

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 10, 2007



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## FOREST POND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Forest Pond's Second National Night Out this past Tuesday was a success in many ways.

Firstly, we had, at best count, 71 residents and another 6 guests attend our little get together in Sunday Park.

Kudos go to Heidi Huber and Dove Sifers-Putman for bringing many different door prizes that were handed out.

A big THANK YOU to the children for participating in the door prize drawing. I have never seen quite so many kids jockeying for position to be the next one to draw.

A very welcome and comforting sight was the visit and words of advice from our Community Officer Zeru Chickoree and his

fellow officers that came along to meet and greet our residents. The children that attended enjoyed the CMPD Junior Police Officer badges to stick on their shirts and blouses.

Everyone in attendance was introduced to the present HOA Board Members and circulated around to meet people that live in other sections of our subdivision that they normally don't see.

In meeting and talking with each other, we learned a little more about who should be in the neighborhood and that goes a long way towards helping to prevent crime from happening.

Rich Haag, from the Charlotte Observer, University City section

of the paper was present, taking photos of the event and there will be a couple of those photos in this Sunday's Charlotte Observer, University City section.

We hope to see more people out and about in our Sunday Park and around the pond as soon as the hottest days of summer are behind us.

We will do this again next year and maybe, just maybe we will see over 100 people from Forest Pond at that event.

Remember, a vigilant neighbor is the key to stopping crime - by calling 911 to report suspicious activities you are denying a criminal his chance to earn a dishonest living at our expense!

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- First Day of School  
August 27, 2007
- Don't Be Fleeced  
Be Aware of Scams
- Vote! For Change!
- Spend a Little Save a Lot - Insulation

## SCHOOL TOOLS PROGRAM

The month of August is our annual effort to collect school supplies for children in need.

Supplies needed - book bags, graphing calculators, markers, colored pencils, three-ring binders, pencil pouches and boxes, student scissors, composition books, rulers and erasers.

School supplies can be dropped off at Classroom Central, 2116 Wilkinson Blvd. or at Food Lion stores, or at WSOC-TV, Golden Corral and Bank of Granite lobby areas.

Mail carriers will pick up any school supplies left at mailboxes in Mecklenburg County.

Last year 26 tons of supplies were collected and distributed to 98 Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

With a little bit more effort, we can help increase that to 27 tons this year and set a new record for supporting our future leaders!

## BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY

The first day of school is Monday, August 27th and for a lot of parents—it is a blessing in disguise and another year of the hurry up and do it routine.

It is also a time of learning for our parents - who are the new friends, what is the new class schedule, finding the missing items that all important project

or report.

After school care, after school activities, and PTA meetings are now the center of the child-oriented universe and don't you forget it!

Planning family gatherings and meals are becoming harder to arrange and even harder to attend with the extended family.

Before you know it, he holidays are on us and we just caught our breath after plowing through the first and second quarters of school.

However, there is a bright side to all of this - in nine months we get to rush through another summer vacation period all over again!



## VOTING 2007

Friday, August 17, 2007 at 5:00 PM is the last chance for voter registration for the 2007 Primary Election.

Thursday, August 23, 2007 is the first day of Absentee Voting (in person) and Saturday, September 8 by 1:00 PM is the last chance for Absentee Voting (in person).

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 is Primary Election Day and it starts at 6:30 AM and

ends at 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, November 6, 2007 is General Election Day and it starts at 6:30 AM and ends at 7:30 PM.

For all North Carolina residents living in Forest Pond, your voting place is Derita Alternative School Gym. The school gym is not located in the actual school building but across Rumble Road from the school.

Parking for the gym is very limited in front of the gym and you can park where the signs indicate parking for voters. You may be able to park around the corner near the Chilly Moose, Derita Cleaners, and the parking lot in front of the Players Sports building.

Vote for political change not for the same old tired party rhetoric!

## KILLING KUDZU & IVY

You really want to rid your property of kudzu, poison ivy, and other creeping vines, then you have come to the right place.

You have two methods - expensive or inexpensive. Expensive requires a big investment in equipment and labor. Inexpensive, my favorite, is to use tried and proven meth-

ods to rid your property of the creeping and clinging vines.

The most cost effective measure I have found and used is made by Ortho and it is called Brush-B-Gon®. One treatment during the hottest time of the year and the roots will die out inside of two weeks.

It took 7 years for the kudzu to creep back into the area I treated in August 2000.

The really good news is that the poison ivy still has not returned and that makes it safe for the kids in the neighborhood that play or wonder through the common area behind my house.

"It took 7 years  
for the kudzu to  
creep back.."

