

Newsletter 1
May 2010

Governors Village

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Hello Governors Village

This is the first edition of the new Governors Village Newsletter. Our objectives are to provide information as to what is going on in Governors Village (GV), to give you information about how GV works, to let you know the ways in which you can participate in the various groups and committees that make GV work and to occasionally provide articles of general interest.

Our plan is to provide a short newsletter focusing on what is going on every month. Also, we will have spring, summer and winter issues, which will broaden that approach to include more information as described above.

Please communicate with comments, ideas, offers to help or requests for specific information by sending an email to us at governorsvillagenewsletter@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events by Jennifer Leonard

Volleyball Sundays 4:00pm (Governors Park) Bob Wynne rwynne@nc.rr.com

Playgroup Thursdays 9:30pm (Fountain Park) Jennifer Leonard jmleonard07@gmail.com

TGIS Saturday, May 1 7:00pm Neil & Gwendolen Gray 30173 Ruffins GP

Governors TGIF/TGIS is an informal monthly party to meet and stay in touch with your neighbors. Residents from all of the GV neighborhoods are invited to attend. Please bring a beverage for yourself and an appetizer to share. The host will provide name tags, cups, paper goods and ice. If you would like to host an event, please contact Bronwyn Thornburg – 388-1499

Architectural Review Board (ARB) Tuesday, May 11 4:00pm (Mt Carmel Baptist Church) Debbi Nichols dnichols@nc.rr.com

GV Grounds Committee Meeting Thursday, May 13 7:00pm Mary Anne Hutton MABHutton@nc.rr.com

Fireman's Pancake Breakfast 5K run & Kids Triathlon Saturday, May 15 (Governors Park & Pool)

Shannon Leslie shannonleslie@gmail.com

The 5K race starts at 8:15am and kicks off the Fireman's Pancake Breakfast (9:15am) and the pool opening festivities. Proceeds from the breakfast and race go to the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department

GV HOA Board Meeting Thursday, May 20 7:15pm Camden Apartments Business Office

Recreation Committee News by Barry Bassett

The Recreation Committee has been working overtime since Labor Day Weekend, when the pool pump finally expired. Resident parties that were scheduled for that weekend had to be reluctantly canceled. What ensued were countless hours of meetings and research to determine what was the best mechanical and physical solution for our pool going forward. The priorities could be best summarized as a “Stainless Steel Solution” (reliability, cost control and resident safety).

Sub-committees were formed with HOA Board members, Talis Management Group, our own Ed Hutton and a recreation committee member.

We are happy to report that the hours have paid off. We have corrected and improved many of the original construction techniques and materials that were used to build and maintain our pool. Safety concerns were fixed and updated.

When the pool opens May 15th with the Fireman’s Breakfast and Village Run/Bike/Walk/Rollerblade, we think you will start to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Much of the labor and materials used at the pool are not visible. For example, we have installed a salt sanitation system to upgrade our older chlorine sanitation system. The newer technology is as effective and has fewer negative side affects (fewer allergic reactions, fewer burning eyes and milder on the skin and hair). Additionally, we have replaced our pump with a system that should increase our mechanical reliability and offer substantial operational cost savings over time. The updated 2010 version of the Governors Village pool rules will arrive under our residents’ mailboxes before the Fireman’s Breakfast/pool opening day May 15, 2010. Please look for them! The Recreation Committee wishes you a long, not too hot and safe swimming season.

The Recreation Committee of Governors Village Volunteer Members:

Barry Bassett, Chair, Garrett Blake, Chris Gamber, H.O.A. Liaison, Robb Czyzewski, Debbie Francis, James Hayden, Linda Jay, Dan Neustedler, Scott Whitney, Trent Leonard and Bob Wynne

Want to join the Recreation Committee?

