



Newsletter

Forest Pond



Gardening Tips

The Southern Spring Home & Garden Show, 27 February through 2 March will be held at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart.

Plan to attend on Friday, February 29, the key feature will be the Extension's Successful Gardener Seminars. Learn about speakers and other features at www.successfulgardener.org.

Advance ticket prices are \$7.50 (\$9 at the door), hours are 10AM to 6

PM, and Wednesday evening for First Night (7-10PM) which cost \$50 which will benefit Council for Children Rights. All day parking is \$6.

This year's event will feature nine (9) shows under one roof: The Garden Showplace, Interiors Showplace, Kitchen and Bath Pavilion, Outdoor Living Marketplace, Building and Home Improvement, Decorative Art and Crafts Pavilion, Taste and Travel Pavilion, The



Hundreds of orchids and other favorites all in one location.

Green Market, and Green Building Pavilion.

For more information, visit: www.southernshows.com

Mallard Creek Relocation

Have you noticed the survey crews working around our neighborhood lately?

If so, this is a precursor to the construction that

will be started in 2010. Mallard Creek Road will be relocated so as to go around Derita. State Project U-2507(A) is currently in the Planning and Design Phase (by

City of Charlotte).

This is a State Funded Urban Project that is finally coming to fruition. Construction is expected to take 2 years.

Volume 3, Issue 2

15 February 2008

Special points of interest:

- [Recycling for life](#)
- [Water restrictions](#)
- [Earth Day](#)

Inside this issue:

New Board Stepping up	2
Earth Day Charlotte	2
Planting Time for Vegetables	2
Water Restrictions Remain	3
Easement Agreement Finalized	3
Recycle? You Betcha!	4



New Board Stepping Up

Your new Board of Directors are stepping up and taking advantage of a free training seminar in March.

Your Board Members are participating in the 13th Annual Neighborhood Symposium on Saturday, March 8 from 8AM-4PM.

The Board Members will learn diversity tactics, energy conserva-

tion, community safety, and many other topics that will be available to those that attend.

This is also a chance to meet and discuss topics that are common to all Charlotte Neighborhoods.

They will not only meet and talk with fellow neighborhood leaders but with City and County leaders as well.

This day-long seminar is paid for with federal, state, and local funds so that all neighborhoods will have the opportunity to improve their community and their property values.

Your Board Members are volunteering to use their time to improve their skills so that they can improve our community. Thank them when you see them.

Earth Day Charlotte

This is a free, fun, family festival organized by City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County departments, local businesses and citizen advocates to raise awareness of the many ways residents can make a difference in preserving the environment.

When: Saturday, April 19
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Ray's Splash Planet,
215 N. Sycamore Street

Highlights:

Alternative fuel car displays

Over 40 exhibitors

Children's activities, including storytelling and crafts

Face painting

Musical entertainment

Rain barrel sales (advance orders must be received by Friday, April 11 by calling CharMeck 311 or e-mail savetherain@yahoo.com).

Charlotte's Earth Day festival is sponsored in part by an operating grant from the Arts and Science Council.

Planting Time for Vegetables

February is the month when you should do the following:

- 1) Prepare the vegetable garden by adding compost and working it into the soil.
- 2) Plant asparagus crowns this month when soil is dry enough to work.

3) Prepare to sow beets, carrots, peas, lettuce, mustard, radish, spinach, Irish potatoes and turnips early in February.

4) Grow cold-tolerant leafy vegetables such as lettuce, spinach and collards. Some may be killed by frost, but it's worth it to have fresh greens for salads. Try planting

greens with pansies for a pretty winter salad garden.

5) Watering just before a cold snap will help plants survive bitter temperatures.

6) Most houseplants are semi-dormant at this time of the year; don't fertilize them.





Water Restrictions Remain

Just a reminder to all of our residents - the City of Charlotte and the County of Mecklenburg are still imposing Level 2 water restrictions.

This means no watering of the lawns, no washing of your vehicles and of course no pressure washing of your home and property areas. You can hire a pressure washing company that is licensed but the

cost is now higher than ever. This is a consideration if you are trying to sell your home during the upcoming year.

