



Merry Oaks

Neighborhood Newsletter

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

Volume XI Number 2 June 2009

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Contents

MONA Community	2-3
Living in Merry Oaks	4
Advocacy Updates	5
Merry Oaks Environment	6-7
Best of Merry Oaks	8-9
Mecklenburg Park & Rec	11
MONA Board	11
Membership Form	11



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

June 18 Thursday MONA General Meeting
7-9 PM Merry Oaks Elementary Media Center Room
(enter off Draper)

Looking ahead:

October 1 Thursday MONA Board Meeting
7-9 PM Cate's house on Arnold Drive

October 24 MONA Fall Potluck, bonfire and General Meeting
Time and location TBA

December 19 (Tentative) Luminaries and Merry Oaks Art Crawl in conjunction with or before holiday caroling



Neighborhood wildlife



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

Successful Food Drive

On April 24th, our neighborhood participated in a successful food drive. All donations were given to Second Harvest Food Bank, which is the regional food distribution center for more than 600 non-profit agencies that serve low-income people who need food assistance including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and others. On short notice, we collected a truckload of food and other items. Our neighborhood's donations were part of a larger effort that resulted in more than 104,000 pounds of food collected in the Charlotte area on that day (the old record had been about 25,000 pounds). The Wilsons (on Graybark) are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which organized the food drive on behalf of Second Harvest.

--Pam Sigg

Gardening at St. Andrew's

St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Central has plowed their sunny side yard for a community garden. Merry Oaks Elementary and a Bhutanese group have been contacted as possible participants. Neighbors are welcome if you want a section of the garden to grow your own vegetables or to volunteer planting, watering, etc. St. Andrews is only asking that 10 percent of the produce be returned to St. Andrews/Loaves and Fishes. Contact Brian Hearn for further details.

bhearn2@earthlink.net or 704-535-1054.

Public Art

Local artists showed a group of Merry Oaks residents their works in progress in April at a gathering at Café Central at the corner off Central Avenue and Arnold Drive. The projects are funded by the Arts and Science Council. Sketches were displayed during the gathering at Café Central and will likely vary from the finished works. Ceramic artist Amy Sanders is the lead artist, coordinating community meetings to involve residents and artists and working with business owners.

The visual art will be transferred to vinyl panels attached with grommets to walls of businesses on Central Avenue near the intersection with Arnold Drive. Informal word is that a long, thin wall at Dim Sum at 3000 Central Ave. will become home to one of the works, and the tall building at 2821 Central Ave. with a large white wall at the corner of Masonic Drive and Central Avenue will hold another. (That's the old Eastgate Masonic Lodge.) The third location remains to be determined. More information and sketches at:
<http://underoak.blogspot.com/2009/04/public-art-in-progress.html>

Politics and the Eastside Political Action Committee

Two Charlotte mayoral candidates spoke in May at a forum sponsored by the Eastside Political Action Committee, and about 75 people turned out to listen.

continued on page 3



Dan Casutti
Retail Branch Manager
Eastway Drive Office

P.O. Box 31727
Charlotte, NC 28231-1727
704/338-4370
Fax 704/568-3950

Fifteen Ten

uncommon home antiques
Consignments

1510 Central Avenue

Charlotte, NC 28205

704.342.9005

Hours: Mon., Tues., Fri., Sat.: 10-6; Sun.: 1-5

website: www.1510-antiques.com

email: info@1510-antiques.com

continued from page 2

Anthony Foxx, a Democrat, and John Lassiter, a Republican, are both at-large city council members and the leading candidates for Charlotte mayor. The winner will replace Mayor Pat McCrory, a Republican, who is the longest-serving mayor in Charlotte history.

Questions focused on Independence Boulevard, Eastland Mall, public transit for the East Side of Charlotte, the concentration of low-income housing, and crime and public safety.

The most obvious differences between the candidates: Lassiter emphasized a market-based solution to low-income housing, and Foxx indicated that government might need to take a larger role. Foxx said that if he were mayor, he would establish a task force to handle low-income housing questions.

Both candidates addressed issues with code enforcement, with both indicating that the city is working on ways to have code-enforcement officers work split shifts or weekends so they could document code violations such as parking on lawns when the violations occur.

