



# WOODS WATCH

The Official Publication of  
The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association

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## Public Safety in Coventry Woods CMPD Interview

CMPD Officer Kevin Baucom is Community Coordinator for Independence Division's Response Area 1 - which includes Coventry Woods. Officer Baucom, a Union County native, has been on the force seven years.

He was interviewed for Woods Watch on March 2.

Q. Overall, how is Coventry Woods doing in terms of public safety?

A. I can tell you crime where you live is low compared to smaller neighborhoods near you, or to apartment complexes.

This year there have been 26 reported incidents - and I want to point out that the way our computer system works, the total includes incidents at the gas stations and buildings along Independence Boulevard. There were three break-ins in Coventry Woods; everything else stemmed from the gas station at Independence and Farmingdale, the "gold" building on Independence, or other places on Independence Boulevard. We had one auto theft. There were two larcenies from autos, and we caught a suspect this week who confessed to one of them. A resident witnessed it, and we were able to catch the suspect.

Q. People arrested for crimes in our area - are they from here?

A. They're pretty much from outside the neighborhood. The guy we caught this week lived on Albemarle Road; he was cutting through and found the vehicle he broke into. Usually, it's not anyone living in the neighborhood causing trouble.

Q. Late last year, we had two higher-profile incidents in Coventry Woods, one with a chopper flyover, one with a road blocked off. What was that about?

## Pine Straw Sale Deliveries

Every Spring, the CWNA holds a pine straw sale that raises money for the organization, provides convenience to our residents who participate with free delivery, and helps beautify our neighborhood. **Deliveries will be on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.** The CWNA's Yard of the Month program salutes folks who work hard to improve their yards.

## Great Time at the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> Spaghetti Dinner

*Photos on Coventry Woods Facebook Page*

On Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, about 50 Coventry Woods residents turned out for our spaghetti dinner at the Amity Presbyterian Church, Johnston Hall. Board member Therese Bohn organized the project, with help from numerous board members. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who without their help our dinner would not have been a success: Ruth and Richard Byers, Jane Clark, Kitty Collins, Eve and Leslie Cooper, Jan Faulkner, Carolyn Hudspeth, Debbie Jackson, Andrea Smith, and Pris Tillman, and everyone else who brought desserts or otherwise helped. Photographer - Andrea Smith donated an outdoor photo session; the drawing was open to all current and new 2012 members. Congratulations to Deet & Ryan Gilbert the drawing winners. Check out the photos on our Facebook page - Coventry Woods Neighborhood.

## CMPD Interview from Page 1

A. One incident happened off Albemarle Road; he ran from officers and ended up running toward your area. Helicopters are called out anytime someone is running; there also was help from canines. The incident had nothing to do with Coventry Woods; he just ran in your direction. I believe we didn't catch him right then, but the officer knew his name and warrants were served. The other incident, I believe, was when our V-CAT team was serving a warrant on someone who had gone to visit someone who lived there. The warrant was served. Roads are closed as a safety reason - we don't want people walking in the street if something happens. It's a public safety precaution. Neither incident reflected on public safety in your neighborhood. Either incident could have happened in any neighborhood in Charlotte.

Q. Is there an overall crime/safety trend in our area?

A. Crime across the city for the last two or three years has been trending down. Coventry Woods seems to keep with that trend.

Q. Are there any crimes on the rise?

A. None that I see right now that would involve your neighborhood. Usually in neighborhoods, the incidents are breaking-and-entering or larceny from autos. The numbers in Coventry Woods are very good this year.

Q. If someone is arrested for a crime, is it likely he or she would return to that area if they're going to do another crime?

A. There's no way to pinpoint that. Sometimes people do stuff where they feel comfortable. Sometimes, though, they go to places they've never been seen before.

Q. There recently was a portable, elevated CMPD tower parked at Farmingdale and Independence. Was this due to traffic issues?

A. There was a robbery at the gas station. Our Sky Tower is positioned at different places around the city; we elected to put it there because of that robbery: Officers can see a lot better up there. Usually, we have it in one place for a week or two at a time.

Q. Road construction will soon begin on Independence Boulevard. Are there plans for dealing with any cut-through vehicle traffic in our neighborhood?

