

BECTON PARK BULLETIN

Becton Park established: 1988

Newsletter Date: Fall 2016

October is Fire Safety Month



The U.S. Fire Administration reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and injure approximately 20,000 more.

A home is often referred to as a safe haven. This month, make sure your home is protected from (and your family is prepared for) a fire. Here are simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury.

- Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon dioxide detector.
- Don't over load circuits or extension cords.
- Clean your dryer vents

Following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this short list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!

2016 Meeting Schedule

Below is a *tentative* meeting schedule for the Becton Park Board of directors at the clubhouse for the 2016 year.

Homeowners are invited to attend the meetings at 6pm.

February 8, 2016

May 9 2016

August 8, 2016

October 10, 2016

December 5, 2016

Proper Parking in Becton Park

Parking is limited to garages and driveways. The Becton Park bylaws prohibits vehicle parking on front lawns and/or on the street. Neighbors and guests should not park on the street nor on front lawns.

You should take notice of the signage at the neighborhood entrance indicating no parking on

lawns or street.

City of Charlotte Ordinances [Sec 14-216a (24)] specifies that it is a violation to park "On a street so as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the roadway"

[Sec 14-216a(25)] It is unlawful to parking "between the curb or

edge of the pavement of a street and the front building line of a single family detached, duplex, triplex, or quadraplex dwelling unit projected to the side lot other than completely upon an improved driveway"

Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

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.

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Taking the time to conduct fall maintenance can save you money in costly repairs or identify repairs that need to be made before the real chill of winter. Here are some items to consider.

- 1) Fireplace clean up - proper inspection is vital to ensuring its safe operation
- 2) Clean your carpets - If your wall-to-wall carpeting harbors dirt and musty odors, throw open the windows to let it dry before the weather gets too cold.
- 3) Lighten up - Yes, it's true: replacing even some of your incandescent lightbulbs with high-efficiency compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) saves you money and, depending on where you live, earns you a utility rebate.
- 4) Scrub up - Washing your home's exterior, including the windows, makes it look better and helps prevent growth of mold and mildew that feed on dirt.
- 5) Mind the gaps - Look for one of the biggest energy-wasters: air leaks. Inspect the

caulking and seals around windows and add or replace the weather stripping around your exterior doors to prevent heat-sucking drafts.

- 6) Tune your furnace - A finely tuned furnace is almost like a musical instrument, humming along as efficiently as possible while keeping your family warm and cozy during chillier months.
- 7) Gutter care - Your home's gutters divert thousands of gallons of water each year. To keep the water flowing smoothly away from your house instead of into it, inspect and clean your roof's drainage system.
- 8) Fall lawn care - To ensure your lawn's health and beauty come spring, there are several important yard projects to complete in the fall. Raking leaves and aerating will prevent your lawn and garden beds from suffocating, while fertilizing and winterizing grass, trees, and shrubs will allow your greenery to enter its winter slumber comfortably and properly nourished.

Get Ready For The Coming Election, Know Who Represents You.

If you have been paying attention to the political folly on the news, you probably know that there is nothing funny about this next election. You need to know who represents you. Based on our addresses these are your representatives:

US Senate representatives

Richard Burr (R)

Tom Tillis (R)

US Congressional District Representative

District 8

Richard Hudson (R)

NC State District Representative

District 40

Joyce Waddell (D)

NC House District Representative

District 99

Rodney Moore (D)

County Commissioner District Representative

District 4

Dumont Clark (D)

Pat Cotham (D), Ella Scarborough (D), Trevor Fuller (R)

School Board District Representative

District 4

Tom Tate

Mary McCray, Ericka Ellis-Stuart, Timothy Morgan

Charlotte City Council District Representative

District 5

John Autry (D)

Vi Lyles (D), David Howard (D), Claire Fallon (D),
Michael Barnes (D)

Garbage Collection Services for the Disabled

Residents physically unable to take their garbage and recyclables to the curb for collection may qualify for Disability Collection Services (backyard collection). To see if you qualify for disability collection services, please read the instructions below.

Disability Collection Service Instructions:

- Complete the Disability Collection Verification Form.
- Resident must have a physician complete the "Physicians Statement" portion of the Verification Form
- A form must be completed for each resident in the household, whom is requesting service
- The resident must sign and date the verification form.
- Once the entire form is completed, fax the

form to 704-353-0330 or mail to:

City of Charlotte
Solid Waste Services Department Administration
1105 Otts Street
Charlotte, NC 28205

- Once the form is received by Solid Waste Services, a request number will be issued
- Within 2 business days, the resident will be contacted by a Solid Waste Services Contract Technician to schedule an onsite interview with the resident
- After the onsite interview has been conducted, backyard collection services will begin within 2 weeks. The resident will receive a phone call stating when service(s) will begin.

Residents may also call 311 (704.336.7600) to request the verification form.

