



THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

is published each month except July and August. It is distributed to residents, applicants on the waiting list, and other interested persons.

Vol. MMVIII, No. 5

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

May 2008

SPRING

Following my first nine months in North Carolina I wrote, "The only thing more beautiful than Chapel Hill in the fall is Chapel Hill in the spring." More than fifty years later that sentiment remains. Mocking the drought, this spring burst forth with relatively minor evidence of damage. Few places in town were more beautiful than our campus. This is no accident. Beginning with the first residents who moved into the mud-surrounded buildings in the pastures of the former Weaver Dairy, there have been those who brought their gardening expertise to the task of creating and maintaining grounds worthy of the moniker "Carol Woods."

As a result, the *Gardens and Landscaping Committee* is one of the earliest resident advisory committees. One of its primary responsibilities is to be a conduit of communication between the grounds staff and residents. Residents have the option of adopting areas next to their apartments or elsewhere. In consultation with the grounds staff they may replace some foundation plants and/or add new shrubs and flowers, but are responsible for pruning, watering, and weeding. The committee provides guidelines to help residents understand policies designed to provide for our individual tastes as well as to maintain the woody nature of the community.

Working on the committee (and chairing it from 1995 to 2000) came naturally to **Muriel Easterling**, an avid gardener who moved to Carol Woods from a large farm. She not only beautified the areas around her residence but adopted several others: the beds outside the Physical Therapy Clinic at the Health Center for a native garden to attract birds and butterflies; some beds of red verbena and lantana,



and several natural areas where she removes the more obnoxious plants and introduces desirable ones. Muriel also assists Tony Bayless, Director of Grounds, in managing the flora in our bioretention basins and, as chairman of the "farmers" (residents who have plots in the community garden) recently supervised and did more than her share of digging to create a trench around the garden, the first step in a gopher-deterrent operation.

Another long-time and knowledgeable gardener, **Marian Stephenson**, joined the committee in 2005, and is the current chairman. Under her leadership the committee has helped plan, design and plant a resident-gifted garden beside Building 6, formed a committee of resident volunteers to help spruce up the campus (the Gofers—see March CW News), assisted in the design and installation of the new garden outside the Director's office, and produced a booklet of new guidelines for residents to reflect changes in procedures. For example, the early policy was to leave the edge of woods untouched but, after 28 years of the woods marching naturally into open spaces, that policy had to be reconsidered. There are now guidelines for maintaining open spaces and adopting areas at the woodland edge.

This one-time dairy farm has morphed into a graceful garden with an abundance of birds and other wildlife. It is no surprise that it won a Certificate of Achievement from the National Wildlife Federation (1996) and an award from the Chapel Hill Appearance Commission (1997).

As you walk around campus take time to linger and enjoy its many delights.

NM

CONSULTING THE CALENDAR

In a recent rash moment I told our editor that I would write about calendars. This ill-considered utterance was occasioned by my forty-plus telephone calls and Carvery consultations in connection with my function as chair of the April 4 *Party Night*: when I talked to person after person about starring in the production (ahem), they would say, "Well, sure, but I have to look at my calendar". The climax was my invitation to **Charles Paddock** to appear as Ed Norton in *The Honeymooners*. He said, "Well, sure, but I have to look at my calendar" and proceeded to fish in his pocket for a business-card-sized black electronic thing and a miniature stiletto with which he stabbed a postage-stamp screen. The screen silently gave him permission to sign up. My goodness! Every actor's future fame was being decided by a calendar. This would bear further examination.

Calendars. Defined by Webster's Third as "A system by which the beginning, length, and divisions of the civil year are fixed, and by which days and longer divisions of time (as weeks, months and years) are arranged in a definite order." (What do they mean by "civil"? There's a lot of stuff going on this year or any year you could hardly call civil.)

Anyway, calendars have been ruling our lives since about 3,000 BC. Over the ages, their makeup has been determined by religious considerations, the rotation of the sun and the moon, emergent technologies, gratification of egos, politics, and other needs of society. Around the world today about forty different calendars are in use; however the United States and most of the world follow the Gregorian model, an upscale version of the Julian calendar, for which we can thank a certain Pope Gregory XIII, and the noblest roman of them all, Julius Caesar. That's as far as my research goes because I came to the problem of a nasty quarter-of-a-day shift which occurs every year and got me hopelessly lost in algorithms and sidereal whatchamacallits. Look, it's why we have Leap Years.

Nobody can deny the utility of the calendar. Along with really authentic potato pancakes (the way I made them way back when), and the annual orgy of the Super Bowl, calendars have undoubtedly done much to advance the march of civilization. But as Freud made clear in his famous book, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, there are discontents. Keeping two calendars, for instance: one each by a husband and wife, or by a wife and herself (kitchen and handbag), or by the parents and the teenagers (who gets the car the second Tuesday?). Or inefficient notations, as in – *UNC Hosp., day-op surgery*, in the Tuesday, May 13 block but no record of the exact time and location – stuff like that which leads to excessive anxiety and corridor-wandering. Thousands of other examples come to mind, but this article is already much too long.