A. We can't stop any cars from cutting through, but we can stop drivers from speeding, running stop signs and things like that, or trucks that don't have permits for being on residential streets. The big thing would be vehicles speeding through neighborhoods in warmer weather, when more people are outside. Right now on Independence and on Sharon Amity, they're working on cutting trees and clearing businesses prior to road construction. We will keep an eye on traffic when construction begins. If you notice anything, just give us a call. We have traffic officers we can send out there. When the freeway is completed near Coventry Woods, we think there will be less foot traffic and less vehicle traffic cutting through your neighborhood.

Q. We're moving into spring. Do you have any seasonal advice?

A. With warmer temperatures, more people are walking around the neighborhoods and more kids are out of school. We ask that people call 911 to report any suspicious activity - people walking behind houses, or anything else that looks suspicious. You know when something looks suspicious to you, or doesn't look right. Be on the lookout, and if looks suspicious, call 911.

**SLOW DOWN**, the speed limit in Coventry Woods neighborhood is 25 miles. **WATCH OUT** for our neighbors and children who are enjoying the neighborhood by walking, jogging and playing. Please remember that you should walk/jog on the left side of the road– this means that you are facing the oncoming traffic, so you can see what is headed your way! This is not only common sense, it's also the law.

*“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.”*

## Board Elections and Membership Drive Meeting Held

We are an all-volunteer association; membership dues -- \$25 per household per year – are used to pay for Woods Watch, events and event flyers.

February was the membership renewal month. Want to join or renew. The CWNA membership form is on our website at [www.coventrywoods.org](http://www.coventrywoods.org) and also on page 6 of this newsletter. We'd love to have you and your families become a part of the neighborhood association. The 2012 general membership meeting was held Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Johnston Hall, Amity Presbyterian Church. We had a great turnout, and the membership is up. Our goal is 50% of the 423 households. All are welcome to become part of the Neighborhood Association.

### New CWNA Officers for 2012:

For 2012 you'll see lots of familiar names, but their roles have changed.

John Bordsen, President	Therese Bohn, Vice President	Bill Cooper, Treasurer
Suzanne Williams, Secretary	Jack Hudspeth, Logistics	Shelia Saints, Public Relations
Brian Hetherington, Fun Coordinator	Andrea Smith, Fun Coordinator	John Autry, Webmaster
Jim Faulkner, At Large	Greg Cole, At Large	Todd Jennings, At Large

### CWNA Quarterly Meeting

**Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

Johnston Hall at Amity Presbyterian's Church,  
(Across from our Neighborhood at 2831 Sharon Amity,  
the corner of Sharon Amity and Pierson Drive).

To kick off 2012, the CWNA Board is introducing a new neighborhood meeting feature “What do you want for Coventry Woods?” Attend the neighborhood meeting and suggest things that the CWNA Board can do for the Coventry Woods neighborhood.

### 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).

## People

**ARRIVALS:** TigerLily Barlow was born on December 24, 2012, congratulations Sacha. Jim and Jan Faulkner have a second great grandchild; Cash Loftin Faulkner was born Feb 25, 2012 weighing in at 8 lbs 4 oz. Ron and Ellen Stewart on Beechknoll are expecting their 1<sup>st</sup> grandbaby in April. Tammy and Bill Hanf of Farmingdale welcome their grandson Vincent, the son of Tyler Hanf.

**CONDOLENCES:** Our deepest sympathy to the following families for their loss of loved ones, Maria and Todd Jennings, Shelia Saints, Barbara Fann, Steve and Maria Dillon.

**LOOK WHO TURNED 1:** Dominc Gunn and Henry LaRocque.

## Yard of the Month

January: Jim and Linda Sullivan

February: Willis Goodrum

March: Chuck and Ellen LaMoure

### **Amity Presbyterian Church**

*Discovering God Through the Community of Faith  
Since 1882*



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

Maundy Thursday  
April 5<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Worship Service  
Lord's Supper

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday  
April 8<sup>th</sup>

7:00 am Sunrise Worship Service and Breakfast  
11:00 am Worship Service

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

**NUPTIALS:** Richard and Ruth (Smith) Byers.

**RUNNING:** On your mark, get set and GO!!!!!! The Charlotte Racefest is entering its 11th year. It's a Half Marathon and 10K and takes place in the wonderful SouthPark area of Charlotte, NC. Four of our neighbors are participating in the half marathon, to be held April 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 am., Steven and Joanna Zanni and Eric and Lee Broadway. Let's show our CWNA support and cheer for them on the sidelines. If you are participating as well, why not run as a CWNA Team????

