



WOODS WATCH

The Official Publication of
The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association

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What's in-store for our area?

3 new retail projects underway, partly triggered by strong neighborhoods

The conversion of Independence Boulevard to a controlled-access freeway continues, but one key benefit may now be kicking in: The revival of retailing in areas close to Coventry Woods.

Shopping areas near us quickly felt the brunt of the coming of the roadwork. For the past decade, Independence shopping areas between Eastway/Wendover and Conference Drive went into a tailspin. Access to the properties became difficult; uncertainty over highway easements added to instability.

Ironically, while completion of the roadwork created empty storefronts along Independence, the increased ease of getting uptown made prices of homes in nearby single-family neighborhoods consistently rise and gain in appeal.

That up-tick in neighborhood values is now playing a role in three projects coming to our vicinity.

Mixed-use on Monroe

The Silver Oaks apartment complex on Monroe Road, between Idlewild/Rama and Conference, is being demolished and will be replaced by a mixed-use development that will have stores and offices on the ground level and apartments above them.

Silver Oaks had been deteriorating for years; the 337 units in the 20-acre complex had increasingly lower rents that adversely affected public safety and area schools. Owner Roy Goode proposed his mixed-use plan several years ago, with an eye towards attracting businesses displaced by the Independence widening. But the project became wrapped up in N.C. Department of Transportation red tape that took years to cut through.

Demolition is finally underway; completion of the Meridian Place project is anticipated to be in 2016. There will be fewer apartments – 275 – and they will be leased at market rates (without rent subsidies). For the 100,000 square feet of office/retail space, Goode has said he is seeking such neighborhood-oriented tenants as urgent care centers, banks, drugstores, dry cleaners and a coffee shop.

Coliseum Shopping Center re-do

The opening of the Wal-Mart in 2011 raised hopes of a retail revival at the old Coliseum Shopping Center next to it, but safe and easy access to it from the high-speed Independence freeway remained an issue.

Last year, City Council approved the Community Improvement Program (CIP) that included completion of a frontage road connecting Wal-Mart, the Coliseum Shopping Center to Eastway and reconfiguring the Eastway interchange to improve access.

Texas businessman Gregory Cervenka remained interested, though: One of his specialties is developing retail areas adjacent to Wal-Marts and securing tenants that provide specialty goods and services that Wal-Mart doesn't.

On Feb. 24, the Charlotte Business Journal reported that Cervenka's firm "is under contract to buy the 218,000-square-foot Coliseum Center on East Independence Boulevard and is planning \$15 million in renovations for the mostly vacant retail center."

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3 new retail projects cont.

The article said, “Cervenka is planning a complete makeover of the property. Planned upgrades include a new facade, new roofs, mechanical systems, exterior lighting, signage and parking. Cervenka says he is negotiating leases with several national retailers for space at Coliseum Center.”

Cervenka noted that retail blight along Independence hides the strong but under-served residential communities in the area, according to the article: “Cervenka believes the submarket around Coliseum Center is underappreciated, and he says he moved quickly to put the property under contract before other buyers took interest. ‘This is ready to rejuvenate,’ he says. ‘Sometimes when you have something that’s looked bad for 15 years, it’s a little more difficult to see the opportunity. And with a fresh set of eyes you look at it, and you see all the pieces are in place.’ ”

Expansion at Albemarle and Sharon Amity

When construction approached for the Sharon Amity Road portion of Independence Boulevard, one of the casualties was the Office Depot that served Coventry Woods and other neighborhoods. Business had been good, and the office-supply firm wanted to stay in our area; it moved north on Sharon Amity to Albemarle Road, becoming the main tenant of The Plaza, the retail center on the southwest corner.

The center’s owner, New South Properties of the Carolinas, has benefited from what it calls a “high traffic, densely populated location” and is expanding on its existing 1.6-acre lot -- increasing its 12,920 square feet of retail space by 1,450 to 7,000 square feet. The broad option in new space is due to the expansion being a two-story project.

In the meantime...

While construction continues, there are long-time businesses along our stretch of Independence that are being hurt by the ongoing highway work. We encourage you to patronize these retail “good neighbors,” which include the venerable Liberty East restaurant, the Healthy Home Market natural/organic food store, Enterprise Car Rental, Firestone and Frame Warehouse.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS ‘NEXT DOOR’

Here’s what to do:

1. Send an email to info@coventrywoods.org.
2. We will send you a link to the www.nextdoor.com application.
3. You will be required to give your name and address. Remember: You must be a resident of Coventry Woods.
4. Your request to join will be sent to the administrators (“lead members”) for the Coventry Woods Next Door network.
5. With a click of a button, you’re wired into Coventry Woods’ Next Door community.

Yard of the Month

Every month of the year, well almost, a home in Coventry Woods is saluted for its yard -- the lawn, the trees, the shrubbery, the flowers or improvements.

April - 5255 Glenbrier Drive

March - 5245 Coronado Drive

Sochi Winter Olympics

By Andrea Smith

Back in the spring of 2013 my daughter Rachel told me how she had begun the process of becoming a volunteer in the Sochi winter Olympics. It was a long and tedious application process. Online interviews, extensive background checks, language skills tests and lots of waiting. Oh and did I mention the \$1500.00 airline ticket?

