

Merry Oaks

Neighborhood Newsletter

Merry Oaks Neighborhood Association • P.O. Box 18131 • Charlotte, NC • 28218-0131

Volume XI Number 1 February 2009

WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Renew your membership for 2009!

Membership form on back
\$10 per household, \$5 if on a fixed income.



Bulky Trash pickup: 311

2009 MONA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 19 Thursday MONA GENERAL MEETING**
7-9 pm Merry Oaks School (enter off Draper)
Agenda below
- February 26 Thursday Merry Oaks Book Club**-Details page 2
- February 27 Friday Ladies Night in Merry Oaks**-Details page 2
- April 1 Deadline to sign up for yard sale**-Details page 2
- April 18 Saturday MONA Day**-Details page 2
Adopt-a-Creek Briar Creek sweep, Group yard sale and Evening party
- May 28 Thursday Summer MONA Board meeting**
7 PM 2301 Arnold Drive
- Looking ahead:**
- June 18 Thursday Summer General Meeting**
- October 1 Fall Board meeting**
- October 24 Fall Potluck, bonfire and general meeting**
- December 12 or 19 (TBD) Luminaries, Caroling and Merry Oaks Art Crawl**

- February 19 General Meeting Partial Agenda**
Central Avenue Public Art Project/Police report/Meet the new Eastway Police Captain/Meet Dr Berglass/Introduction and approval of new MONA Board members/Harbinger Court Plant Rescue/MONA Day/Victory Gardens/New neighbor welcome process



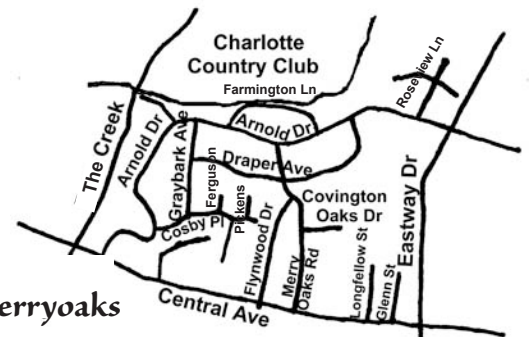
A Central City Neighborhood

The purpose of the Merry Oaks Neighborhood Association is to preserve and improve the quality of life and property values in our residential neighborhood and to enhance the economic vitality of our business corridor.

Stay in touch! Join the Merry Oaks Google Group!

<http://groups.google.com/group/merry-oaks>

Visit us at: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/merryoaks>



Merry Oaks Community

MONA Day April 18

Neighborhood Yard Sale.

Bring \$5 to Carol Herrington, 1823 Arnold Drive or bring it to the Feb. 19 general meeting. Deadline: April 1. You will set up in your own yard. \$5 is for fee to City. MONA will advertise for you.

ADOPT-A-CREEK 9 AM

Meet at the Greenway bridge to pick up litter. Wear sturdy shoes or rubber boots. Contact Ben Kubie blkubie@carolina.rr.com and watch the Google Group for information.

Party at Cate's house 6 PM

2301 Arnold Drive. Bring an appetizer to share. Non-alcoholic beverages provided. Otherwise BYOB.

Merry Oaks Book Club

Merry Oaks Book Club is meeting February 26th at 8 p.m.. Typically we meet the 3rd Thursday of the month but due to our Merry Oaks Neighborhood General Meeting we pushed it to the 4th Thursday this month. We will be discussing *Dreams from My Father* by Barack Obama. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cate Martin. cate1868@yahoo.com or 704-488-4559

Ladies Night in Merry Oaks

Women only: Drop by Cate's house for margaritas and munchies, Friday night, February 27th at 7:30 PM. 2301 Arnold Drive.

Looking back, looking forward

The annual Merry Oaks potluck and cookout last October was a great success, with more than 45 people attending to share food and talk late into the night around a bonfire. Don't miss it next time!