Ways to Be a Good Neighbor

Truly connecting with neighbors creates a feeling of harmony, security and support. There is tremendous value in simply knowing that someone is nearby who cares and is willing to help if needed. Equally as important as a sense of community, being good neighbors benefits everyone when problems arise. Here are nine ways to be a good neighbor.

1. Introduce yourself. Most people do not know who lives next door to them. Consider bringing a plate of goodies or a plant for their garden.
2. Greet neighbors with a smile, wave or friendly "hello" each time you see them.
3. Respect property boundaries. Make sure trees or other plants are not growing over onto your neighbor's property or blocking their view.
4. Don't park on the lawn. Maintaining the grass maintains property values and below ground pipes.
5. Respect noise level at all times – especially early in the morning or later in the evening. No one likes to wake up early on a weekend to the sound of a lawn mower or other gas-powered

equipment.

6. Keep your yard tidy. Regularly mow the grass, maintain garden areas, and keep the property free of trash and other debris. Broken down vehicles, old campers, boats and other items should not be stored in front of your house.
7. Contain your animals to your property. Some people fear dogs and no one wants to clean up after someone else's pet. A constantly barking dog is a sure way to irritate others.
8. When hosting a party or large gathering, notify your neighbors and ask about parking preferences. Let them know when your guest will arrive and what time they may leave.
9. Slow down when driving through your neighborhood and watch for children, pets, and those walking or biking.

When a problem does arise, go to your neighbor in a calm, respectful manner and look for a positive solution. Assume the best. Respect and consideration go a long way. People are more likely to work with you to solve issues when you have established a relationship built on trust and mutual respect.

Crank Up Your Home's Curb Appeal

If you haven't thought about your home's curb appeal, or if it's been a while since you've considered it, walk or drive past your home and look at it from the street with a critical, impartial eye. Ask yourself, "What would a stranger notice first about my home?" Would they see an inviting and well-kept exterior, or would they immediately notice some delayed maintenance and room for improvement?

A home's curb appeal can be critical from a real estate and value perspective. Whether your house is on the real estate market or you'd just like for the exterior to be more attractive from the street, there are some simple outside DIY projects that you can do to increase your home's curb appeal:

- Decorate with a wreath
- Spruce up the mailbox - replace or paint

- Spruce up the front yard - remove garbage and unnecessary items and eliminate the clutter
- Play with florals - add plants in a container
- Spruce up the shutters with fresh paint
- Install new outdoor lighting

One of the best things you can do for your home's curb appeal is to keep the exterior clean and maintained. Fix any sagging or loose gutters, cracked windows, or damaged wood. Mow the grass regularly and remove leaves and debris from the lawn and flower beds. Keep the shrubbery trimmed, and remember to sweep the walk and put up toys and bicycles every night. Don't let your neighbors still the show. With just a little effort, your home can be appealing and attractive on the outside as well as on the inside.

Becton Park Covenant Review - Trash and Garbage

As a resident of Becton Park you are expected to store your garbage bins appropriately. The Becton Park Bylaws stipulate that all garbage shall be maintained within the residence of each Owner. Residents have a "window" of 24 hours before the day of scheduled pick-up to place trash and recyclable containers at the curb for pick-up and a "window" of 24 hours after pick-up to put containers out of sight. Garbage and recyclables may not be stored on porches, front or side yards. Garbage and recycling bins



CORRECT

As a resident of Becton Park, we are required to abide by the *stricter* rules of the Becton Park neighborhood covenants.

WRONG



should be placed either inside the garage or in backyards and out of sight from the street. Trash and recyclables must be contained in garbage bags and placed inside receptacles. Please note that the Becton Park Bylaws are stricter than those of the City of Charlotte.

Becton Park Contacts

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Daphne Pinchback
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Secretary: Vanessa Coles
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Treasurer: Erna McCauley
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Member At- Large Joe Ayers
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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.

National Take Back Initiative Collection Sites

Keeping unused medication in the home increases the chance of access by small children and creates an opportunity for teens to experiment and is often a gateway to more highly addictive drugs.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for October 22, 2016 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. The following collection sites are planned.

Publix - 6828 Matthews-Mint Hill Road

Harris Teeter - 1811 Matthews Township Pkwy

Harris Teeter - 6701 Morrison Blvd

Harris Teeter - 7852 Rea Road

Bi-Lo - 9101 Pineville-Matthews Road

Archived Becton Park Information

Have you ever wanted to see an old version of the Becton Park Bulletin? Have you lost your copy of the neighborhood covenants? Are you interested in obtaining a copy of the neighborhood directory?

All of the above mentioned documents can be accessed online at www.neighborhoodlink.com. Simply go on the website and search for Becton Park.

The website contains:

- ◇ Old versions of the Becton Park bulletin
- ◇ A copy of the Becton Park neighborhood covenants
- ◇ The Becton Park directory
- ◇ Read additional recommendations and information

