was purchased for \$13.2 million; the money had been approved and earmarked for this in a 2008 Neighborhood Initiative bond.

Politics and the site's fragmented ownership prevented earlier redevelopment.

John Autry, a long-time board member of the CWNA, was elected last November to represent our area on the City Council. One of his top priorities was to push the city to solve the Eastland problem.

Working with Mayor Anthony Foxx and Neighborhood and Business Services, a broker was prompted to work out the details of the acquisition.

*Eastland Mall continued on Page 2*

### Tribute to Tom Mattingly

By John Borden

Tom Mattingly, a long-time leader in Coventry Woods, died May 17 in Durham at age 74.

Tom and Barbara Mattingly were among the early settlers of Coventry Woods. Back in the day, it was as far as you could commute from UNCC and still be somewhat close to central Charlotte. Tom, a Yale grad and son of a military physician who was President Eisenhower's heart specialist, was a long-time chemistry professor at UNCC; Barbara taught in the English as a Second Language department. They raised their kids, Jonathan and Sarah on Coronado Drive; they sold their gray two-story about 2 1/2 years ago.

Tom and Barbara had serious health issues and moved to an assisted-living community in Durham, where Jonathan is a math professor at Duke.

Tom was a charming neighbor, good host and engaging dinner guest.

Tom -- a brilliant, crusty-but-endearing guy -- was one of the leaders of our community back before the CWNA. He is largely responsible for heading the successful effort to break Reddman Road as a cut-through in the 1970s and 1980s, a fight that was finally won by the CWNA.

The Mattingly's were long-time CWNA members and supporters who contributed generously during our Independence Woods litigation.

*Tribute continued on Page 2*

**Eastland Mall** continued from page 1

Before the City Council unanimously approved the purchase on July 24, various speakers weighed-in on the Eastland issue, including Andrea Smith who spoke for the CWNA board.

In her speech, Andrea said, "Public money has been lavished on Charlotte's outskirts, where new infrastructure and city incentives help attract both businesses and residents. Millions has been spent to revitalize Charlotte's uptown. East Charlotte asked for little. And got even less."

"It's time now for the Council to make a wise decision."

The various speakers -- and the Council members in pre-vote deliberations -- spoke of short-term city ownership of the site as a win-win opportunity for East Charlotte and the city as a whole.

The city hopes the outcome will be settled by the end of the year, depending on redevelopment plans submitted for review.

Depending on the approved plan, part or all of the site could be sold or leased for redevelopment; part or all of the ghost mall could be razed.

The site is currently zoned for business use; any other use of the land would require rezoning.

John Autry is deeply involved in working with city departments and staffers that will determine what happens at the Eastland site.

In its size and scope, the revitalization project is the city's largest-ever commitment to spurring economic growth, quality of life and property values in our immediate area.

Coventry Woods, get ready for your close-up.

\*\*\*\*\*

***"Please observe our custom: Nod, smile and wave at anyone you meet when walking, jogging, bicycling or driving in Coventry Woods.***

***We who live here are not strangers.***

***We are neighbors."***

**Tribute** continued from page 1


Tom often said how he wished his health would allow him to be more active in our organization.

His front yard sprouted political signs every election cycle, a "War is not the answer" sign the rest of the time.

Tom did not suffer fools easily

When the big-pipe runoff project was being built through the center of his block, he got into regular set-tos with the contractor and/or city project chief. The big trench went through part of his back yard, which was filled with many heirloom plants, and at one point Tom got so angry at the damage that he parked his car behind the earthmover to keep its operator from working. The cops came and next-door neighbor Eddie Weatherman had to cool things down: If the officers had tried to give Tom a citation, Tom's response would undoubtedly ended him in bigger trouble. And Tom would not have cared.

**Amity Presbyterian Church**  
*Discovering God Through the Community of Faith Since 1882*



Sunday Church School: 9:40 am  
 Sunday Church Service: 11:00 am

Amity Presbyterian Church  
 2831 N. Sharon Amity Road  
 Charlotte, NC 28205  
 Telephone: 704-537-3484  
 Pastor: Rev. Betsy Williamson

## Recycling Pickup

Just a reminder, recycling pickup (the green carts) is **every other** week. If you are new to the neighborhood, would like to download the current recycling calendar (our neighborhood's dates on the recycling calendar), or would like more information about what items should be recycled, please visit [CharMeck.org](http://CharMeck.org) for more information from CharMeck Solid Waste Services. Our recycling dates are August 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Don't forget to register your alarms!

