

# BECTON PARK BULLETIN

Becton Park established: 1988

Newsletter Date: Fall 2015

## Neighborhood /Vehicle Safety



There was a 500% increase (1 in 6 reported vehicles) in auto thefts for the month of September 2015. The Hickory Grove Police Department recommends a few steps to avoid becoming a victim.

1. Remove all items of value from your car
2. Don't let other access your vehicle
3. Never leave your vehicle unlocked
4. Never leave your vehicle running while unattended
5. Never leave a spare key inside your vehicle
6. Secure your windows
7. Park in well lit areas
8. Consider installing an alarm or anti-theft device
9. Consider installing a GPS tracking system
10. If your vehicle is stolen call 911 immediately

Take time to record the serial numbers of electronic devices (i.e. TV's, GPS, computers, cellphones, firearms). If stolen, the serial numbers can facilitate the identification and recover of stolen items

### 2015 Meeting Schedule

Below is a *tentative* meeting schedule for the Becton Park Board of directors at the clubhouse for the rest of 2015.

Homeowners are invited to attend the meetings at 6pm.

February 9, 2015

May 18, 2015

August 10, 2015

October 12, 2015

December 7, 2015

## Parking Notice

Each unit has been afforded two parking spaces in addition to the garage. Homeowners, residents and their guests are **not** to park on the lawns or in the street. These are proactive measures to prevent damage to underground water pipes.



Additionally, due to the narrow streets, we are responsible to ensure that emergency vehicles will have unobstructed access to every home in the event of an emergency. The Board of Directors has the authority to

have any improperly parked vehicle towed at the owner's expense. The towing company's contact information is on signage at the entrance to the community in the event that you are towed.



December is the Becton Park annual meeting and election.

As homeowners in Becton Park, we are also members of the Lynton Place HOA.

The Lynton Place annual meeting and election is in May..

## November Home Care Tips

Your home is your biggest investment. Keep it in tip top shape by completing some simple tasks this month.

- Trim tree limbs that are leaning on the fence.
- Replace any worn weather stripping around doors and windows
- Install foam gaskets behind light switches
- Set the ceiling fan to blow air upward
- Service your kitchen disposal by grinding several cups of ice cubes
- Inspect and clean storm window weep holes



- Pour one (1) gallon of water down any unused drains
- Clean the gutters and ensure that downspouts are free of any obstructions
- Checks for leaks under sinks and toilets
- Check for cracks in the foundation, brick or stucco
- Review emergency procedures and conduct a fire drill
- Examine the chimney and clean the flue. Repair any cracks in the flue or any loose or crumbling mortar

Prepare for Santa and enjoy the holiday season.

## Banding Together

Charlotte has a history of severe infestations of cankerworms. Homeowners can help control the population by banding their trees. Banding trees can prevent the cankerworm population from increasing to an unmanageable level.

Each November the City places special traps at scattered locations to monitor the Fall Cankerworm population. They also monitor the amount of defoliation in the spring to see if it is affecting the health of our tree canopy.

**What is the fall cankerworm?** The fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*) is an insect native to North America. It is typically found from Georgia to Nova Scotia and west to Texas.

**How does the fall cankerworm af-**

**fect trees?** After mating in December, the female moths crawl up trees to lay their eggs on twigs and small branches. As the trees leaf out in the spring, the eggs hatch leaving small green caterpillars to feed on the leaves. In most cases, the cankerworm will not kill the

trees; however repeated defoliation can weaken trees and make them more susceptible to other stresses, such as age, drought, other insects and disease.

**What effect will tree banding have on the cankerworm?** Tree banding in November and December is an effective way of controlling the cankerworm. By applying a glue barrier to the tree trunk, the wingless canker-

worm moths are trapped as they climb the tree.

For best results, trees should be banded around the last week of November. It is important to wait until most leaves have fallen from the trees so they don't get stuck to the tree bands.



The Fiery Searcher Beetle (*Calosoma scrutator*) likes to feast on cankerworms and could possibly help control infestations in the future.

# City of Charlotte Focus Area Plan

The Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee provides comprehensive initiatives designed to foster economic development and improve quality of life issues in Charlotte's older, urban neighborhoods and business areas. The Committee is composed of five (5) members. Patsy Kinsey, Alvin Austin, John Autry, Ed Driggs, and LaWana Mayfield.

The City of Charlotte's Housing & Neighborhood Development strategy focuses on creating and sustaining communities of choice. This is accomplished by creating places where people and businesses are safe; where civic infrastructure supports neighborhood quality of life and business success; where families have access to quality, affordable housing, education, jobs and services; and the environment is preserved and strengthened.

