



WOODS WATCH

The Official Publication of
The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association

June 2023

Easy, inexpensive tips you can use to Boost your home's curb appeal now!

How does your home look for people walking or driving by your place? That's called "curb appeal," and here are easy, free, or inexpensive things you can do to add perk to your property right now – and going forward.

Clean it up!

Go with the mower. A well-manicured lawn offers the same effect as a great haircut: neat, tidy, and orderly. Set your blade to a medium height. The grass – despite any weeds – will look better when cut to a uniform length.

Tip: Your mower creates lines as it moves, and if you mow in straight lines, you create a pattern that will look better, especially at sunrise or sunset, when the light hits it at an angle. A little "line" overlap doesn't hurt visually if it's parallel (and it helps to make sure you didn't miss any long growth).

Tip: Resist the temptation to buzz-cut your yard. With summer weather, short grass becomes stressed and you will need to water more often. Just let the grass grow longer: Just set your mower's blade-height a notch higher for the hot season. When you mow, your lawn will still look uniform -- and better.

Tip: Planting grass seed now is not a great idea in our summer heat. Wait until September.

Bag what you mow. Grass clippings otherwise accumulate and create unsightly trails and piles – "thatch" -- that don't go away and block water your lawn needs. Next spring, you may need to aerate your own lawn: Hire someone with a machine that will poke holes



Flag Night volunteers get ready to do their routes in 2014.

Volunteer for Flag Night 7 p.m. Monday, July 3

On Flag Night – the evening of every July 3rd in Coventry Woods – CWNA volunteers place 502 small United States flags in front of every home in our neighborhood. Free of charge.

Twilight that day shows the front yards of through-streets, short streets, and cul-de-sacs decked out for the Fourth of July. Walk or drive our neighborhood on the morning of July 4th to view a display to remember. It has been covered on local TV newscasts over the years. The annual event is more than a display of patriotism and more than a notice sign that summer has arrived. It's a great way to meet neighbors and get involved in the life of your neighborhood.

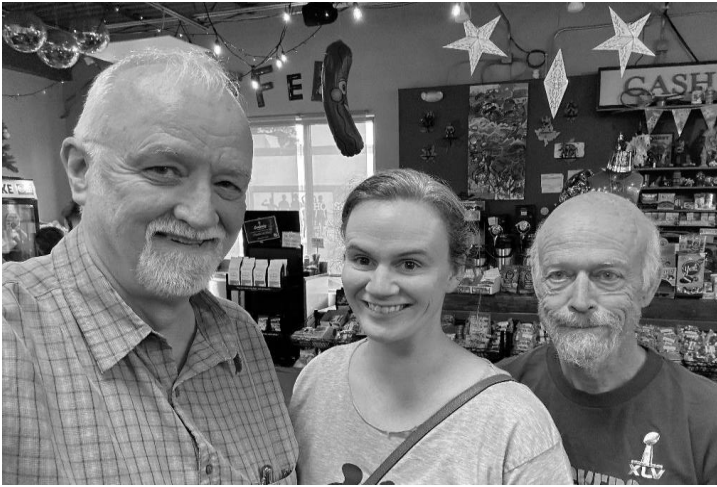
Flag Night volunteers have included CWNA members and non-members, area residents and guests.

It is also an annual exercise for your neighborhood association. Flag distribution follows the CWNA's flyer and Woods Watch newsletter routes. Are our counts accurate? How quickly can we physically connect with every home in our neighborhood if an emergency should arise?

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Meet the CWNA board



From left: John Autry, Megan O'Herron, John Bordsen

Name: John Autry

I live on: Amity Place.

About me: “Rebecca and I are parents to four and have six grandchildren. I served as the District 5 City Council member from 2011 to 2017. I have had the honor of serving District 100 in the NC House of Representatives since 2017.”

Moved to Coventry Woods: December 1997

Joined CWNA: 1999

CWNA board member since: 1999.

What I love about where we live: “Rebecca and I have enjoyed making a home in Coventry Woods. We love the proximity to U.S. 74, Sharon-Amity, Albermarle Road, Monroe Road and all the amenities easily accessed from Coventry Woods.”

Name: Megan O'Herron

I live on: Farmingdale Drive.

About me: “I'm originally from Wisconsin but have been living in Charlotte since 2016.

“I love working in my garden with my husband

and three kids. I've been enjoying substitute teaching for CMS at a variety of schools here in East Charlotte, including Idlewild Elementary.”

Moved to Coventry Woods: 2018

Joined CWNA: 2022

CWNA board member since: 2022

What I love about where we live: “My favorite thing about Coventry Woods is all our wonderful neighbors. So many of them have been here for 40 years, so when we were looking for our house, we knew this neighborhood must be a gem. The old trees, quiet streets, sweet park, and friendly folks make us feel right at home here!”

Name: John Bordsen

I live on: Beechknoll Court.

About me: “Wife Pat and I are from Wisconsin (Go, Packers!). A career in journalism led us to The Charlotte Observer. I was its long-time travel editor.

“Our sons Willie, Bing (John C.) and Tommy were raised where we still reside. Willie now lives in Coventry Woods condos, Bing is nearby in Elizabeth. Chef Tommy made a career move back here from Chicago and now lives on Glenbrier with wife Alejandra and our grandkids, Violet and Johnny.”

Moved to Coventry Woods: 1989

Joined CWNA: 1999

CWNA board member since: 1999.

What I love about where we live: “This is ‘home’ to our family. Old and new neighbors are among our close friends. I am one of the original CWNA board members and our initial goal remains intact: To preserve, protect and promote our beautiful neighborhood.”