If you have an electronic burglar alarm system installed within the city limits of Charlotte or the unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County, it must be registered. Auto, Fire, and Medical alarm systems are excluded. **This registration is free**, and allows our officers to spend less time responding to false alarms. You need to remember to renew your permit every year.

If your alarm is not registered, the Police may not respond when your alarm goes off, so it is very important that you register your alarm.

## ALARM ORDINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Required registration of all burglar alarm systems whether monitored or not.
- Registration is FREE.
- Failure to register could result in a \$100 fine.
- False alarm fines begin on the third (3rd) false alarm and range from \$50 to \$500.
- A permit is valid for 12 months from the date of issuance.
- Permit renewals are required every 12 months.

For more information, or to register or renew your alarm online, visit the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department web site.

## Taste of the World - Oct. 4, 2012

Taste of the World returns this year on October 4th.

Get your tickets now (\$35.00 each) before they are all sold out! It's a great way to meet neighbors, visit restaurants in our area and learn about the east side of Charlotte.

Enjoy an opening reception, then feast on dinner samplings of international dishes at three different restaurants via guided tour coach followed by a dessert and coffee reception.

For more information visit:  
[www.charlotteeast.com/totw](http://www.charlotteeast.com/totw)

## Yard of the Month

June: Mike Roberts and Bob Hawker

July: Lee and Kelly Robinette

August: Klaus Nolte

Just a little friendly competition amongst neighbors, fall is just around the corner, planting season is upon us!!

## Coventry Woods Neighborhood Events

FLAG NIGHT – On the evening of July 3, CWNA volunteer crews placed American flags curbside at every home within the CWNA boundaries.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE – CWNA took its banner and rode in a decorated truck for the Hickory Grove Fourth of July Parade, and saw many friends and neighbors along the route.

HOT DOG PARTY! – The CWNA filled the air above the Glenbrier stub with the aroma of grilled hot dogs on June 16<sup>th</sup> -- a beautiful early summer day enjoyed with friends and neighbors. Fixings and side dishes were plentiful -- and those attending got their first look at the new official CWNA T-shirt!

The new COVENTRY WOODS T-shirts are now on sale for only \$10.00, E-mail your order to [info@coventrywoods.org](mailto:info@coventrywoods.org).

## Have Good News to Share With CWNA? Want To Write An Article?

The Woods Watch is always looking for good stories and great writers!

Let us know if you:

- Opened a new business near Coventry Woods.
- Want to recognize someone who is doing well in school, or doing something great for the neighborhood.

E-mail your ideas, news or articles to [info@coventrywoods.org](mailto:info@coventrywoods.org).

### Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association



Our roots run deep



*Join us for*

# AVON



## in the Neighborhood

Under the  
Red Tent!

Brochures available  
in both English  
and Spanish

Free Gifts

Free Samples

### Saturday: August 18th

11:00 - 2:00 p.m.

4715 Kipling Drive

Corner of Kipling and Amity Place

**10%** off your first order of \$20.00 or more  
plus a chance to win a free gift basket!

Call Andrea @ 704-750-9448 with questions  
or you can order online at [www.youravon/charlotte-nc](http://www.youravon/charlotte-nc)

### Southern Pimento Cheese

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups shredded extra-sharp Cheddar cheese
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced (optional)
- 1 (4 ounce) jar diced pimento, drained
- salt and black pepper to taste

#### Directions

Place the Cheddar cheese, cream cheese, mayonnaise, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, onion powder, minced jalapeno, and pimento into the large bowl of a mixer. Beat at medium speed, with paddle if possible, until thoroughly combined. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.

Submitted by Therese Bohn

Submit your favorite recipe to [info@coventrywoods.org](mailto:info@coventrywoods.org)

## Rental Owner's Ordinance

On May 29, 2012, the Community Safety Committee presented their recommendations for the proposed changes to the Rental Owners ordinance to the full City Council.