She was approved and time for the trip finally arrived. Her first stop was to spend a week in Switzerland to ski the Alps and visit some of the local sites. Then off to Russia. When she arrived she found out she was rooming with seven other girls, 6 non-English speaking Russians and one Canadian. It was a 2 room apartment with 1 bathroom overlooking the Black Sea. They had mixed schedules so it was rare that they were all there at the same time.

Rachel was assigned work at the Mountain Press Center. She worked in the orange room (green room to us) preparing celebrities for their on camera interviews. Passing microphones and making intercom announcements. She was given a pass to ride the media bus which she was thankful for, as the media center was a one and a half hour ride away and local transportation had little to be desired in comfort.

Rachel was fortunate that she had fellow friends from Mammoth who were skiers and actually participating on the American team. Rachel also had one very close friend Em Lonsdale who was skiing for Great Britain. She spent time with them and was able to access some areas only available to the Olympic Teams. In addition she had an opportunity to ski on the Olympic slopes before the events actually started.

One of her friends is Gus Kenworthy who some of you may have seen on the news. He won the Slope style Silver medal along with two other Americans who won both the Gold and Bronze. Along with his skiing achievements he found his way into the media because of a family of four homeless puppies and their mom.

He wanted to rescue them and worked with the Russian government, a local vet clinic and was under the scrutiny of the media. Rachel helped care for these puppies as they tried to get the paperwork together to bring them home to the states. Unfortunately at this time it still has not happened due to all of the red tape involved.

Rachel is now back in the states with many stories to tell, she just posted that she did her first 180 jump while back home skiing in Mammoth. Encouraged by her "Olympian" friends I'm sure but turning me into a nervous wreck. My husband Bob and I were touched by the media stories about the 1000's of displaced dogs in Sochi and small as it may seem tried to do our part by rescuing a small shelter dog here in North Carolina. We named him Toby and he will be forever tied in our minds to the Sochi Olympics. You may see him trotting down the Coventry Woods streets with his head held high happy to find his forever neighborhood.



“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.”

2014 CWNA Board of Directors

For more than 15 years, the mission of the CWNA has been to “protect, preserve and promote” our neighborhood. The CWNA has been recognized by members of the City Council, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and other organizations as a driving force for making Coventry Woods one of the most vibrant, stable and up-and-coming places to live in East Charlotte.

The board of directors sets the organization’s general policies and decides its direction. Members are elected annually at its January general membership meeting.

The board of directors are all volunteers; they receive no compensation. The board meets once monthly; projects and initiatives are ongoing. Board tasks are distributed to match board members’ strengths and interests.

John Bordsen, President
 Therese Bohn, Vice President
 Bill Cooper, Treasurer
 Andrea Smith, Secretary
 John Autry, At Large
 Jim Faulkner, At Large
 Todd Jenkins, At Large
 Lee & Eric Broadway, At Large

Remember

When you have bulky items to put on the street for trash pick up, YOU MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING 311 OR ONLINE <http://charmeck.org/services/Pages/default.aspx>

The new COVENTRY WOODS T-shirts are now on sale for only \$10.00;
 E-mail your order to info@coventrywoods.org.

Coventry Woods Neighborhood Events

March. The CWNA’s biggest fundraiser of the year has always been our pine-straw sale. Thanks to all that bought pine straw from us this year and to the entire group of volunteers who came out to help. We look forward to doing it again next year.

June. HOT DOG DAY – CWNA will host the annual Hot Dog Day. We will keep the same location as last year – the stub on Farmingdale and Cedarwood Drive. Come meet your neighbors, play games, and have a dog or two on us. More details and flyer to come.

July. Flag Day – July 3rd, CWNA board and neighborhood volunteers will be placing an American flag in every yard of our neighborhood in honor of the 4th of July. If you would like to participate, please e-mail info@coventrywoods.org.

Farm-fresh food!

When JC and Chris Konecny (“ka-NUTCH-nee”) moved into their home on Knollgate this winter, they brought along a service they’d been doing for five or so years in the Plaza-Midwood area: farm-fresh food.

To support area farmers, JC places bulk orders of farm-fresh produce, dairy and meat that are delivered to her: Order what you want to buy and pick it up at her house. JC – who makes no money doing this -- works with about four farmers in Polk and Rutherford counties. Orders are placed every other week through her or online. Prices and selections vary.

To get on JC’s mailing list, email her at jc@konecny.net; she will provide you with updates.

See you around the neighborhood

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 _____
Civic Meetings _____	Real Estate _____
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:

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

The newsletter is a black and white publication. Please send ad copy to 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.

Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association



Our roots run deep

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not far from where you are"*

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DDS,**

General Dentistry

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Charlotte, NC 28205**

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and Friday Appointments**

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Primary Election May 6th

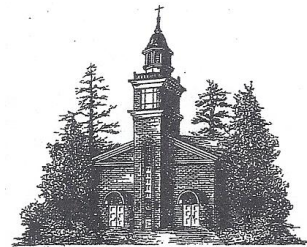
Be sure to vote in the primary this year for state and county officials. Polls are open 6:30 am – 7:30 pm.



Registration to vote in the primary closed April 11, but you can still register to vote in the November 4th general election.

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