## MOST RECENT SCAMS IN N.C.

The following are the latest scams as found on the CMPD website and are repeated here for the benefit of our residents:

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Federal Trade Commission Warning Con Artists are utilizing their name and official logo in emails designed to obtain sensitive financial information and implant spyware or other malicious programs in consumers' personal computers.

The FDIC and the Federal Trade commission do not initiate unsolicited communications seeking consumers' financial information.

Avoid opening email attachments that accompany such messages and never respond to the communication directly via an email reply, a return fax or a phone call to a number listed in the message. (July 2007)

AG Cooper Warns Homeowners About Overpriced Property Deeds

The National Deed Service Inc. of Washington D.C. has sent thousands of letters to North Carolina

homeowners offering to provide them with a certified copy of their property deed for \$59 - \$89. The Register of Deeds in most counties will provide a copy of these deeds for a fee of less than \$10.

Consumers who have complaints about National Deed Service or similar businesses can file a complaint with Cooper's Consumer Protection Division by calling toll free 1-877-5-NO-SCAM. (June 2007)

Telephone Fraud Involving Jury Duty

The FBI is providing a warning to the public against an ongoing scheme involving jury service. Individuals identifying themselves as U.S. Court employees have been calling citizens and advising them that they have been selected for jury duty. These individuals ask to verify names and social security numbers, then ask for credit card numbers. If the request is refused, citizens are then threatened with fines.

The judicial system does not contact people by telephone and ask for personal information. If you

receive one of these phone calls, do not provide any personal or confidential information. This is an attempt to steal or to use your identity.

If you have already been contacted your local FBI Field office telephone numbers can be found in the front of your local telephone directory or on [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov). (June 2007)

Calling Seniors and Impersonating Family Members In Need of Money

An elderly person received a call from someone who said it was her grandson Bob. "Bob" told her he was fishing in Canada with a friend and they caught some kind of exotic fish and as a result got arrested. "Bob" stated that he needed \$3,000 to pay the fine. He instructed our customer to go to Wal-Mart to wire the money to Ontario. Our customer wired the money and found out later that her grandson Bob is in Houston, not Canada.

The scammers either strike up conversations with the traveling family member and learn the identities of relatives back home, or they obtain the

name and address of a traveler from hotel registries or other sources and look up relatives on the internet.

"U.S. Court employees have been calling citizens..., then ask for social security numbers..."

## FOREST POND

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## HOME INSULATION SAVES YOU MONEY

In August 2005, the first national energy bill in more than a decade was signed into law. It contains tax incentives to encourage energy efficiency and conservation in America's homes and buildings. It includes energy efficiency tax incentives for making improvements to new and existing homes, manufactured homes and commercial buildings.

With energy costs skyrocketing, these tax incentives will help homeowners and builders make improvements to new and existing homes and buildings, which account for more than 40% of all energy used in the US.

Homeowners are eligible for a tax credit of up to \$500 for 10% of the costs of qualified energy efficiency improvements made to their homes. So, if a homeowner spends \$800 to add proper levels of insulation to their home, they would qualify for a Federal tax credit of \$80.

Consumers who want to take advantage of the federal tax credits for their homes must install the products between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

The tax credit for existing homes requires that the building envelope com-

ponent being renovated must meet the energy efficiency minimum standards. This includes attics, foundation and exterior walls, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation is a key component of the home or building envelope. Other qualified envelope components include windows (limited to a maximum credit of \$200), doors and skylights.

The IRS guidance states that only the cost of the insulation products is eligible for the tax credit, and installation fees are not eligible. If you hire a contractor to perform the job for you, make sure the contractor gives you an itemized receipt that breaks out the cost of the insulation from the labor charge.

Check with the IRS for complete information. Generally, an itemized retail receipt showing the amount spent on insulation materials between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007, along with a certification document from the insulation manufacturer should meet the requirements.

That gives us the basic formula for the tax credit but what really counts is the bottom line. The bottom line is not only the cost of upgrading your insulation factor which also saves on your utility

bills, both heating and cooling, but the increased comfort level in your home plus the little extra that our good old Uncle Sam allows us to keep in our pockets.

The nitty-gritty of how much you will save and how much you will pay out is a variable of the R-factor you will be installing as an upgrade to your existing insulation, if, you even have any. If you have looked into your attic and you didn't see any fluffy stuff laying on the ceiling or any paper-lined sheets of material laying in between the joists - surprise, you do not have any insulation in your attic!

According to the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA), the level of insulation for homes in our temperate zone are as follows: Ceilings: R-49, Walls: R-15, Floors: R-30, Basement Walls: R-13.

Just by insulating your attic properly, you can save a substantial amount of money on your yearly heating and cooling costs, however, your savings will vary depending on the type of insulation and house design.