Merry Oaks Art Crawl

Some neighborhoods have home or garden tours. With so many artists in Merry Oaks, a house-to-house "Art Crawl" is a natural. Last December 13, what we hope is the "first annual" holiday Merry Oaks Art Crawl was a splendid success. Neighbors and visitors strolled from house to house viewing the art, carrying and

showing off their purchases, enjoying snacks and beverages at each house and taking part in the neighborhood camaraderie.

Participating neighborhood artists were: Gregg Scott and Adrienne Dellinger (pottery); Meredith Hebden (photography); Rebecca Jones and Alex Clark (painting and mixed media); Lucy Hazlehurst (pottery) who was joined in her home by Merry Oaks neighbor Joyce Weaver (crafts) and Plaza Midwood neighbor Celeste Dulin (jewelry) and Patrick Crawford (paper mache sculptures and ornaments), Liz Primm (creative play clothing, accessories and hand painted furniture) who was joined in her home by Suzanne Ammirato of Vintage Fresh (recycled clothing and home accessories), and Beth and Raed Al-Rawi (drawings and paintings).

There is talk of expanding next year with more artists and perhaps an additional public venue in the neighborhood. Contact Liz at ekprimm@gmail.com if you want to help.

continued on page 3



James Young CPA, PLLC

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Central Avenue
(at the corner of
Morningside)

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jamesyoungcpa@msn.com

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do for your bottom line!**



New Captain at Eastway Police Division **Captain Faulkner-Welch will be at the** **February 19 general meeting**

My name is Demetria A. Faulkner-Welch, the new Captain of the Eastway Division. I'm Charlotte native and 1987 graduate of West Charlotte High School. I hold a BS degree in Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University (1990) and Masters of Science Degree in Human Services from Capella University (2006). I joined the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department in 1992. After assignments in Patrol as a Community Coordinator, Vice and Narcotics Detective, In-Service Training Coordinator and Criminal Intelligence Detective, I was promoted to Sergeant in 2001. I served as a Sergeant in the Steele Creek Division, Street Crimes Unit, Vice and Narcotics ABC Unit, and Firearm Enforcement Unit before being promoted to Captain in 2008. I received the Police Community

Relations Award in 2002 and the Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing in 2001 and 2003. I'm currently the President of the Greater Charlotte Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.


Community safety is a shared responsibility and we are committed to working in partnership with neighborhood residents and business owners as well as other local, state and federal agencies to reduce crime and increase safety. I welcome your suggestions and am open to hear your concerns. Please feel free to email me atdfaulkner@cmpd.org to share your thoughts, or stop by the Eastway Division office in Eastway Crossing Shopping Center to say hello. I look forward to working with Merry Oaks.

Contributed by Captain Faulkner-Welch

St Andrews Church

St Andrews now has a breakfast bar on Sunday mornings starting at 9am. It's a good time to come by and check out the church. There are two services Sunday morning, 8am and 10:30am. Loaves and Fishes is open for donations Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Come by during those hours and see the pantry or drop off MUCH NEEDED non-perishable food, diapers, baby formula. Volunteers are always welcome. In these hard times, many people need our help.

Contributed by Austin Seagrave



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Living in Merry Oaks

Dogs, Cats and Chickens

Yes, that is a rooster you sometimes hear crowing in the neighborhood. Pet chickens are a great and environmentally sound way to keep a yard free of harmful insects, and eggs produced by free-range hens are much more nutritious than what you find at the supermarket. Geese are even effective to chase intruders away. But, they must be protected from the red-shouldered hawks who live in Merry Oaks.

By Charlotte City Code, you can keep chickens in Charlotte if you pay a \$40.00 annual permit. You can have no more than 20 birds and they must live at least 20 feet from structures. The chicken coop must have 4 square feet per bird. Two web sites on keeping urban chickens are:

www.BackyardChickens.com and
www.UrbanChickens.org

You must have a permit to keep cattle, goats, chickens, turkeys or pigeons. The permit cost \$40 (renewed annually) and your premises must be inspected to make sure they are in compliance with code. You also must have a permit to keep three or more dogs or cats, in any combination, if they are frequently kept outside. Call 704-336-3002.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg offers free rabies vaccinations on the 2nd Saturday of each month between 8-11 AM. <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Animal+Control/Home.htm>

Contributed by Nancy Krewson and Liz Primm

Fire Safety advice

Watch Your Food

- ***Do not leave the kitchen while you are cooking.*** This is ***the most important*** thing you can do to prevent cooking-related fires.
- If you must leave the kitchen, turn the stove off or take a spoon or oven mitt to remind yourself there is food on the stove.
- Never cook if you are sleepy, intoxicated, or heavily medicated.

