

FOREST POND

# NEWSLETTER

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14 SEPTEMBER 2007



## MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS

Facing relentless drought, searing temperatures, soaring water use and water levels that continue to decline along the Catawba River, Charlotte-Mecklenburg joined Duke Energy and other regional water leaders today in declaring the need for local mandatory water use restrictions to protect our shared water supply.

The restrictions for Charlotte and all of Mecklenburg County are consistent with the regional drought plan and authorized under the City's water conservation ordinance. In this early stage

of mandatory rules, no customers are allowed to water lawns on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but limited watering is permitted under the following 'odd-even' schedule: 1) Customers with odd-numbered addresses are allowed to water lawns on Tuesdays & Saturdays; 2) Customers with even-numbered addresses may water lawns on Thursdays & Sundays.

"Now it's time for all of us to act together," said Maeneen Klein. There are a number of ways customers can help by using less. Every drop counts – so set your

sprinkler systems to follow the correct schedule, use drip irrigation on plants and trees, run only full loads in your dishwasher and laundry machines, and use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways."

More mandatory details and conservation tips are available at [www.cmutilities.com](http://www.cmutilities.com). Customers with water conservation questions or concerns are asked to contact the City-County customer service center by dialing 311 or (704) 336-7600.

## HOA MEETING SCHEDULED

After the last Homeowners Meeting was held in May of this year we heard quite a few complaints about the timing of this event.

Well, don't worry, the next HOA Meeting is

being scheduled right now for Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM and will end at 8:30 PM. There will be a presentation by the HOA Board Members that will cover all items of interest to

you, the residents of Forest Pond.

You will see this same message in every issue of the newsletter as we get closer to the actual date of the HOA Meeting.

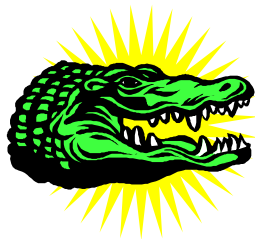
See you there!

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Gators Guard the Pond
- Speak Your Piece
- Older Cars Are the Target for Dishonest Operators
- Big Sweep - Little Sweep
- Beautify the Pond

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Gator Guard Now  
On Duty At The  
Pond

## GATOR GUARDS IN THE POND

Have any of you noticed the recent addition to our quickly evaporating pond?

If you haven't then take a leisurely stroll through the pond area. It seems our Gator Guards have arrived just in time to have the pond dry up under them.

The nice thing about these harmless floating heads is that the goose poop is almost non-existent. The

key to this wonderful ploy is the reflective eyes—these are multi-facet, mirror backed orange colored simulcast crystals. The light reflected back out from these “eyes” make the geese, ducks, herons and other fish eating birds think they are being watched by a predator. The water currents and the wind move the heads around and these animals think that the

predators are on the prowl.

The one stand out goose still remaining in the pond is a widowed goosed - it's mate died near our pond and it will remain here in hopes that its mate will return.

Don't try to retrieve these decoys—the muck in the pond is deep - I know I got stuck!

ADVANCE  
TICKETS CAN BE  
PURCHASED  
ONLINE WITH A  
DEBIT OR CREDIT  
CARD!

## STATE FAIR TICKETS ON SALE

People interested in going to the 2007 N.C. State Fair can save money on admission and ride tickets by buying them in advance.

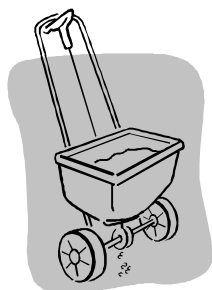
Advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.ncstatefair.org](http://www.ncstatefair.org) starting Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 8 AM until midnight on Thursday, Octo-

ber 11, 2007.

Fairgoers buying in advance will save \$2 per adult admission ticket (normal price \$7), \$1 per child admission ticket (normal price \$2) and \$8 per ride sheet (normal price \$18). For bigger savings, adult admission tickets for groups of 40 or more will

cost \$4.75 per person. A coupon that can be redeemed at the State Fair for a sheet of 24 ride tickets will cost \$10 in advance.