Email the Recreation Chair, Barry Bassett: ebarrybassett@nc.rr.com

Volleyball in the Park by Bob Wynne

Volleyball is a fun sport to play that provides great exercise while getting to know your neighbors and enjoying some beautiful weather. The Recreation Committee currently has Open Volleyball for adults on Sunday afternoons starting at 4pm (6pm after school is out for the summer). All skill levels are welcome. For those with a more competitive nature, there has also been a 4x4 league the last few years that proves to be a lot of fun. More details on this year’s league will be available in a few weeks.

Contact Bob Wynne if you have any questions (rwynne@nc.rr.com), and we look forward to seeing you in the sand.

News from the Forest by Rosemary McGee

At the end of March, the Forest Grounds Committee completed their plan for what has been called “the bare square”. After months of coordination and planning, the dirt was in place and planting took place using funds from our 2009 and 2010 allotment. Fifteen residents, dug holes, roto-tilled in soil amendments and fertilizer, planted trees and grasses, and spread pine straw. We plan a neighborhood clean-up day at the end of April. Come drive through The Forest and see our now ‘not bare’ square

News from the Park by Jo Watta

The Park is vibrant and lively as always. Young and old alike are enjoying Meadow Park. On any given day you will see folks walking their dogs, chatting with neighbors, watching children and adults flying Planes and driving battery operated cars along the walkways. The Playground is definitely getting some use by the children of our neighborhoods. The pool looks wonderful with the furniture cleaned and set up around the deck.

There are several homes for sale in the neighborhood. With the trees leafed out and plants beginning to bloom, we should be looking pretty good to potential homebuyers. Several residents helped out this past weekend by spreading pine straw in the common areas and they look great!

Food Finds by Christine Lang

You have probably passed it a few hundred times. If you turn right from Mount Carmel Church Road onto 15-501 and stay straight on Columbia Street going over the overpass, you will pass a white building on the right that looks like an old gas station.

This little gem is called Merritt's Store and Grill and has been there since 1929. It is a throw back to a time when everyone knew everyone; only cash is accepted for your purchases, and the owner, Robin Britt, greets you with an enthusiastic hello every time you walk in.

It is also the home of Chapel Hill's most popular BLT. It is not an gourmet uppity BLT with local bacon, bread, and homemade mayo (not that there's anything wrong with that), but it is a delicious, perfect combination of crisp bacon, fresh leaf lettuce, voluptuous, juicy tomato, a generous smear of undisclosed mayo, and toasted Arnold bread (I'm told there's a secret ingredient, as well). I prefer mine on rye, and it is an addictive sandwich! I find myself craving one per week, at least.

The charm of Merritt's is that it is a beautiful reflection of what our surrounding community is – a blend of different heritages, income-levels, ages, education levels – all come together to enjoy a burger, a good cup of coffee (they serve Joe Van Gogh) or a chilled beer. So next time you crave some down-home, scrumptious, grill food and are in need of some genuine human contact, stop by Merritt's Store and Grill – I give it 4 out of 5 bacon slices!

Governors Park List Server -- Yahoo Group by Ed Hutton

Our list server's first posted message was March 9, 2002. It started with just 34 homeowner's email addresses. Today there are 416 people on the list server. In 2001 and 2002, there were several groups who were working on creating email lists of different sorts (play groups, book clubs, new comers, gardeners, baby sitting, etc). The different lists were certainly handy but both hard to find and get on. We were looking for a way to get a master list or directory of neighbors.

Several different people put a lot of effort into a directory. Jackie Beecher took the bull by the horns and walked door to door in the Park and created a printed directory. She also collected email addresses along the way, which greatly helped the list server. There was a lot less community and much more construction back then. Bulldozers still drove up and down what would be streets in the Park. There wasn't yet a Lake, second phase of town houses, or much Forest development beyond a model or two.