Keep a Clean & Tidy Cooking Zone

- Turn all pot handles inward.
- Keep the stove-top clean and clear. Move combustible items such as oven mitts and utensils away from heat sources.
- Keep children away from appliances when cooking. Create a “kid-free zone” around the stove, and teach children not to play in that area. If you allow older children to cook, supervise them closely and teach them safe cooking practices.
- Carefully monitor hot oil, keeping the pan lid close. Cover the pan if the oil catches on fire.

In Case Of Fire...

- Keep an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher near the kitchen.
- If a fire starts in your microwave oven, do not open the door. Unplug it immediately. Do not use the microwave again until a professional has checked it.
- If you have a fire in your oven leave the door closed to keep the fire contained.
- Always call the fire department for any fire, even if it has been completely extinguished.

*Contributed by Leo Wurschmidt, FFII, Engine 8-C,
Charlotte Fire Station #8 1201 The Plaza*

Useful web sites:

http://twitter.com/cmpd_east

View service calls for Eastway Division Police

<http://twitter.com/neighborseast>

News and comments about East Charlotte.

<http://www.eastsidepac.com/forum>

Discussion forum from the Eastside PAC

<http://firestation8.com>

Stay in touch with our local firefighters

<http://merryview.blogspot.com/>


View photos of Merry Oaks

Merry Oaks Real Estate Roundup

If you have even glanced at a newspaper in the last six months you probably think the prospects of selling your home are dismal, at best. The state of the real estate market across the country has been pretty depressing news. Luckily for Merry Oaks home owners your little piece of paradise have

been holding their own. Homes continued to sell and values even went up a little bit, 3.2%. If you look at the neighborhoods appreciation over the last 5 years it averages out to be 13.27 % per year. That is a great average!

Merry Oaks Historical Data Since 1984

Average price per square foot			
2004		\$91.21	19 total sales
2005		\$108.77	13 total sales
2006		\$123.09	17 total sales
2007		\$146.95	13 total sales
2008		\$151.72	18 total sales
66.35% appreciation			

Actives, Pendings, and Solds – “OH MY!”

Taking a look at the current market, there are 5 homes active on the market. These run from small fixer uppers to a nice 3 bedroom, 2 baths with a new roof and HVAC system.

One home is pending after just 61 days on the market.

Seventeen homes sold in 2008 with an average of 66 Days on the Market. Charlotte’s average days on market stat is 97 days.

What does all this mean, and what will it mean for 2009? I think it means that people still want to live in Merry Oaks. The fact that the neighborhood hasn’t seen any huge blow out remodels or additions is probably good news for the neighborhood at this point. Midwood has suffered from the surge of flipper properties that hit the market at the end of 2007 and early 2008. Many of those homes were built too large and the price point has not been able to withstand the slow down. Most Merry Oak’s homes are priced in a

range that first time buyers can afford. Most of the buyers that came into the neighborhood did not have another home to sell, so the days-on-market remains below average.

After consulting with my crystal ball, I see 2009 being similar to 2008, in sales. I think we will see slight appreciation... no double digits, but little moves up. I think the homes will continue to sell quicker than in other parts of the city. Due to the great location just minutes from up town, the proximity of restaurants and shops and amenities like the greenway.