Details: <http://underoak.blogspot.com/2009/05/eastside-charlotte-mayoral-forum.html>

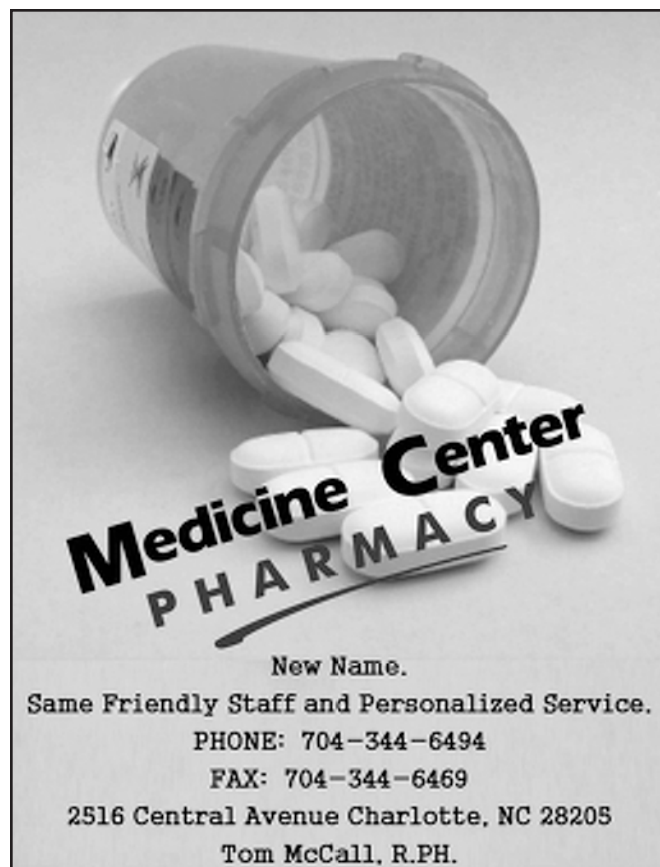
Online town hall Q&A with Foxx from CLTBlog: <http://www.viddler.com/explore/jruckman/videos/30/>

(More candidates are expected in the future at CLTBlog.)

--Andria Krewson

Eastway Police Division

Eastway CMPD issues a monthly newsletter with division statistics and the April issue is posted. Crimes are down compared with last year, thanks to diligence of the Eastway division and Merry Oaks residents who quickly report unusual activity to 911. Please keep this vigilance up. Police officers encourage us to serve as their eyes and ears. You can view a PDF document of the division's latest crime statistics at <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/CMPD/Patrol+Divisions/Eastway+Division/home.htm>



Medicine Center
PHARMACY

New Name.
Same Friendly Staff and Personalized Service.
PHONE: 704-344-6494
FAX: 704-344-6469
2516 Central Avenue Charlotte, NC 28205
Tom McCall, R.PH.



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

Living in Merry Oaks

Summer art camp

Neighbor and artist Rebecca Jones is offering a half-day summer studio art camp for children ages 6-9 from June 22-26 and from Aug. 3-7. Cost is \$150 per child. Details: Rebecca Jones, 704-516-6882.

It's time to buy real estate

A note from real-estate agent Lexie Longstreet: "I just wanted to let everyone know that NOW is a great time to buy a house if you don't already own one. The government is offering an \$8,000 tax credit. Most people that are first-time buyers or who have not owned a home in the last three years will qualify. Once they close on their home, they can amend their tax returns and get the \$8,000 back - sometimes in just a few weeks.

If you know anyone that is in a rental and has reasonably good credit, please tell them they need to take advantage of this rare opportunity."

Questions? Contact Lexie Longstreet at Savvy + Co. Real Estate, 704-560-4604 or llexie@carolina.rr.com

We love our furry friends, but...

Mecklenburg County is home to more than 158,000 dogs. They produce more than 52,000 pounds of dog waste every day. Roundworms, E. coli, and Giardia are just a few of the many harmful microorganisms that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans. Some can last in your yard for as long as four years.

Scoop the poop, including on the Briar Creek Greenway, and put the, uh, proceeds in your own trash can, because the cans at the greenway are rarely emptied. And stormwater runoff eventually flows to our lakes and streams where we fish and swim.