In the beginning we would learn our new future neighbors' names by looking on the construction boards that were put up on newly sold lots. Volunteers went door to door with fliers to get email addresses. Little by little we began to gain critical mass. A few tutorial files were written, and different committees and groups in each neighborhood began adding people to the list server. The list server began to expand beyond the Park in large part because of TGIS parties and other community events. Early TGIS parties often had big turnouts with people from the Park, Village, and Townes meeting at each other homes. The list just kept growing. The list has been promoted in newsletters, Talis announcements, and fliers, at events, meetings, and word of mouth. The list is several things, but at the very simplest it is an email address you can send a message to and it will be delivered to 416 neighbor's email inboxes. They can respond back to the list, or just to you as they wish.

The list server is also a Yahoo group and many people (more than half actually) simply read the messages on the yahoo group web page. As a web application the list server has a message archive, file storage, calendar, picture storage, etc. If you get a yahoo ID you can use all. Getting on email is a good way to start. Simply send your name and address to this email address: Governors_Parksubscribe@yahoo.com and you will be placed on the list. The list is a great way to stay in touch with your neighbors and community! Hope to see you there!

*Governors Village
P.O.A Board*

Debbii Nichols President

dnichols4@nc.rr.com

Chris Gamber, Vice
President

cgamber@hotmail.com

Rosemary McGee,
Treasurer

mcgee10010@gmail.com

Josephine Watta,
Secretary

jwatta@invtrust.com

Alison Fleming

alisonfle@bellsouth.net

Marcia Fleishman

marciafleishman@yahoo.com

Otto White

oeha1@aol.com

Lisa Boyette
Camden Governors
Village Director

Governors Village Grounds Committee by Mary Anne Hutton

Vision: Create a strikingly attractive community landscape that enhances our community's value, utility, and aesthetic appeal. We strive to be the most attractively landscaped neighborhood in the area.

Goals:

1. Develop and maintain master plan
2. Develop and maintain a prioritized project portfolio
3. Budget and forecast financial needs.
4. Involve the community through volunteerism when appropriate.

Discussion:

Our community is unlike most neighborhoods in the area. Even though Southern Village and Meadowmont have somewhat of the same character, -- village mix use communities - we are unique in that we do not have as high a density as these developments. However, we have as much or more common area to maintain.

There are approximately 500 homeowners within Governors Village. Maintenance and improvements to the common areas is a challenge for the Grounds Committee because of the cost.

With the goal of building a certain character and cohesiveness for the Governors Village Community, the Grounds Committee has overseen the completion of Fountain and Meadow Parks, improvements to over a mile of berms and significant other improvements within the neighborhoods.

We should expect this area to grow which will put Governors Village (GV, GP, GF, GL and the Townhouses) in direct competition for resale as opposed to new sales in the housing market. The key to maintaining our property value is to use our master plan to guide us in developing the neighborhood in a pleasing way. We want to see families interested in buying in this area choose Governors Villages as opposed to a new development. Our goal should be to landscape the community using the master plan as our tool.

Working closely with the ARB (ensures the by-laws of the community are adhered to), the Recreation Committee (maintains the quality of the pool area and playgrounds), the Social & Safety Committee (ensuring a safe and enjoyable place to live) and the guidance of the BOD, the Grounds Committee looks forward to identifying, coordinating and completing projects that enhance the beauty of Governors Village.

Ground Team Leaders are:

Ann Cowen – Governors Village – anncowen24@bellsouth.net

Mark Maxwell – Governors Lake - MMaxw70684@aol.com

Clint Osborne – Governors Townhomes - ccosborn@us.ibm.com

Mary Anne Hutton – Governors Park - mabhutton@nc.rr.com

Keith Larkin – Governors Forest - knlark@att.net

Grounds Committee Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2010: April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th. Meetings are held at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church at 7pm.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Governors Village Grounds Committee should contact their neighborhood coordinator.

Newsletter Staff

Photography Mama Rotse

Aka Elaine Flanders

Editing Eybe Fore

Aka Trent Leonard

Layout Whrto Puttit

Aka Jennifer Leonard

Editor Wanmore Rticles

Aka Richard Bobst