Averi Broadway, Lee and Eric's daughter is running in the 5K Right Moves for Youth on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Averi also just completed a Championship Swim Meet at the Simmons YMCA, she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in her freestyle event. Way to go Kiddo!!!

## Coventry Woods Trivia

**Did you know?** Coventry Woods derives its name from the township in England, Coventry... recorded in the annals of history as the town through which Lady Godiva made her famous ride in 1076.

**Did you know?** The Howard Nance Company opened the 1st homes in Coventry Woods in early 1968. Later, the John Crosland Company assumed all construction in this subdivision and completed the last homes. The innovators of these two home building companies used a blend of design, materials, and colors to create homes of a distinctively different community.

**Did you know?** Originally, an elegant white fountain added charm to the entrance of Coventry Woods, but later had to be removed and replaced by a smaller planter area, due to road expansion. The entrance is currently planted with shrubbery and perennial bedding plants, maintained by the Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association members.

## The CWNA Story

The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association – your neighborhood association – began in 1999 when residents of our neighborhood learned a developer planned a high-density development on the woods to the north of us that would've linked Glenbrier Drive to Reddman Road. A series of meetings were held and a Steering Committee was formed to stop it. That project never came to pass. At our urging, the County Park & Recreation Department bought the tract. The acreage remains an untouched wooded expanse.

Shortly thereafter, the Steering Committee shifted gears and reorganized as the Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association. More recent housing developments – particularly those that floundered during the housing crisis -- were built with mandatory associations: Developers skimmed on amenities; required dues were counted upon to finance things like street lights, pavement and common areas. Many foreclosures in Charlotte and elsewhere involve homeowners' nonpayment of those mandatory fees.

Coventry Woods was built 30 years ago, before the concept of mandatory associations arose. The CWNA came later, as a voluntary organization – membership is not required – of people who share our mission: to protect, preserve and promote our neighborhood. It is one of many voluntary associations in established East Charlotte neighborhoods. The CWNA is a member of Charlotte East Community Partners, an umbrella organization of similar groups.

The CWNA has been recognized by City Council members and other branches of local government as an effective organization that gets things done. Over the years, the CWNA has been involved in land-use, public safety, code enforcement and civic issues.

Most voluntary associations have, on average, 15 or 16 percent of neighborhood households as members. The CWNA has approximately 34 percent of Coventry Woods households as members.

Our success is due to two factors: More than a decade of directors -- all unpaid -- who believe in the CWNA's mission. More important: A networked and mobilized membership that believes in our beautiful neighborhood, and what its association strives to accomplish.

For this, we are thankful

## When to Call 311

To keep our neighborhood attractive and safe, we are encouraging residents to adhere to residential ordinances – and to report any homes not in compliance, by telephoning 311.

- Trash at the curb. Throwing out furniture or other bulky items? First, call 311 and schedule a pickup... and take them out to the curb the day before the scheduled pickup, not sooner. Items simply left out there will not be picked up. Your neighbors, however, will call 311 with a complaint – and you may receive a possible fine – if materials are left at the curb.
- Trash and recycling bins that are left at the curb more than a day before scheduled pickup, or which are not taken off the curb more than a day after pickup.
- Parking on front lawns. This has been prohibited because it is unsightly and potentially dangerous (obstructed view to motorists).
- Lawns that need mowing. This is an appearance issue specifically covered in ordinances.
- Basketball hoops – permanent and portable – on or along the street are also illegal and can result in fines or confiscation. They pose a safety hazard: Kids playing in the street, their attention focused on the hoop, are at considerable risk for injury from passing vehicles. The hoops – and on-the-street basketball games – can block traffic.
- Scoop the Poop, not all of our neighbors have animals, so be considerate bag it and dispose of it in your own trash receptacles!

Everyone is encouraged to call 311 and report any code violation. When more calls are made, Code Enforcement is more clearly and quickly made aware of the situation.

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 free, quarterly newsletter. We have a circulation of over 400 households in the 28212 zip code.

#### Advertisement Rates:

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

#### Publication Dates:

- March
- May
- August
- December

The newsletter is a black and white publication. Please sent 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.

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