CURB APPEAL continued from Page 1

through the accumulated thatch. (If you use a lawn service, ask if clippings can be blown off the yard and gathered in a pile for bagging.)

Tip: The city doesn't want you to put clippings into your gray garbage can or green recycling can. So put them into tall paper lawn bags (available at Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart or Costco). Take the bag to your curb Sunday for Monday pickup by the city's yard waste truck. (PS: Reusable lawn bags are sold in stores and online.)

Trim the edge. We're talking about where lawns hit the curb. You don't need an edger tool to do this. You can highlight your visual yard-curb definition work by using a dull steak knife. Sweep away afterwards, and you truly have enhanced your yard appeal.

Fix what is permanent

Clean your curb. After mowing your yard, reset the mower-height to its lowest setting to mow over the pavement. Or just use a broom to clean it.

Sweep the gutter & drain. Got a sewer drain at the front of your house? Sweep out whatever is accumulated there. The city comes by once in a blue moon to do that. But if you do that now, your curb will look better – and you will get less unsightly dirt/stick build-up in the meantime.

Put things where they belong

Review what you placed out front. Think about what you have out there for all to see. Are there items that don't belong out front? Store wheelbarrows, ladders, extra flowerpots and garbage cans elsewhere – out of sight.

Garbage and recycling bins should be placed at your curb no earlier than Sunday afternoon, for Monday pickup. By the end of Monday, your bins should be out of sight.

Do NOT haul junk to the curb before calling 311.

Don't simply leave old appliances, furniture, propane tanks and other bulky, discarded eyesores on the street and expect the city's usual Monday crews to haul them away. They won't. You have to call 311 to schedule a special pickup. When you know the items will be picked up, haul them to the street the night before. Tip: Got a problem a couple yards down from you? Let the owner/tenant know they need to call 311 to schedule their junk pickups. If they don't, call 311 and ask for a zoning inspector to check out the situation. The inspector may write a citation.

Don't park on your lawn. It makes your yard look trashy. And lawn-parking is illegal. If your neighbors

routinely do this, call 311 and ask for a zoning inspector to check out the situation. The inspector can arrange a pickup -- and may write a citation.

Work with problem areas

Define and enhance no-grow areas. Have places where tree-shade or watering issues make it hard to grow lawn? Mark it off with bricks, rocks, monkey grass or plastic edging and fill the area with mulch or wood chips to make your work look intentional.

Front-yard tree stump? No problem. Removing a stump can be costly. For now, you can just make it a no-grow area (see above) and plant flowers or shrubs around it.

Tip: If the stump is relatively horizontal, put a right-size container on top of it and fill it with an appropriate-size shrub or plant.

Dress it up!

Paint your front door a different color! Take a photo of the front of your house and take it to where you buy paint. Ask the person what color door could add pizzazz to your home. This is a 1-quart (cheap) investment.

Add color to your door area. Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart and other discount stores now sell large, inexpensive, and colorful plastic pots that look like ceramic creations. Put some near your front steps. Whether filled with real or artificial plants, your entry will look better.

Got a porch? These places also sell bright-colored plastic chairs and tables that can make your front-door area look more attractive.

Dress your windows. Add window boxes where there's enough sunlight to let flowers bloom and grow.

Get great input!

Not sure what to do? Walk or drive through our beautiful neighborhood. You'll see homes whose front yards have the kind of look you want for yours. Your neighbors might just be the people you need for know-how or tips.

FOLLOW THE CWNA ON FACEBOOK

Coventry Woods Neighborhood

FOLLOW THE CWNA ON INSTAGRAM

@coventrywoods28212

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.coventrywoods.org

E-MAIL THE CWNA

Coventrywoodsboard@gmail.com

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Since the first Flag Night in Coventry Woods in 2011, we have sometimes completed this in under one hour. Here’s how it works: To cover each of our 11 distribution routes, we need 22 to 33 volunteers. Got a hammer? Bring it.

At an announced meet-up place in Coventry Woods – at 7 p.m. – each two- or three-person route team will be given the route map, flags and a spike.

Follow the route map. One person pounds the stake in a yard next to the curb; the second person pops a flag into the hole. For three-person teams, someone else totes the bundle of flags.

A route can be 35 to 50 homes. Each team includes someone with route experience.

Want to volunteer?

Email Coventrywoodsboard@gmail.com

Yards of the Month



May 2023
Dennis Duncan, 5333 Coronado Drive.



June 2023
Linda Xiong and Sam Baynes, 4801 Beechnoll Court.

Mark Your Calendar

July 3 – Full moon (Buck Moon)

July 4 – Independence Day

July 22 – CWNA Summer Cookout (see below)

Aug. 1 – Full Moon (Sturgeon Moon)

Aug. 12-13 – Peak overnight viewing in Charlotte for Perseid meteor showers.

Aug. 27 – CWNA back-to-school popsicle event, 3-4 p.m. at Cedarwood Park.

Aug. 28 – School begins for most CMS students.

Aug. 30 – Full Moon (Blue Moon)

Sept. 4 – Labor Day (federal holiday)

Sept. 14 – CWNA Meet-Up, 5:30-7 p.m. at Steamer’s

Real Estate Transactions

Recent activity in Coventry Woods

For sale

4732 Holbrook Drive
List: \$300,000

Under contract

5111 Coronado Drive
\$379,900

1524 Cedarwood Lane
\$350,000

Closed

4832 Keats Avenue
\$426,000