Keeping up the neighborhood

Some general reminders:

You can call 311 to report any homes where you think there might be code violations such as grass that is too tall.

You can also call 911 for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood or on the greenway.

Don't leave out cat or dog food where it will attract other critters to your yard.

Merry Oaks
You need
A Savvy Agent!

Lexie Longstreet
Broker. Realtor

LexieLongstreet.com
704.560.4604

Follow Me
on Twitter!
[twitter.com/
LexieLongstreet](https://twitter.com/LexieLongstreet)

I know your
neighborhood
inside out!

Call me for
Expert Real Estate
Advice!

Savvy+Co
REAL ESTATE
Smart Real Estate. Nice People.
1920 E. 7th Street Charlotte, NC 28204 . T 704.330.8326 F 704.347.4530 SavvyandCompany.com

Check out
hiphoods.com

Advocacy and Updates

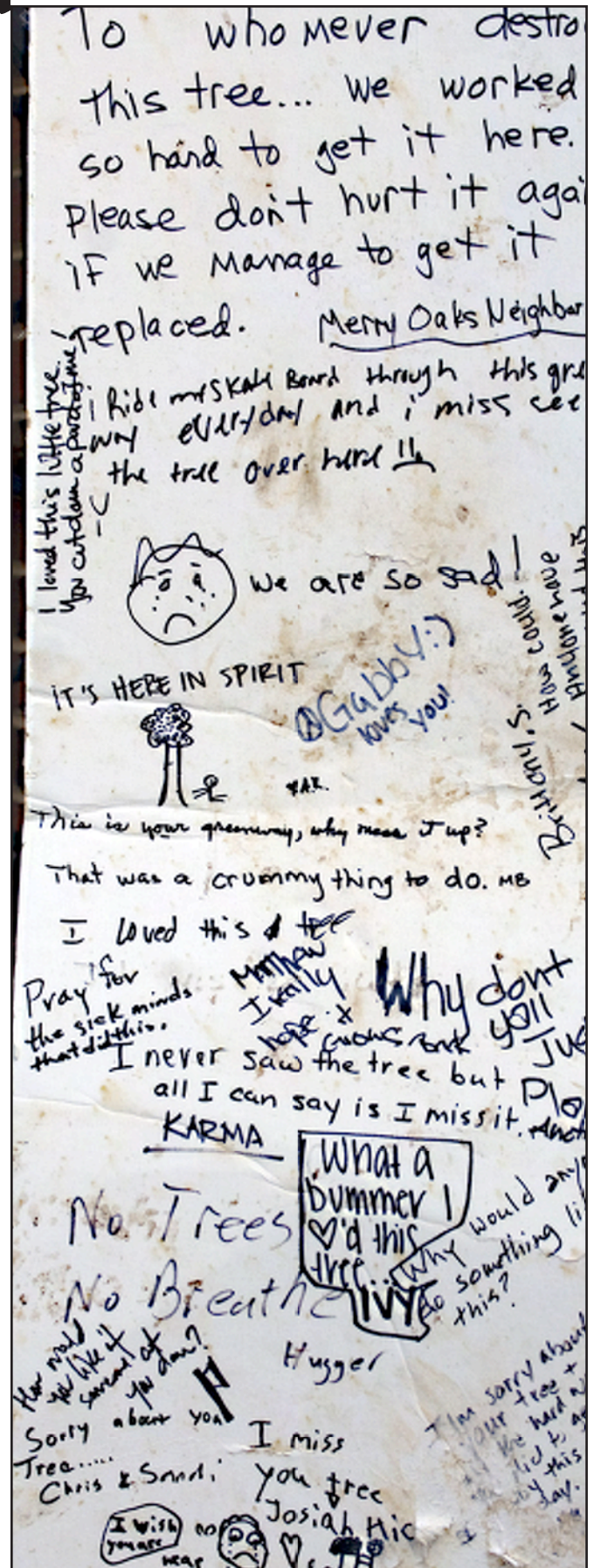
Dentist office

The 60-year-old brick house at 3410 Central Avenue at @ Merry Oaks Road was recently rezoned from residential to Neighborhood Service to allow a dentist office. Dr Michael Berglass reports that he is leasing to the former owner while the former owner finds a new place. He is installing equipment and plans to open his family dental practice there after the summer.