All residents are asked to run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads so as to minimize water usage.

If you are considering buying new appliances soon - do a little more

research and purchase those machines that are Energy Star rated. You will save on the cost of your utilities for the life of the machines if you buy the right ones.



Water and energy are your highest concerns during the upcoming year!

Easement Agreement Finalized (By John Vojtko)

The Forest Pond Homeowners Association has just obtained a 'sign and landscape easement agreement' with the owner of the house on Nevin Road at the entrance to the development!

This house is opposite the one where the Forest Pond sign is now located. This permanent easement will allow us to install a new fence and a sign on that property, as well as all of the landscaping to visually balance our entrance.

This will make both sides of the

entrance look somewhat alike and present a much neater appearance!

We will obtain bids to on the fencing, signage and landscaping to determine the final cost of all the required work.

We may be able to get a Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) from the city to help with the cost. However, as the name implies, we will have to "match" some of the cost and will have to have the money available before the city will award the grant.

"One easement down and one to go, the easements will allow us to show due diligence when applying for a NMG."

We have also been blessed with a donation of several mature shrubs by one of our Board Members, Ryan Knepshield, that will go a long ways in providing in-kind donations for the matching grant.

Thank you very much, Ryan.





Recycle? You Betcha! (By Amy Majchrzak)

Editor: Raymond Thomas
1stRaymond@carolina.rr.com

Co-editor: Dove Sifers-Putman
asifers@carolina.rr.com

Co-editor: Cliff Thompson
cliff99@bellsouth.net

Putting good words to work.



Over 200 million tons of trash is generated by Americans every year.

We live in what I like to call a 'disposable society'. We constantly buy various products to support our lifestyles, and think nothing of throwing away the abundant packaging. I often wonder if it is believed by some that their trash can is a black hole that swallows garbage and sends it into oblivion, never be seen again. Of course this is not so, your trash helps contribute to the growing garbage dumps that will be there for many, many generations to come.

Stop contributing so much to these landfills! The city provides recycling bins for us to use for the trash that can be recycled, but we

can even go beyond that. Here are some tips on becoming a better tenant of this planet we all must share.

Think smart when you buy. If you must buy, choose a product with minimal packaging, or packaging that can be recycled. How can you tell? Most plastic will have a symbol on it that determines its recyclability. Look for the recycle triangle symbol with a number inside. The city of Charlotte collects 1's and 2's.

What else does the City of Charlotte recycle? Glad you asked - magazines, catalogs, telephone books, plastic jugs and bottles, glass jars and bottles, steel cans, aluminum cans, most paper products but not the adhesive strips on envelopes and most kinds of tape.

Caution! Do not place the following items in your recycle bins: wax-coated paper products, pizza boxes, old clothing, small appliances, regular household garbage, or Styrofoam and Styrofoam products.

Are you a big bottled water fan? You are drinking nothing but tap water run through a filter or two. The same result can be made in your own home for a fraction of the price, and less waste. Americans drink more than 30 billion single-serve bottles per year of this expensive water. Even if the bottles can be recycled, it is always a good idea not to create

the trash to begin with.

Cardboard and paper - the city will pick these items up to be recycled. Cereal boxes, cardboard packaging, junk mail. Just stack them up neatly and they can be processed and used again. I like to save my small pieces of cardboard and paper (receipts, tags, etc) in a used envelope and add it to the recycle bin when it gets full.

Don't be bashful about bringing recyclable material home from work. Plastic from lunch wrappers, soup cans, bottles - if you can bring them to work, it should be effortless to bring them home again.

The City of Charlotte also operates 4 composting centers - that means you can bag your grass clippings, your small tree limbs and shrubbery trimmings can be used to create compost that you can then buy at very affordable prices can add to your garden areas and lawn after aeration. Besides compost the compost centers also sell different types of mulch.

Does this sound like too much work? It really isn't, it is just an adjustment on the way you shop, recycle, and dispose. We all need to really look ahead at what our planet could become if we continue filling it up with garbage. It can be done! And you can definitely help.