Homeowners can get together and obtain group tickets in order to save money and still enjoy the Fair.



Fall lawn care starts in earnest after Labor Day in the Piedmont region of North Carolina.

## FALL LAWN CARE

Now is the time to prepare for fall seeding of fescue lawns. Mid-August is the time to start sowing cool-season turf grass in the mountains; in the Piedmont wait until after Labor Day. Even then, don't put out seed unless you have irrigation or the weather patterns change and we get

moisture back into the soil. Once seed gets wet, it will die if it isn't watered daily, until it becomes established (21 days minimum).

With water restrictions in many parts of the state, seeding fall lawns may be a problem.

Treat lawns for newly

hatched grubs from August through October. Young grubs are small and easy to kill now. Use a product containing trichlorfon (Proxol/Dylox).

Put down lime and gypsum anytime after Labor Day you know your lawn needs it.

## CITIZENS SPEAK FORUM

You're invited! Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Derita Presbyterian Church.

City Council Members James Mitchell and Michael Barnes will be here for the "Citizen's Speak" forum, which starts at 7:00 PM.

This is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

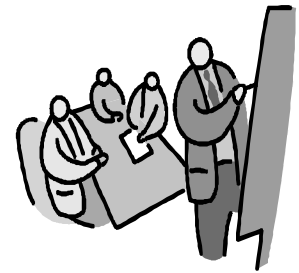
Actual decision-makers and

not a room full of also-rans, will be here to talk with you about the challenges of City government. They will listen to your suggestions; field your questions; strive to better understand your concerns; and see what can actually be accomplished during the next six months of their terms.

Come explain how traffic congestion daily strangles

our community; how long put-off roadwork and high density cheap housing is bad for our property values and increases crime. These people are the "swing votes" that make those decisions that impact on your daily lives and your quality of life within your community.

Forest Pond, this is your chance to be heard - sound off loudly!



Show up, listen, ask and learn from our City Councilmen  
20 SEP 07  
@ 7:00 PM

## MALLARD CREEK RELOCATION PROJECT

The new road, sometimes called "the Derita By-Pass", is actually listed as the Mallard Creek Relocation Project. Beginning at a multi-lane intersection with North Graham & West Sugar Creek Rd., a four lane road with a planted median and bike lanes curves left less than a block on the current Mineral Springs Rd.

It crosses behind Derita Presbyterian Church and Derita Alternative School, will take property (and buildings) at the Derita American Legion and Derita Masonic Lodge and one house on Rumble Rd.

It crosses through the woods between Wachovia Bank and Hemby Woods; crosses through the Forest

Pond neighborhood; and joins Mallard Creek Rd. near Morris Estates. Mallard Creek is widened to four lanes with a planted median, etc. all of the way to WT Harris Blvd.

"The Graham Street Connector is funded through the federal Surface Transportation Program and a match by the state. No local funds are allocated for the project. \$3 million is budgeted for the right-of-way acquisition in FY2008 and \$11.5 million is budgeted for construction in to begin in FY2010." Pat Mumford, Charlotte City Councilman.

Very soon, we will be invited to a meeting that will explain the complete time line and the impact on our

subdivision. Those homeowners whose homes are located next to the proposed roadway will need to be present at this meeting to present their demands for noise abatement measures - if these homeowners do not show up or present their needs they will miss out on the only opportunity afforded to them to protect their property from and enhance it for the future at little or no cost to them.

This is going to happen rather quickly and when it does there will only be a 30-day window in which to get prepared.

We all need to keep our eyes on the newspaper because that is where the meeting notice will appear.

"THE GRAHAM STREET CONNECTOR IS FUNDED THROUGH THE FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AND A MATCH BY THE STATE."