Briar Creek Greenway tree

Early in the spring, neighbors were saddened when someone apparently twisted the greenway circle tree at its base, broke it off and threw it into the creek. This happened after residents worked for almost a year to get the county to plant it! Many people expressed their anger and sadness on a white board on the site (see photo at right). Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department planted a new tree, but after about two weeks it died! They immediately planted a third tree, which is doing well. As it grows it will provide beauty and shade the benches at the circle by the creek.

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.



Merry Oaks Environment

Briar Creek Cleanup

Ben Kubie led neighbors Peggy, Richard, Pam, Julia, the two Nancys, 5-year-old Josh and Mickey on an expedition on April 18 to clean trash out of Briar Creek to encourage wildlife and clean water. The group saw mallards, minnows, a couple of small snakes and even a salamander, which is indicative of improved creek health. Ten bags of trash were hauled out of the creek. Photos at: <http://merryview.blogspot.com>

Unfortunately, the floods of early May dumped new trash near the bridge. Everyone who enjoys the greenway is encouraged to bring a trash bag on walks and pick up trash when they see it.

Recognition for the neighborhood's efforts

Merry Oaks was to be recognized for the neighborhood's volunteer efforts at a ceremony June 2 by the Mecklenburg Storm Water Services at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. For more ideas on how to get involved, see Storm Water Services' website:

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/StormWater/Get+Involved/Home.htm>

Urban cost-share program for soil and water conservation suspended

As of Friday, March 13, 2009, the Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District has been required to suspend the Urban Cost Share Program for soil and water conservation until further notice. This action comes as a result of state budget cuts

and reallocation of funding by the N.C. Legislature due to the difficult economic period.

Rain barrels are still available to those interested through the county soil and water conservation district. For details, see the website:

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/LUESA/Water+and+Land+Resources/Conservation/Rain+Barrel+.htm>

Greenway springs to life

As many of you know, one of the perks to living in Merry Oaks is our beautiful greenway. The greenway is a great way to get exercise, walk your dog, enjoy wide open space and meet your neighbors. Paved paths meander through established native trees, open fields of grass and across a bridge over Briar Creek, eventually connecting Merry Oaks with the nearby Plaza Midwood neighborhood.

Neighbors of Merry Oaks take pride in having the greenway so close and have made improvements not only to the greenway but also the parks and recreation trails through the woods and around the soccer fields at Merry Oaks elementary school. While on these paths, you will see evidence of hard work and neighbors coming together to improve our community.

In early spring you will see many daffodils and hyacinths in bloom. During summer, an abundance of perennials and annuals are planted in raised beds and around the circle at the stream as well as other places along the trails. Fall brings beautiful color from native trees, and then winter jasmine is not far behind in bloom.

I invite and encourage everyone to walk, run or even skate through the neighborhood and enjoy these areas. Please feel free to lend a home to any plants that will contribute to the beauty for all to enjoy. The children at Merry Oaks Elementary School use the trail near the school as an open classroom to learn about nature and the environment.

Thank you to all those who have given their time and effort to improve Merry Oaks.

--By Scott Canup



Austin Seagrave
E-mail: austin@austinseagrave.com
Your neighborhood Realtor at :
1909 Arnold Drive
704-840-6562

**austin
seagrave
realty**

continued from page 6

Baby raptors in the 'hood

In April, Great Horned owls raised two owlets in a yard along Arnold Drive. Neighbors and bird watchers from across the city came to watch and take photos. The photo was taken by nature photographer Jeff Lemons.

The other owls in the area are Barred Owl, Screech Owl and Barn Owl. If you would like prints, visit the website or contact Jeff Lemons at www.PhotographicMoment.net. Jeff also does other photography jobs.

And for tips on creating an inviting environment for birds, see February's newsletter with an article by Tom Sanders.