My warning to sellers though is: don’t get a “big” head because your neighborhood stats are strong. Buyers are being super picky, so make sure your home looks the best it can before you put it on the market. Consult with a realtor to make sure you have it priced competitively, not only for the neighborhood but also with the competing neighborhoods.

by Lexie Longstreet

continued on page 6

2008 Solds

continued from page 5

Property Type: Single Family Status: Sold

	Address	BR	Bths	Total HLA	List Price	Sale Price	%SP/LP	Sold Date	DOM
1	Arnold Dr	2	1/0	790	\$145,000	\$142,500	98	7/01/2008	25
2	Arnold Dr	2	1/0	720	\$149,900	\$135,000	90	12/21/2007	41
3	Covington Oaks Dr	3	2/0	1,261	\$154,900	\$150,500	97	1/25/2008	22
4	Cosby Place	3	1/1	1,366	\$160,000	\$144,500	90	9/29/2008	97
5	Arnold Dr	2	1/0	936	\$175,000	\$166,500	95	1/24/2008	44
6	Harbinger Ct	2	1/0	1,010	\$179,900	\$175,000	97	3/27/2008	50
7	Pickens CT	3	1/1	1,085	\$185,000	\$175,900	95	3/06/2008	20
8	Merry Oaks RD	3	1/1	1,521	\$189,900	\$177,500	93	8/27/2008	64
9	Arnold DR	2	1/0	1,023	\$199,900	\$193,250	97	4/07/2008	44
10	Draper AVE	3	2/0	1,490	\$211,577	\$207,000	98	7/15/2008	104
11	Graybark AVE	3	2/0	1,316	\$224,889	\$206,000	92	10/06/2008	121
12	Arnold DR	3	2/0	1,680	\$254,900	\$235,000	92	7/08/2008	56
13	Arnold DR	3	2/0	1,350	\$254,900	\$253,000	99	8/25/2008	169
14	Flynnwood DR	3	1/1	2,024	\$255,000	\$228,800	90	5/15/2008	59
15	Graybark AVE	3	2/0	1,798	\$269,000	\$264,500	98	9/03/2008	90
16	Farmington LN	3	2/0	1,704	\$269,900	\$258,000	96	8/06/2008	8
17	Arnold DR	3	2/0	1,501	\$277,500	\$270,000	97	8/06/2008	102
Average		3		1,328	\$209,245	\$198,997	95		66

Merry Oaks

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Merry Oaks Environment

Briar Creek flood plain buy-outs

After the severe flooding last August, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department (MCPRD) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) offered to purchase 40-50 properties in the Briar Creek floodplain between Central Avenue and the creek's headwaters north of The Plaza.

In Merry Oaks, three houses on Harbinger Court have been purchased and demolition bids are going out. The buy-outs were voluntary; no property owner was forced to sell. Upstream of Merry Oaks, eight acres of residential properties on the north side of Dunlavin in the Country Club neighborhood and the daycare at Eastway and Hilliard were also purchased.

Robert Billings, Flood Mitigation Project Manager, said that the properties will be mowed and maintained by the County, and will be available for eventual expansion of the Briar Creek Greenway. The Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan calls for the existing Merry Oaks section to be extended up- and down-stream along Briar Creek, intersecting with the Little Sugar Creek Greenway -- part of the proposed 500-mile, 15-County Carolina Thread Trail (www.carolinathreadtrail.org). That's a long ways off, but continued advocacy with MCPRD can help. Contact Patsy Houston, Administrative Supervisor for MCPRD 704 336 5476 patsy.houston@mecklenburgcountync.gov to find out how to be heard on this issue by the Central Park District II or Greenway Advisory Council.

Briar Creek Sewer System

Improvement Project (Phase 2).

Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Department (CMUD) is upgrading the sewer lines along Briar Creek to provide greater capacity. Benefits are environmental (stopping leakage), economic (capacity for infill growth) and quality of service. Phase 1 is in progress downstream of Merry Oaks in the Myers Park neighborhood.

Initially, Phase Two did not include Briar Creek up to Country Club Drive (Merry Oaks Neighborhood) but this section was recently added, so it will be important for us to participate when CMUD calls meetings. The project timeline will be more specific once the contract is awarded, but the work could come to our neighborhood as early as 2010. We will request a CMUD staff presentation at a future MONA General Meeting.