It would seem to follow, then, that calendars, as they have evolved, are only as useful as the thoroughness of the citizen who makes the entries. Its pages are no place for whimsy or half-remembered shorthand. Or fake dates sprinkled through the week so snoopy neighbors are impressed by the density of your social life.

JB



WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Nell and C. L. Morton (Cottage 117) grew up in Albemarle, N.C. but are long-time residents of Chapel

Hill. C.L. came in 1950 to attend UNC. Nell followed as a new bride in 1953 and they established their home here.

After graduating in 1954, C.L. began a 39-year career with the Providian Corporation and retired as senior administrative officer for the insurance division. Nell graduated in 1955 and taught high school English for five years before retiring to raise two children.

With three grandchildren in Chapel Hill and three more in Durham, the Mortons stay busy following the activities of the grandchildren - a variety of sports, ballet classes, and school band concerts. A steady schedule of baby sitting is mixed in.

Nell is a tour guide at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, a Meals-On-Wheels volunteer and an enthusiastic member of a senior exercise group. C.L. is an avid fan of U.N.C. football and basketball. He enjoys occasional travel, time in his vegetable garden, reading, genealogy, and hiking. The Mortons have been active members of the Binkley Baptist church for nearly fifty years.

Carol Woods has been a part of the Mortons' retirement plans for many years, and they greatly appreciate the warm welcome they have received as new residents.

AMW



TUTORS AT WORK

Our late beloved Newcomers Committee chair **Catherine Faver** was fond of telling about instructions she received during a staff stint in a retirement community. "Older folk," she was informed, "want two things: to be waited on and to be entertained." She always added, "Carol Woods residents don't fill that bill!"

Carol Woods residents stay busy! In addition to all the interest committees that keep us active and help keep the community running smoothly, there are service projects galore. Given the varied academic backgrounds residents bring to Carol Woods, it isn't surprising that one of these is tutoring.

Nancy Gustaveson is a rare adult who knows how to talk to teenagers. When she learns one of the dining waitpersons is having difficulty at school she finds an appropriate tutor. At least one member of the present wait staff is graduating on time this year because of help from tutors **Bill Wright** and **Jane Pease**. Nancy herself goes to one of the area public schools every week to help the youngest children. Bill, a retired professor of computer science, also works in the local public schools and has a special twinkle in his eyes when he describes helping a student "get it" and realize he or she actually can do mathematical work.

Betty Zelman is one of several experienced ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers on campus. She continues to work with a Carol Woods employee who needs increased English proficiency in order to advance in his job. **Ray** and **Peggy Griffenhagen** enjoy recounting tales of the series of Korean families they have tutored, each family referring the next.

And then there is **Pearson Stewart** who could be known as a tutor's tutor. Long honored for his many humanitarian leadership activities, he has perhaps tutored more learners than anyone else through the Orange County Literacy Council. Whether they are prisoners on release, adults needing to get a driver's license or just someone at last realizing the need to read, Pearson's patient guidance is eagerly sought.

All the tutors (and there are more than mentioned here) say they get a particular thrill from helping someone else succeed. "May their tribe increase."

APRIL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A Spring-like mood permeated the informative proceedings at our April meeting. Treasurer **Lois Frost** reported that all resident committees are operating well within budget. She anticipates no problems for this year. Generous resident contributions to our Residents Life Fund should meet next year's needs. **Nancy Elkins** presented Community Relations Committee progress, upcoming election candidate forums, a May food drive and a CCRC fun walk. **Diane Henderson** alerted us about preparing for an accreditation site visit. Nita Donaldson announced a Chatham County preservation excursion. Sue Fletcher introduced next year's slate of Council officers. **Lew Woodham** summarized mercury issues related to energy efficient bulbs. Pat Sprigg gave updates on food service improvements, master planning, staff leadership position searches, and siting the proposed dog park. Octavia Gail Gilbert, RN, a care coordinator in Building 4, will receive the NC Nursing Association's Nurse of the Year Award.

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 and Catherine Clark, proof readers.

Circulation: Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Helen Hawley, Beth Jukes, Eva Lynch, Jessie Lutz, Stella Lyons and Lang Prouty.

Pictures: Bill Bayliss, Nancy Martin.



COMING EVENTS

Concerts:

May 14 - Terri Patrickis – flute

May 21 - Mallarmé

May 28 - Chapel Hill Community Church Chorus

Lectures:

May 15 - William Friday – Athletics & Higher Education

May 22 - Graig Meyer – Blue Ribbon Mentor & Advocacy Program

May 29 - Carol Hogue – Culinary Options in Chapel Hill

Special Programs:

May 19, 7:00 pm - Ensemble cello recital - students of Leslie Alperin

May 23, 7:30 pm - Piano Recital - students of Greg McCallum

May 31, 3:00 pm - Cello Recital - Jane Salemsen

Art Show:

Through May 30 - Etchings and pottery

Mary Mendell and Cherie Westmoreland

June 20 – July 18 - Durham-Orange Quilting Guild

Reception June 20, 4:30-5:30, Building 5 Gallery

CAROL WOODS

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