2121A SHAMROCK DRIVE
NEXT TO PIKE'S PHARMACY
PHONE • 704 535-2220

• PRIVATE DINING ROOM •

BOOK YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY PARTY
OR SPECIAL EVENT WITH US

WINE DINNERS
CUSTOM MENUS
BIRTHDAYS & SHOWERS
REHEARSALS & RECEPTIONS

• REGULAR HOURS •

LUNCH	MONDAY - FRIDAY	11 AM - 2:30 PM
DINNER	MONDAY - THURSDAY	5 PM - 9 PM
DINNER	FRIDAY NIGHT	5 PM - 10 PM
	SATURDAY ALL DAY	11 AM - 10 PM

The Best of Merry Oaks

Your neighbors' favorite places and best-kept secrets

Have a nearby favorite business? Or a favorite park spot? Or even a favorite hill for skateboarding? Let us know, with a note on the Google group to share with your neighbors.

Here are some ideas, and obviously we like to eat! Contributors are Hillary and Mike Serwatka, Austin Seagrave, Nancy Pierce, Liz Primm, Lori Stiles and Matt Gower, Dick and Pam Stenhouse, Andria Krewson and Judi Noblitt.

The “**pet parade**” on weekdays on Arnold Drive down to the greenway, weekdays after work hours. It’s a great time to catch up with neighbors and have sidewalk neighborhood meetings. AK

The Bunnys Rancheros at *Zada Janes*, 1601 Central Avenue. It’s unusual, but so good! H&MS

Also at *Zada Janes*: A wonderful breakfast menu in general, from LP, and Best salad: NODA Salad. AS, NP

Laurel Mark South 1515 South Blvd. Owners are Merry Oaks residents. Awesome sandwich shop, fab beer and wine selections. LP

Binh Salon 1615 Arnold Dr: Fantastic prices, great job on cuts, coloring, waxing, LP

Revolution in NODA has the best pizza in Charlotte. LP

Petra’s Piano Bar and *The Thirsty Beaver* are super fun to go hang out and hear live music. LP

Landmark Restaurant, 4429 Central, Best French toast. AS

The calamari (and inexpensive wine by the glass) at *Portofino*’s in the Eastway Crossing Shopping Center. AK. Also, nominated for the pizza and seafood specials! D&PS

Taco La Unica, Central near Masonic, Best taco. AS

Clearing House, 701 Central, Best consignment shopping for household items AS

Junior League Wearhouse, Pecan Avenue, Best thrift shop for clothes and accessories! AS, NP

Dish, 1220 Thomas St., Best dessert: Chocolate pecan pie. AS. Also nominated for its comfort food, D&PS

Sub Station II, 7th and Pecan, Best tuna salad.

continued on page 9

Café Central
Coffee, Sandwiches, Desserts
Corner of Central and Arnold Drive
Let us bake your special cake!
704-831-0335
\$5 lunch specials



**SHERIDAN
MECHANICAL
CONTRACTING
COMPANY**
www.SheridanMechanical.com

What your neighbors are saying about Sheridan Mechanical:

"...the difference between a just-OK contractor and one you really want to hire is that the latter will do whatever it takes to make it right, period... These guys fit that trait completely."
Pinecrest Avenue Resident

"The prices are reasonable, they are very reliable and did a great job"
Carolyn Drive Resident

"...I highly recommend them..."
Woodland Drive Resident

Your one call for quality, reliable service.
Electrical - Heating - Cooling
Call today for your free estimate.
MON residents receive a 10% neighborhood discount
on labor when you mention this ad.

704-641-4173

continued from page 8

Envy, 1111 Central Ave., Best gift shopping. AS

Pura Vida Worldy Art, 1521 Central Ave., Clothing and gifts from many different cultures. Want a St. Christopher's medal? You can find it there. AK

Radiant Skin, 1111 Central, Best facial with organic products only. AS

Ben Thahn, 4900 Central: Tofu hot pots, yellow pancakes with the most beautiful herbs and lettuce you will ever see, fresh mango appetizer. Mai, Kwong and their family is so welcoming! D&PS

Intermezzo, 1427 East 10th Mushroom pizza and the roasted vegetable pizza D&PS

Las Margaritas Mexican restaurant 4426 Independence (near Sharon Amity) BEST churros, super cheap. You get a plate of six yummy, warm, cinnamon-sugar dusted churros for under \$2. LS and MG

Las Delicias bakery, 4405 Central. Great tamales -- chicken, pork, or cheese, and you can get them wrapped in banana leaves or corn husks. Authentic, delicious and cheap. In back, so you have to ask for them. LS&MG