The greenway will probably be disrupted, but it will be restored afterwards. From a citizen's viewpoint, extending the Briar Creek Greenway beyond its current length seems like a logical piggyback on the sewer work, but easement issues are more complicated than that. However if you are interested in extending the Greenway, it can't hurt to keep prodding CMUD and Park and Recreation Department (MCPRD) to work together toward that end. CMUD meetings about the sewer project would be a good place to start, in addition to contacting your City Council and County Commission representatives to advocate for CMUD and MCPRD collaboration on extending the Briar Creek Greenway. Their contact information is on the MONA web site.

Central Care Clinic



Nang Thomas Ta, MD
Internal Medicine - Minor Surgery
3007 Central Avenue
704-567-8218

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T - W - Th 9am - 6 pm

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Advocacy and Updates

Ceramic tile and mural art projects on Central Avenue

Merry Oaks artist Greg Scott is one of three artists commissioned by the Arts and Science Council (ASC) for an upcoming public art mural project along Central Avenue on the perimeter of Merry Oaks. But before we see the murals, we will see a ceramic tile project which is currently in progress.

By early summer there will be some extra color on Central Avenue between the Briar Creek Bridge and Eastway Drive, in the form of mosaic designs on city trash receptacles. By late October, all twelve trash receptacles along that stretch will be covered with mosaic designs.

Ceramic artist Amy Sanders, lead artist for both projects, is an east Charlotte resident whose home and studio is in the Plaza Shamrock neighborhood. She will attend the MONA general meeting February 19 to brief us on the projects and to answer questions.

The purpose of the trash can project was to create

a beautiful landmark for the area that can also be functional. Amy worked with art students from Garinger High School to create one of the three ceramic tile designs, using blue, green, yellow, red and orange. She will make the ceramic tiles then apply them on all four sides of the cans, replacing the current pebble surfaces.

Amy is also the lead artist for the mural project. An ASC artist selection panel reviewed resumes, qualifications and past work of nine artists and chose three to create the murals. Besides Greg Scott, the other two mural artists are Duy Huynh and Sharon Dowell, who lives near Merry Oaks.

Amy and ASC staff member Jean Greer, ASC Vice-President of Public Art, are currently meeting with property owners in the vicinity of the Briar Creek bridge in search of three wall spaces for the murals.

Once the spaces are selected, there will be business and community meetings with the artists to give them direction on what the theme of the art

continued on page 9



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FRIDAY FEB. 13TH & SATURDAY FEB. 14TH
704-535-2220

UPCOMING.....

IRISH DINNER

PLANNED FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY
TUESDAY MARCH 17TH, 2009

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work will be. These meetings should occur during March. MONA will inform neighbors via the Google Group. If you do not have internet you can call one of the Board members and ask to be kept informed.

If you are wondering what vinyl mural art might look like, view the vinyl art on the three silos visible going south on South Boulevard, just past Remount Road on your right.

Rezoning for a Dentist office

A 60-year-old brick house at 3410 Central Avenue (across from Merry Oaks Road) has been rezoned from Multi-Family Residential to Neighborhood Service in order to allow a dentist, Dr Michael Berglass, to purchase it and open a family practice. It has been used as an office for a nonprofit agency (allowed under residential zoning), El Centro Hispano, for the last several years. Dr. Berglass, who plans to open for business by summer, will attend the February 19 MONA general meeting.

The rezoning was controversial because the Briar-Creek Woodland/Merry Oaks Small Area Plan, created 10 years ago to guide land use in our area, calls for that entire section to eventually be redeveloped as medium-density townhomes. The land use plan calls for retail and office to be clustered at Eastway and Easterest, some mixed use at Briar Creek, with residential lining the Central corridor. Neighbors who worked on the Small Area Plan in 1998, including Nancy Pierce from Merry Oaks and Deborah Gilbert from Commonwealth Park (formerly Briar-Creek/ Woodland) initially opposed the rezoning, as did other neighbors who were concerned that a dentist office would attract problematic foot traffic.