Newsletter Team

Editor: Raymond Thomas  
1straymond@carolina.rr.com  
Co-editor: Cliff Thompson  
cliff@ontosolutions.com  
Co-editor: Dove Sifers-Putman  
asifers@carolina.rr.com

## LEGAL AUTO THEFT OPERATION?!

On Saturday, August 11, 2007, a local family (Poplar Springs neighborhood) returned home from a week-long vacation. Their sons, who no longer live at home but traveled with them out of town, arrived back at their parents' house. They had parked their vehicles at the family home while vacationing as a family.

Their oldest son's car was gone and a roll-back truck from Earle's Auto Sales, Old Pineville Road, had the middle son's truck loaded and ready to leave. The boy's stopped him and called the police. The wrecker operator had taken the first car on Friday and came back Saturday for the second one. Had the boys not gotten home when they did, no one would have ever known what happened to the vehicles!

What will blow you out of the water is that the police told them this is totally legal!!! Wrecker drivers can pick up any vehicle anywhere with just a phone call from someone!! No one has to be

with the vehicle, provide a key or any justification.

The police were informed that the owners were AAA members and if they break down, they have to stay with the vehicle until the tow truck arrives and they sign a form, show proof of ownership or ID. The officer said that is because AAA is a legitimate business.

CMPD outlined the scam where someone spots an unwatched vehicle, calls in a shady tow truck operator. A questionable scrap-yard operator will pay \$250 for a junk vehicle --- that's \$100 for the spotter and \$150 for the tow truck operator. This is very tough to prove.

This does not mean all wrecker operators are conducting an illegal operation but the honest ones will require some proof of ownership or form of payment prior to towing.

News of this type makes you want to do something drastic but you just don't know what exactly you can do! Well, if you stop

and think, there is plenty you can do.

First, if you see a wrecker in the neighborhood at a neighbor's home and none of the neighbors are home, question them, get their name, the name of the company off the side of the truck, get the license number of the tow truck, ask to see the tow ticket; if you are hesitant about approaching some one in this situation, call 911 and report it as a suspicious activity. In the meantime, write it all down, take photos, of the truck, face shots if your camera is good enough!

Just don't put yourself in harms way if the wrecker operator gets ugly!

Second, contact your elected officials and demand legislation be introduced that will end this practice - wrecker operators should be certified by the local governments to be allowed to operate wreckers. Scrap yard, metal recyclers, and junk yards need to be licensed and certified as well!



Is it legal? If you don't ask questions, if you don't write it down, no one will know what happened to the missing vehicle and it can happen right here in Forest Pond - unless you act on your suspicions!



When it comes to pollution - one person can make a difference!

## NORTH CAROLINA BIG SWEEP

The State of NC is holding their annual Big Sweep next month on Saturday, 6 OCT 07 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

For the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area the following locations are going to be manned by Storm Water Services: 1) Campbell Creek Greenway, 2100 Margaret Wallace Road; 2) Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, 5226 Sample Road; 3) Lower McAlpine Greenway, 8100 Pineville-Matthews Road (Hwy. 51); 4) Mallard Creek Elementary

School, 9801 Mallard Creek Road; 5) Walker Branch Greenway, Walker Branch Road (off NC 49); 6) Ramsey Creek Park, 18441 Nantz Road; 7) Ray's Splash Planet, 215 N Scyamore Street; 8) Southeast Greenway, 635 South Street, Davidson.

More than 500 people took part in Big Sweep 2006. Big Sweepers collected more than 11,000 pounds of trash, including 521 trash bags full of trash, nearly two dozen tires, a refrigerator and other junk.

In addition to cleaning up waterways at the eight designated sites, volunteers can also clean up creeks anywhere in the County and report their results online at: <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/StormWater/Get+Involved/Big+Sweep.htm>

If you feel that is too much for your to sink your hands and feet into than read the following story about Little Sweep.