National Tailoring, 3023 Central Great place to alter your clothes if you're sewing machine phobic like me! NP

Book Buyers, 1308-F The Plaza at Plaza Central Great book browsing. NP

Walk in the woods: Evergreen Nature Preserve 5 minutes by car @ 1300 Tarrington or enter from Evergreen Cemetery (Central and Norland/Kilbourne) NP

Run in the woods: Besides our own Greenway or Merry Oaks campus path, try Kilbourne Park. Cross Eastway at Arnold (be careful) and keep going one block to the back entrance. NP



DAEDALUS PROPERTIES

CONSTRUCTION - REAL ESTATE - INVESTMENTS

- Licensed General Contractor • Bonded & Insured • Renovations
- Additions • New Construction • Investments • Free Consultation

*The Holidays are over
and it's time to do those
home renovations
you've been putting aside!*
*Call Today for a free consultation
and Save 10% on your next job!*

704-890-3907

www.DaedalusProperties.com

WE SPECIALIZE IN:

- Kitchen & Bath Renovations
- Hardwood Flooring
- Tile, Marble, & Stone Installation
- Master Suite Additions
- Screen Porches & Decks
- Full Home Renovations

Jealousy
Love
Seduction
Obsession

Experience every note and emotion.

Keep the passion in your relationship burning. **Subscribe now to a brilliant Opera Carolina season: Passion & Pathos.** You'll lock in five romantic dates at the opera and save up to 35%. Learn more at operacarolina.org or call 704.335.1010 to subscribe today!

OPERA
CAROLINA

Tickets: 704.335.1010 | Priced from: \$16
operacarolina.org



2009/2010 SEASON

Otello

(based on Shakespeare's Othello)

October 17, 22 & 25, 2009

La Bohème

January 23, 24, 28 & 30, 2010

Love Notes
Concert & Party

February 20, 2010

Carmen

March 13, 14, 18 & 20, 2010

Transit of Venus

(American Premiere)

May 8, 13 & 16, 2010

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Rules:

The following is "NOT" permitted in Park and Recreation Facilities:

- 1) Children under the age of 16 years old riding bikes, rollerblades, skateboarding without a helmet.
- 2) Selling, soliciting, or exhibiting materials without a Department issued permit.
- 3) Consumption of alcoholic beverages without a Department issued permit.
- 4) Operation of unauthorized motor vehicles is prohibited.
- 5) Unrestrained pets or pets on leashes over 6 feet in length.
- 6) Use of playground equipment without adult supervision.
- 7) Pets in playground, picnic or athletic areas.
- 8) Damage of park property or natural areas.
- 9) Parking in undesignated areas parking areas.
- 10) Commercial or political signs.
- 11) Play on closed athletic fields.
- 12) Trespassing after hours. (In this case after sunset)
- 13) Weapons or firearms.
- 14) Golf practice.
- 15) Swimming.
- 16) Littering.
- 17) Hunting.
- 18) Cruising.

If there is any questions please contact Charlotte/Mecklenburg Park and Recreation Department.
http://www.parkandrec.com or call 704-336-3854



MONA Board & Volunteers

Cate Martin
President
704-535-3501
cate1868@yahoo.com

Tom Poston
Outgoing President
704-567-0020
tom@tranquility-base.us

Donna Howard Peters
Treasurer
704-563-1422
dhowardpeters@carolina.rr.com

Scott Canup

Nancy Krewson
Webmaster
704-567-0709
nkrewson@earthlink.net
Pam Stenhouse
Advertising Manager
704-535-4026
dandp@carolina.rr.com

Nancy Pierce
Neighborhood Advocate
704-535-7409
nancypierce@carolina.rr.com

Shelly Theriault
shellytheriault@earthlink.net
704-564 2461

Liz Primm
ekprimm@gmail.com

Carol Herrington
Newsletter Layout
704-563-0288
robcar1823us@yahoo.com

Pam Sigg
Advertising
704-535-1051
psigg@carolina.rr.com

Andria Krewson
Board Member
704-567-0709t
akrewson45c@mac.com

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**.

MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

MONA Dues
P.O. Box 18131
Charlotte, NC 28218-0131

Please send in your dues! We need \$\$\$ to continue our work on your behalf.