However, ultimately the majority decided to support the rezoning "with reservation". They felt that since residential development is unlikely for another 5-10 years, a dentist office will be a good place holder. Merry Oaks neighbor Liz Primm spoke for the MONA Board at the City Council hearing in favor of the rezoning. Despite opposition from the Zoning Committee and City Planning (who are honor-bound to support the land use plan), City Council voted unanimously in favor of the

rezoning.

Note that there are conditions on the rezoning: It can be used ONLY for a dentist office, the structure cannot be changed, the trees will remain and there will be attractive landscaping and signage. There are several additional single family properties on the same block and we may be asked to consider rezoning requests one by one as they come up for sale. The conditions on Dr Berglass' property set a high bar for use of the properties on that block.

Central @ Briar Creek Developments

The Vyne: The first residential building, the pool, and street side landscaping are in, and residents are moving in. The second residential building is scheduled to begin mid-2009.

Former Renfrow property across Central from The Vyne (Duo @Briar Creek): Development here is on hold due to the economic situation and the depress housing market. The property owner, Tuscan Development, is still working to resolve issues around connectivity into the neighborhood interior, which City policy requires for all new projects.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
3601 Central Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28205
704-537-0370

Sunday Worship:

8:00 AM No music, short encouraging guilt-free sermon and Holy Communion

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM: Music, another incredibly dynamic guilt-free sermon followed by Holy Communion.

Visitors/Seekers Classes: Help folks on their journey. Not to get you into the Church. We have Membership Classes for folks joining the Church.

Youth Group: Ages 11 and older meets 5-7 PM Sunday

To witness compassion is to see God. To be compassionate is to be a child of God: *The Rev. Will Hinson*

Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., from 9:00-5:00

E-mail: info@standrewscharlottenc.org

Web-site: www.standrewscharlottenc.org

Features

Birding in Merry Oaks

Merry Oaks is a great place to watch birds. The big trees here provide both a home and food source for many species. This time of year we can see several types of sparrows that winter in our region of the country. Dark-eyed junco, white-throated and song sparrow are the most prevalent, but you might see a fox sparrow or even a white-crowned.

Our many pine trees attract interesting species such as pine warbler, brown-headed and white-breasted nuthatch. The sweet gum trees attract American goldfinch, house finch and on rare occasions, pine siskin. Almost all of the eastern woodpeckers can be seen here including both northern flicker and yellow-bellied sapsucker in winter months. Perhaps my favorite visitor from the north is the cedar waxwing which can be seen feeding on anything with berries including, unfortunately, the invasive Chinese Privet.

Many birds of prey such as hawks and owls

frequent our neighborhood as well. At the moment we have a pair of great horned owls displaying breeding behavior and can be heard just before sunrise and just after sunset hooting to each other. With any luck they will nest close by and have a couple of "Merry" owlets.

Here are some hints for attracting more feathered friends to your backyard: Put bird seed into a tube or hopper-type feeder, spread it on a tray or just scatter it on the ground. In order to keep the squirrels from eating your seed, hang feeders at least 3 or 4 feet from anything they can climb. You can also put your feeders on a hook or post with a squirrel baffle at least 3 or 4 feet above the base. Hooks and baffles can be purchased at most hardware stores or you can fashion your own. Another good winter food source is a suet feeder. Suet is high protein dough made from lard or peanut butter and can be bought at any store

continued on page 11

PEWTER



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continued from page 10

carrying bird seed, you can even make your own (see inset). When making your own bird feeder or house avoid using pressure treated lumber; it contains chemicals that can harm the birds. Instead, use naturally rot-resistant woods such as cedar, teak or even plastic lumber.

Don't forget to provide birds with a good clean source of water. Many small birds prefer puddles over ponds or streams. So, if you keep a clean, full bird bath in your yard you will be rewarded with seeing birds both drinking and bathing in it.

In addition, be sure and provide some sort of cover for the birds to "stage" in while waiting for their turn at the feeder. This can be thick shrubs or trees, or just a small brush pile on the ground nearby.

