



THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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Chapel Hill, North Carolina

February 2008

THE DROUGHT

This is getting serious, folks. I mean it. While we are enjoying this pleasantly mild winter—the many sunny days, blue skies and “temperatures above normal”—there is something missing, something we badly need: RAIN! We needed it already last summer which was not only dry but hot, with a record 83 days hitting 90 degrees—more than double the usual 37. When combined with a growing demand for water from a surging population, the result was one of the worst droughts since officials began keeping records or “since the turn of the century” or “since 1933” or, as Governor Easley claims “in the history of the state.” Take your pick. Speaking of our Governor—at an emergency meeting at the state Drought Management Advisory Council last December he said “it is everyone’s patriotic duty” to conserve water in this disastrous situation.

All right, but now to Carol Woods: How has our community been affected? How are we responding? What should we, can we do to protect our beautiful environment and our privileged lifestyle? First the good news; Chapel Hill-Carrboro’s water supply will probably get us through the next six or seven months, provided demand and the weather pattern—no drought-busting downpours—remain constant. However, this also means, and that’s the bad news, the rainfall deficit may not be reduced significantly, thus making for a poor start of the planting and growing season when temperatures rise again.

Inevitably, some damage has already been done. According to Tony Bayless, Director of Landscaping and Grounds, some trees and bushes have deteriorated to the point of no return. They are the ones marked by red ribbons indicating their death sentences. Tall pines weakened by moisture loss, wounded by borer infestation, are being removed. Small-leaf holly are on their way out and some of our pretty dogwoods may never bloom again. Other plants, wearing orange ribbons, seem to be declining and are being closely watched; some may survive. But overall, Tony says,

Carol Woods’ landscape is still in relatively good shape. It may even take on a “new look” in some places as Tony and his expert crew replace dead trees and bushes with hardier species, more resistant to the ravages of the drought, and rework the ground, modify and improve it, mulch and mulch again.

In a broader context, we still know little, much less DO, anything about saving the water nature is giving us so sparingly. Have we given much thought to how our expenses will be affected by the rising cost of water? Noteworthy individual efforts to conserve are being made by residents, and every once in a while we are admonished and told how to go about it (take shorter showers; eat from paper plates, etc.) But there doesn’t seem to be a real sense of urgency. What we need is a general policy for the whole community, a kind of Grand Design to guide us and educate us and coordinate our actions.

A beginning has been made. The recently formed Water Conservation Task Force, headed by James Best, Director of Maintenance and Engineering, has drafted a comprehensive plan now under review by the Administration. It primarily reflects suggestions James recently has gotten from OWASA (Orange Water and Sewer Authority) seminars and workshops.

Needed: residents’ help! A comprehensive water conservation effort at Carol Woods requires attention at every level of our community. A continuous, intensive publicity campaign is under way to inform and educate us. Climate change? Global warming? El niños whim? Never mind why — the drought is here and may well hang around for a while. Yes, this is getting serious, folks.

BkS

This is the first in a series about the drought, water conservation, and other “green” issues important to our community

The Carol Woods News Committee



PARTY MAKERS

Carol Woods residents have always been an independent-minded lot. This extends to wanting to be in charge of their own entertainment. It was individuals or small groups of residents who organized the first concerts, lectures and parties. As the community grew, committees were formed to handle specific sorts of entertainment. A Party Committee emerged in the early eighties. **Louisa Barry**, chairman during 1984-1986, says that the parties then were fairly simple affairs: cocktail parties or sometimes a picnic on the hill by the community garden (today primarily a playground for deer and the tots enrolled at the Children's Center). Residents often supplied the refreshments and decorations, although funds for parties later became part of the Residents Council budget. They were mostly simple meet-talk-eat-drink affairs but sometimes there was a theme. She particularly remembers costume parties at Halloween and a Hawaiian gathering where some residents did the hula.

Parties are a lot of work, though. The committee went through a difficult period, but when **Kip Lester** agreed to become chairman in 2005 she gathered a lively committee determined to involve as many residents as possible and have the parties eagerly anticipated. Her committee began the tradition of home-baked goodies by residents at the Winter Holiday party and organized two parties that set a high bar for the future: Mardi Gras, featuring krewes and floats, and a Cruise Party with steel drums in the hall, gaming tables in the Social Lounge, and an Assembly Hall program with music and skits.

Jane Berryman agreed to accept the responsibility of following Kip as chairman. She and her hard working committee have continued to introduce variety into our parties, and laughter to our lives. For the 2007 Holiday Party they produced delightfully goofy skits, including performances by members of the staff as well as residents. They even introduced a surprise guest, Elvis, in the form of our renaissance woman, Pat Sprigg.

NM



"Elvis" aka Pat Sprigg

THE PRODUCER:

Ms. Berryman

Though Jane can be long-suffering
With her actors, even grim,
Her dialog is wonderful—
Tangy, taut and trim.
She keeps her actors on their toes
By prompting them throughout her shows,
And watching out for such as those
Who tangle in the scrim.

And if the cast gets sulky
And refuses to rehearse,
She cracks the whip with kindness
So as not to make them worse.
She reckons they'll stand straight and proud,
Quite willing to engage the crowd.
And, failing that, at least be loud—
Avoiding the adverse . . .

As editor of everything—
Removing every "that,"
And distrustful of those commas—
Seeming, thus, an autocrat,
She's never *really* doctrinaire.
And even when she clears the air,
She gives her notes with *savioire faire*:
A greenroom diplomat!

Oh, Jane, what would we ever do
Without you? hear us cry.
We need your mournful countenance,
We need your watchful eye.
We need your expert expertise
To render our soliloquies
Impassioned, so the house we'll please,
And critics, mollify.