CWNA was there. "Rental properties that are not well-kept, or occupied by disruptive or negligent tenants, are the bane of many neighborhoods in Charlotte. Resolving problems at those houses is difficult because too often the owners of those rental properties operate without accountability -- in anonymity -- to our detriment. The problem is ours only in this respect: We are forced to live near it. But the problem -- and responsibility for solving it -- is clearly for the property owner. Owners of rental property, like owners of their own homes, like owners of pets, like owners of vehicles, need to be held accountable. Over half of the 50,000 nuisance violations reported in fiscal year 2011 were at rental properties. Providing a more clear and immediate means to contact landlords is the best path to making them aware of problems at their properties and working to resolve those problems as a neighborhood and community. We cannot hide from eyesores and "hot spots" in our neighborhood; the absentee owners should not be allowed to hide, either. Come out, come out -- whoever you are; wherever you are."

The purpose of this Residential Rental Registration and Remedial Action Program is to establish a registration requirement for owners of Residential Rental Property so that the City may expeditiously identify and contact the Owner when excessive levels of Disorder Activity have occurred on or in the property. In addition, the City desires to establish a method to hold Owners of Residential Rental Property accountable for failing to use effective methods to reduce Disorder Activity on their property.

Each Owner of Residential Rental Property shall register by providing the following information to the designated Police Official:

- (1) The address(s) for the Residential Rental Property which shall include the street name(s), number(s) and zip code;
- (2) The name(s), business and personal address, telephone number and e-mail address of the Owner;

CMPD Police felt that mandatory registration enabled them to contact absentee property owners on a timely basis and would make the ordinance a more proactive tool to address crime and disorderly activity.

**This ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2013.**

## Garden Tips

By Suzanne Williams

There are many people and "things" that like bananas. A few years ago, a Russian defector headed straight for the grocery store to purchase bananas! We know primates love them, but did you know that roses love the peelings?

The potassium in bananas is the primary objective for roses. Save your peelings and place them around your rose beds. Dig a shallow trench around each rose plant and then cover the peelings with soil and or mulch. This practice will send your roses into full bloom.

Try it, they'll like it!

During the drought we are currently in, and keeping your plants happy, this is the best solution, outside of watering as much as possible.

Maybe someone could do a rain dance! We desperately need the rain.

Happy gardening!

We are an all-volunteer association; membership dues of \$25.00 per household per year – are used to pay for Woods Watch, events, and event flyers. We’d love to have you and your families become a part of the neighborhood association.

**Membership Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

We are interested in helping with the following:  
 Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Communications \_\_\_\_\_ Real Estate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Civic Meetings \_\_\_\_\_ Social Events \_\_\_\_\_

For future event planning purposes, please complete the following:  
 Number of Adults in Household \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ages of Children in Household \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail with your \$25.00 check:  
 Bill Cooper  
 CWNA Treasurer  
 5310 Coronado Drive  
 Charlotte, NC 28212

## Support our Neighborhood Businesses

### PLACE YOUR AD IN THE COVENTRY WOODS WATCH NEWSLETTER

Woods Watch is our quarterly newsletter. We have a circulation of over 500 households in the 28212 zip code.

**Advertisement Rates:**

- \$25 Business Card
- \$50 Quarter Page
- \$75 Half Page
- \$100 Full Page

**Publication Dates:**

- March
- May
- August
- December

The newsletter is a black and white publication. Please send ad copy to [info@coventrywoods.org](mailto:info@coventrywoods.org) and indicate what size ad you would like, and how many issues you would like your ad to run. Payment is due prior to publication.



Kostas Holevas  
Owner

**Gus's Tree Service**

- Tree Removal • Deadwood • Trimming
- Lot Clearing • Hauling • Firewood
- Topping • Pruning

PO Box 2516  
 Huntersville, NC 28070  
 (704) 896-5200



Free Estimates  
 Licensed & Insured

**Liberty East Restaurant**

Road expansions don't upset us!  
 We're offering a

**Breakfast Special \$3.85**

Coffee Included M-F 6am-11am