By the way, it is not true that keeping your feeders up too long will prevent birds from migrating; the drive to migrate is stronger than the temptation to stay at a feeder. In fact providing a high energy food source will help migratory birds fuel up for their long flight.

Winter is a very active time for birds, and we can help them when their natural food sources are low. So put up a bird feeder and a bird bath in your backyard and enjoy who shows up on cold winter mornings while you sip your cup of coffee or tea.

Good birding!

by Tom Sanders

Make your own suet: Use one part lard, one part peanut butter, one part flour, two parts corn meal and two parts quick oats. Melt the lard and peanut butter together and then add the dry ingredients, stir until mixed thoroughly. Hang chunks in small, square, cage feeders or spread onto a natural piece of log with holes drilled in it.

continued on page 12



DAEDALUS PROPERTIES

CONSTRUCTION - REAL ESTATE - INVESTMENTS

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***The Holidays are over
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you've been putting aside!***

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- Master Suite Additions
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- Full Home Renovations

Wildlife

Merry Oaks has plenty of animal diversity, including opossums, raccoons, rabbits, a few mostly harmless snakes, and even occasional deer and turtles. We can all live peaceably together if you take a few precautions: Don't leave cat or dog food outside overnight since it is sure to attract scavengers. Secure your under-house vents, chimneys and access doors. After a few warm days in spring, when working in your garden, keep an eye out for snakes. The harmless ones perform a service by eliminating voles and mice and the very rare poisonous ones can usually be identified by the triangular shape of their head.

Our many birds keep the annoying insect population down. Avid birder Tom Sanders reports seeing 56 varieties of birds in the six months he has lived in Merry Oaks. In the spring, we may see great blue herons along Briar Creek and the tributary near the Hillcrest Apartments. Herons stand up to 4' tall and have grayish body, white head, with dark stripe above the eyes.

Contributed by Nancy Krewson

MERRY OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

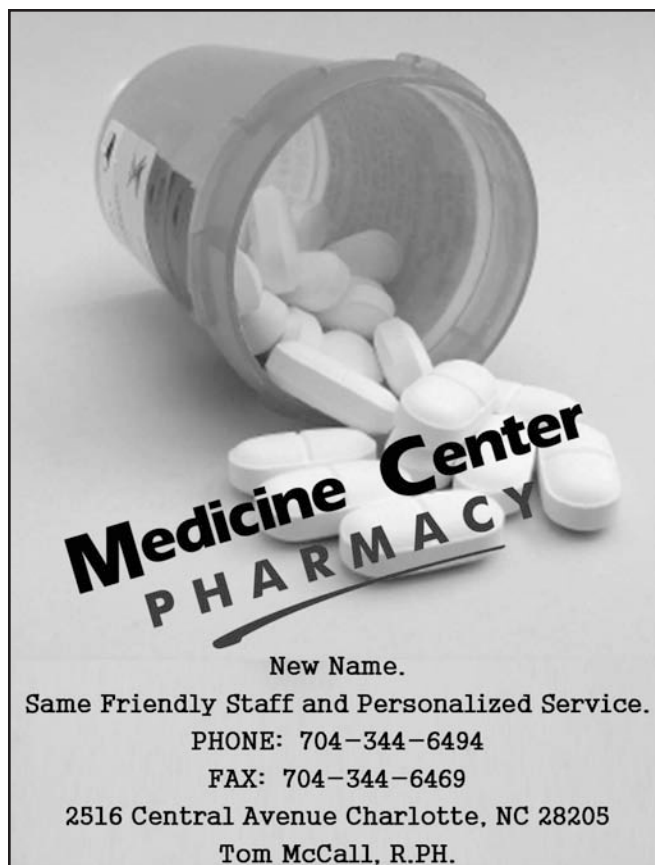
Cate Martin, MONA president before Tom (whose term has ended) will again assume the MONA President role.

