



WOODS WATCH

The Official Publication of
The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association

www.coventrywoods.org

Fall 2008

UNDER REPAIR:

Our Sign At Coronado & Sharon Amity

In May, an under-age driver not from our neighborhood crashed into the Coventry Woods sign at Coronado Drive and Sharon Amity Road; the planter/sign sustained structural damage. Getting the situation squared away has been complicated, but work will begin soon.

The car owner's insurance company will pay for the damage, but three repair estimates were required, and we have only recently received three that were adequate; they were submitted – and we're now moving forward.

The sign, which has been at that intersection since the early days of Coventry Woods, appears to be made of brick and mortar, but the slabs are actually a kind of concrete. In the accident, some of those "bricks" were split; the CWNA board is trying to determine whether the sign's appearance can be restored or whether a new and redesigned sign would serve us better.

Some of the work to repair the sign (site clean-up and replanting) will be done by neighborhood volunteers. This will help the repair money go farther and ensure we have a quality sign greeting visitors to our neighborhood.

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PLEASE OBSERVE CITY ORDINANCES

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

Three problems are more common:

- 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 that is 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 – and block traffic.

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

We'd like to also give a shout-out to the great neighbors who've been working so hard on improving their homes and yards.

OCT. 6: MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Fall 2008 CWNA general membership meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, at Amity Presbyterian. Flyers with all the details will be distributed ahead of time.

UPDATE: INDEPENDENCE WOODS SUIT

The CWNA lawsuit to stop the Independence Woods subdivision continues. As anticipated, the case is heading to Raleigh and the N.C. Court of Appeals. Our attorney, Kenneth Davies of Davies & Grist, filed the paperwork in early September.

Developer Jerry Rigsby received approval from the city/county subdivision staff in late 2006 to build 74 houses on the 15.8-acre tract behind Amity Place on land purchased from Town & Country Ford. It was the site of the 2003-2004 rezoning: at that time, Rigsby unsuccessfully sought to have the tract rezoned to build townhouses.

The Independence Woods project was approved without prior neighborhood notification; the project flies in the face of the city's small area plan, which call for any development there to be R-4 (roughly 60 houses on quarter-acre lots). The density and quality of the project -- as well as its only access being through our narrow, neighborhood streets -- has the potential to negatively impact our quality of life and property values.

Our attorney says the case will continue into 2009.

The case has already required a lot of time, effort and money. Our struggle has received the support of other organizations across East Charlotte. We held a successful fundraiser at Steamer's, and we have received donations from CWNA members and residents of Cedars East.

Litigation is expensive, however; cash donations are still needed and appreciated. The good news is that we have paid more than half our fees.

More fund-raising efforts are planned. We will be sending more information on the future fund raisers in the near future.

In the meantime if you would like to make a contribution you can write a check today to the CWNA. Send your contribution to:

**Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 10226
Charlotte, NC 28212**

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We will soon announce a day to prepare the site for repairs and be asking for volunteers. Preparing the area for repairs will require removing the damaged pieces of the sign and removing the plants.

CWNA PUSHES TO SOLVE IDLEWILD APTS PROBLEM

After two shootings incidents in August at Idlewild Apartments -- one resulting in a fatality -- the CWNA took the lead in demanding city action. The large and deteriorating rental complex, off Idlewild Road north of Independence Boulevard, is absentee-owned; it has long been a CMPD "hot spot" for crime. While located a half-mile from Coventry Woods, the complex is notorious, and gives nearby neighborhoods area an undeserved reputation for lawlessness.

The CWNA board sent an e-mail to the mayor and City Council. It outlined the situation and requested specific actions to be taken immediately that can solve the problem. CWNA spokesmen John Autry and Bill Cooper were quoted in news articles in the Charlotte Observer and other publications. Both were featured in news stories on WCNC, WSOC and Cable 14.

John Autry spoke before the City Council and Mayor Pat McCrory. The mayor directed the city manager and others to look into the matter and report back to him. The CWNA board continues to push branches of city government to permanently fix the problem of Idlewild Apartments