Saturday, 6 OCT 2007  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

at

Sunday Park

(next to the pond)

Sign up by email with the editor:

1straymond  
@carolina.rr.com

Or by phone  
704-301-3396

## FOREST POND LITTLE SWEEP

Do you want to make a difference in the quality of life for your family, friends and neighbors? Did you know you can do this just by giving a little of your time to help clean up our neighborhood?

We are talking about participating in our own "Forest Pond Little Sweep" where we spend just a few hours walking through the edges of our woods and collect the trash and litter for pick up by Charlotte City waste management.

We gather the litter at one spot and put it along side

the road for the city to collect.

The Forest Pond HOA will provide the trash bags, snacks and water, and outline the areas that need our focused attention - all of it within the Forest Pond boundaries.

There are boards, sticks and litter at the edges of the pond; there is debris along the edges of the wooded areas; all of this can be gathered and put together in one spot for the city to carry away.

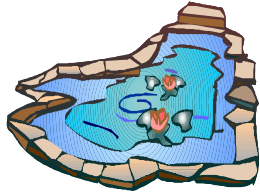
All we have to do is spend

a little of our time to sweep a little bit of the area within our boundaries and we help our quality of life, improve the quality of life for the little creatures, and give a little rest to Mother Nature!

Bring the family - after all is said and done, this is still a family oriented community and, if I'm not mistaken, we are all members of the same extended family by the very fact that we all live within the boundaries of Forest Pond!

Let's get together one more time this year!

## POND MAINTENANCE



Ponds can provide a great deal of benefit to the environment.

Ponds can provide a great deal of benefit to the environment: 1) They can store storm water during rains; 2) They can improve water quality by allowing nutrients and pollutants a place to settle out of water; 3) Ponds can also provide food, water and shelter for local wildlife.

For all these reasons, it is important that ponds are in good condition. A few simple tips are all it takes to keep your pond well maintained: 1) Use fertilizers and lawn chemicals sparingly. Excess fertilizers can enter the storm drainage system and cause problems in nearby creeks and ponds; 2) Never fertilize your lawn when rain is forecasted; 3) Keep litter out of the pond and surrounding area; 4) Never dump leaves or other yard waste in the pond; 5) Maintain a healthy vegetation strip, or buffer, around the pond by leaving the vegetation height at least 12 inches high; 6) Inspect your pond often for bank erosion, dam stability, excessive algae growth and water pollution.

How can I maintain the pond dam?

Keep the dam well vege-

tated with low-growing ground cover to avoid erosion of the dam. However, the roots from woody vegetation like trees and large shrubs could punch holes in the dam and compromise its integrity. Remove small woody vegetation if you can catch it early. But, once vegetation has a chance to grow past six inches in diameter, leave it alone. Cutting a tree with a root system that large would do more harm than good.

How can I keep my pond from turning green with algae?

Some algae in your pond are okay, but excessive amounts of algae are caused by too much fertilizer. Once the algae have already bloomed it is important to keep the pond well aerated. Installing a fountain can accomplish that. Do not apply pesticides to your pond until you have consulted with a professional.

How do I protect my pond from geese?

Allow the grass near the edge of the pond to remain at least 12 inches tall. This will act as a goose deterrent. Also, remember not to feed the geese.

The foregoing is copied

from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services website and is reprinted here for the benefit of Forest Pond Residents.

Did you know that whatever goes into a storm drain will end up in a stream or pond like ours?

The only thing that is supposed to go down a storm drain is rain.

However, every cigarette butt, drop of oil or spilled chemical you see on the street will eventually wind up going down a storm drain and into a nearby creek. And that will eventually flow into a source of drinking water.

The following items should not be put down a storm drain: Leaves or grass clippings, eroded soil, pesticides/fertilizers, chemicals, paint, soap suds/cleaning products, pet waste, cooking grease, used oil and automotive fluids.

The scum you see floating on our pond's surface is mostly algae and part is natural detritus.

As you can see, we all have something to learn when trying to balance our pond's visual aesthetics with nature's demands - let's keep it clean!