Four Board nominees will be introduced for approval at the February 19 general meeting. Two long time members -- Richard Stenhouse and Beth Brown Al-Rawi -- will be going off the Board, but both will continue to be active. Richard is responsible for newsletter distribution and Beth will be involved with oversight of the Central Avenue public art project. Here is information provided by the four nominees:

Shelly Theriault

My husband Leo, our 3-year-old daughter Riley and 5-year-old dog Daisy have lived on Draper Avenue for three years, but we owned the house for five years and rented it out for awhile. We love it here! I grew up in Greensboro and Leo grew up in Boston. We met at Vinnie's Oyster Bar in South End many years ago and have been married for 6 ½ years. What we love about Merry Oaks is the ability to marry the urban qualities of living close to uptown while enjoying the beautiful tree canopy in our yard and neighborhood. We also couldn't be happier living close to so many welcoming and fun families. We can improve the neighborhood by having more events that celebrate the artistic and natural flavor of the community. We would love to see the "Art Crawl" be an annual event and grow in size and exposure. I also think we need a tighter relationship with our community police officer regarding safety issues. And we need to more aggressively pursue a solution to the speeding problem on Draper Avenue (and other streets).

continued on page 13



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Scott Canup

I grew up in Charleston, SC and have a BS from Clemson University and an Associates Degree from CPCC. I have lived on Arnold Drive for seven years. What I like most about Merry Oaks are the trees, hills and natural setting. MONA should work on the Greenway, neighborhood events (branding) and entrances into and out of the neighborhood. We can improve the neighborhood by building relationships among neighbors and protecting our beautiful trees. We need to organize community events directed towards pulling people into the neighborhood. I believe through community exposure others will see the inherent beauty of Merry Oaks.

Elisabeth Primm

I grew up in South Florida and moved to Charlotte when I was in middle school. I have a BS from UNCG and a culinary degree from CPCC. My husband and I met here in the hood as neighbors almost 8 years ago. We have 2 daughters, Martha-Violet and Freida. We live on Draper Avenue. I am interested in seeing relationships between neighbors, community facilities and business grow. I would like to build a solid Neighborhood Watch program and work on the entrances to the neighborhood. I love the diversity of our neighborhood and the laid back feeling. I would like to work to have a greener neighborhood.

Pam Sigg

I grew up in Media, PA, graduated from Penncrest High School and studied Early Childhood Development and Family Relations at Penn State. We have lived on Graybark Avenue in Merry Oaks since 1976; before that we lived in Plaza Midwood. What I like about Merry Oaks is that it feels like a real neighborhood with friendly neighbors who help each other. And it's beautiful, no matter what season it is. MONA should work on safety, continued police involvement, beautification and volunteer work at the school. We should keep the newsletter going to keep people informed and to get more neighbors involved. We should have a "welcome committee for newcomers. We can improve the neighborhood by maintaining political neutrality within the association to allow and welcome participation from everyone.

The MONA newsletter is compiled and edited by Nancy Pierce, Nancy Krewson and other contributors. Layout is by Carol Herrington. Advertising is handled by Pam Stenhouse and Pam Sigg. Richard Stenhouse and his cadre of volunteers (who we appreciate!) deliver the newsletter to your door.



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Merry Oaks Neighborhood Association Financial Statement

through Feb. 3, 2009

Income

Newsletter Advertising	8,552.50
1999-2007 Member dues	2,811.00
2008 Membership dues	190.00
2009 Membership dues	40.00
Contributions Income	
Restricted	560.00
Unrestricted	1,300.00
Grants	637.50
Uncategorized Income	1,426.67

Total Income 15,517.67

Expenses

Office supplies	534.41
Postage and Delivery	367.80
Printing/reproduction	9,349.50
Supplies	297.13
Program expense	319.00
Contributions	61.45
Dues & Subscriptions	75.00
Bank Fees	131.00
Bank Service Charges	76.00
Neighborhood Improvement Proj.	842.50
Total Expense	12,053.79

NET INCOME \$3,463.88

(does not include current newsletter or expenses)

Join the Merry Oaks Neighborhood Association

Name(s):

Address:

Phone: E-mail address:

Area of interest/concern:



Dues are \$10 per household per year. Make checks payable to **MONA**.

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