MR



Selma Froom



Southard, Slack, Fisher

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Barbara and Paul Nettlesheim (Cottage 188) moved to Carol Woods from Chapel Hill. Both were born

and educated in Germany. Paul is from the Cologne area and Barbara from Stuttgart. In 1963, following a year in Philadelphia, they moved with their son to Oak Ridge, Tennessee where Paul served as an MD biologist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Fifteen years (and two additional sons) later, they moved to Chapel Hill for Paul to continue his research with NIEHS (National Institute of Environmental Health Services). Barbara continued her career as a physical therapist for 19 years. Her interests led her to serve on the boards of The League of Women Voters and Common Cause.

Today, with two sons and families in California and one in Durham, there are 9 grandchildren. Barbara admits she is a political junkie. Paul enjoys his continuing studies of history and the humanities. Both enjoy gardening, hiking, traveling and all the arts. Like all newcomers to Carol Woods, the task of finding space for life's treasures is the immediate challenge. Their cottage shares a plot of land with one of the famous Carol Woods Oak Trees. When spring comes, they are anxious to see what will appear.

Mary Ann Gross



Carol and Allan Parrent (Cottage 246) came to Carol Woods from Sewanee, Tennessee, where they lived for ten years

after retiring from Alexandria, Virginia. In Alexandria Allan was Professor of Christian Ethics and Academic Dean at Virginia (Episcopal) Theological Seminary for 25 years. Previously he served as a naval intelligence officer and as a Foreign Service Officer. In Sewanee he served as a Visiting Professor and as Interim Dean of the School of Theology at the University of the South. Carol spent twenty years teaching kindergarten and first grade in the Arlington County school system. She has degrees from Vanderbilt (B.A.) and Emory (M.A.). Allan has degrees from Georgetown College (B.A., Vanderbilt (M.A., M. Div.) and Duke (Ph.D.) and an honorary degree from the University of the South.

Both Parrents love music and participate in a variety of choral groups. Allan as a tenor soloist and Carol as a chorister. They hope to continue their singing activities after settling in. They have worked in support groups to foster the arts and have enjoyed membership in Book groups. Both are avid readers of literature, history, theology, politics and biography. They have three daughters, two living in the Chapel Hill area and one currently in Hawaii with her naval officer husband.

Sally Vilas

CAROL WOODS RESIDENT EARNS AWARD

Another resident has joined the ranks of those who have won important awards for their lifetime work. This one is from the Council of the American Historical Association—its Award for Scholarly Distinction to **Anne Firor Scott**, Professor Emerita at Duke University, where she worked for fifty years. Professor Scott, a pioneer in American Women's History, helped found and nurture the field as one worthy of scholarly investigation.

Prof. Scott has researched the role of American women in many times and far-flung places, and the role they have played in American society. Through their personal diaries and letters, she has given us a picture of Southern women, particularly in the graceful prose

of her first book, *The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics* (1970). She wrote several works thereafter, some continuing the Southern theme, and in 2006, she published her latest, *Pauli Murray and Caroline Ware: Forty Years of Letters in Black and White*, which traced the relationship between two figures central to the story of women's activism in the twentieth century.

Due to her influence, countless young scholars, many of whom went on to their own eminence as historians, have benefited from her generous help and example. We Carol Woods residents are fortunate to have this talented and interesting woman among us.

Doris Leonard

REPORT OF THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

As we returned to our busy post-Holiday schedule the council announced support for recommendations to change some Bid Sale procedures and to update the remaining supply of *Resident Handbooks* through an addendum. **Kip Lester** urged residents to lunch with Children's Center youngsters for a stimulating intergenerational experience. **Lew Woodham** reviewed recent changes to mixed recycling procedures. **Nancy Elkins** explained the importance of the *Triennial Volunteer Hours Survey* to document the high volume of contributed resident time. **Blair Bowers** announced an upcoming new show and acknowledged the award-winning resident and staff artwork in the recent show, which is moving to the Seymour Center.

Pat Sprigg described the major staff effort involved in switching to new clinical and accounting/business software, announced the six new Board members who begin orientation this month, and stated this quarter's staff meetings will focus on quality service related to our core values. *Resident Feedback Survey* results reveal an exceptional proportion of respondents felt widespread satisfaction with almost all aspects of Carol Woods' services. Courtesy, responsiveness and timely communication by the CEO, other leaders and many segments of the staff received special kudos. Less than 1% expressed dissatisfaction with their lives here. Resident comments are being analyzed and will be reported next month.

Ken Reeb, Sr.

STAFF: Nancy Martin, Chair; Louise Baker, Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Denise Johnson, Mary Reeb, Burkhard Seubert and Anne Wright. Pat Bartell, proof reader.

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CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Lectures:

February 14 - No Lecture – Symphony

February 21 - Richard Blankenship - Our Personal Economies

February 28 - Steve Channing Documentary - History of Durham

March 6 - TBA

March 13 - Jane Wettach - Latest Supreme Court Decisions and School Integration

Concerts:

February 20 - No concert

February 27 - Richard Luby, Jane Hawkins – Violin, Piano

March 5 - Fred Raimi, Jane Hawkins – Cello, Piano

March 12 - Mozart Chamber Music

Special Programs:

February 16, 3 pm - Cello recital, Leonard Zilper, with Alan Toda-Ambaros & Bonnie Thron

February 17, 1 pm - Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity - Performance

February 26, 7:30 pm - The Ambassadors Swing Band

March 4, 7:30 pm - Valarie Yow

March 14, 7:30 pm - Show Tunes by Mame Cotter

Art Show:

March 14-April 18 - Restrospective - Works of Jean Parish

Reception March 14, 4:30-5:30 pm., Bldg. 5 Gallery.

CAROL WOODS

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