The City's housing and neighborhood 2016 strategy

focuses on preserving and creating neighborhoods and amenities that allow people to reach their full potential by creating places where:

- People and businesses are safe,
- Civic infrastructure supports neighborhood quality of life, and
- Families have access to quality affordable housing, education, jobs, and services

You may access the 2016 Strategic Plan on the [charmeck.org](http://charmeck.org) website and the following web address below.

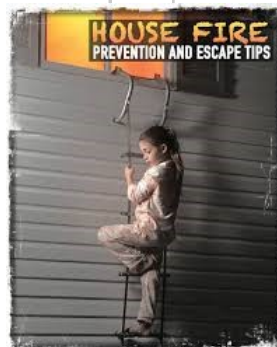
<http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/FocusAreas/HousingandNDev/Documents/HNDFAP16.pdf>

## Charlotte Fire Department - Fire Safety Tips

**Each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined. Know the four home fire risks.**

The #1 cause of home fires is **unattended cooking**, make sure ovens, stoves and other appliances are clean and well maintained. Remember to keep **flammable objects** a safe distance from space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves. Do not overload **wall outlets** with plugs. Use a power strip. Make sure cords on electrical appliances aren't worn. **Smoking** is the cause of the most fire-related deaths. Use deep ashtrays and empty them often. Never smoke in bed. Keep smoking material, matches and lighters away from children.

Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm can double your chances of survival. Install one smoke alarm on each level of



your house. Test your smoke alarms monthly, and replace the batteries twice a year.

### Five steps for planning a safe escape:

- Draw a floor plan of your home
  - Use arrows to show 2 ways out of each room
- Designate a "safe meeting" place outside
- Designate a family member to call 911

Review the plan with your family on a regular basis.

### Practice, Practice, Practice!

In a real fire you don't have time to think about what you should do. Fire drills will make the steps of a safe escape second nature. Hold practice drills at night when most fires occur, and hold surprise drills to make sure your family responds quickly.

## Thanksgiving Cooking Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home especially at Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment. Have an enjoyable Thanksgiving with your family by putting safety first - especially in the kitchen.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.



- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.

- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them

by pushing the test button

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## Becton Park Covenant Review - Water and Water Pipes

Water is provided to Becton Park from Devonshire Court and is a part of your monthly HOA assessments. All homes should be equipped with water pressure safety valves, which is located near the water heater. As we approach the winter months, keep in mind that prolonged outside temperatures below freezing can result in frozen water pipes if precautions are not taken by homeowners and residents. These precautions include but are not limited to:

- Maintaining an interior temperature above 55 degrees

- Allowing all faucets to drip during cold exterior temperatures to prevent standing water from freezing
- Informing neighbors about absences during the colder months
- Vacant homes should have the main water supply turned off during cold weather months
- Shut off all exterior faucets
- If you will be away for a few

days, you may need to shut off the water to the washing machine to prevent flooding while the home is unoccupied.

### Additional tips from the Red Cross:

- Keep garage doors closed
- Open kitchen cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate
- Keep a constant internal temperature during the day and night





## Becton Park Contacts

### BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President:</b>	Daphne Pinchback 5600 Ebley Lane 704-458-1572 dpin0528@bellsouth.net
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Kevin Tolbert 5705 Ebley Lane 704-607-2135 katolbert@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Vanessa Coles 5606 Becton Park Drive 704-488-2668 vanessadcoles@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Erna McCauley 5601 Becton Park Drive mccerna00@yahoo.com
<b>Member At- Large</b>	Joe Ayers 5652 Ebley Lane joeayers2000@hotmail.com

### Williams Douglas Property Manager Representative

Victoria Burnette  
William Douglas Management Co.  
704-347-8900 extension 108  
704-377-3408 (fax)  
vburnette@wmdouglas.com

**Contact the property management company for any community problems including parking issues, water line breaks, etc. The property management company may be contacted 24 hours a day. In case of emergency call 704-347-8900 and follow the prompts to report an emergency.**

### Next Door App

The Hickory Grove police department recommends the use of Next Door to keep up with community events. You can download from the Apple Store or Google Play onto your smartphone.

## Community Police Officer Contact

If you have questions for our community police officer, contact Officer Silcox or Lt. Brady who will be filling in until a replacement has been made. We are advised to contact 911 to report any suspicious activity. If you call 911 to make a report, please state that you are in the Hickory Grove Division, Response Area



2.  
The Hickory Grove division has a newsletter. To begin receiving the Hickory Grove Area 2 newsletter email [ebrady@cmpd.org](mailto:ebrady@cmpd.org) or click on this link [Hickory Grove CMPD Newsletter](#)

## Becton Park Board Meeting

### December Meeting

The final Becton Park homeowners association meeting for the 2015 year will be held on Monday, December 7, 2015. The December meeting will include:

- An annual meeting
- Budget ratification
- Board member election

All homeowners are invited to attend HOA meetings.

