

From the President's Corner

Spring has really taken me by surprise! Even after 10 years away from Illinois, I still think we have to wait for April before the daffodils come up. But the redbuds are ready, as well as the cherries, and I see blue vinca down on Sentinel. It does lift the spirits!

It's been exciting to see all of our gutters repaired before the rainy season begins. Bob Zipp has certainly enjoyed getting to meet many residents. It's impressive that he works right along with his crew. Two opinions heard or read in the last week: Most water problems in crawl spaces are caused by gutter and downspout problems. Carpenter bees are attracted to damp wood.



“Tis the season for the carpenter bees. Remember, they will not harm humans, and they do pollinate the flowering trees. If you can put up with them until flowering season is over, they will no longer be an annoyance.

Pool season will be here before you know it! We do have a leak this year. A company has been hired who will send down a scuba diver to hopefully detect the leak(s) without having to drain the pool. We won't know for certain whether there are other problems until the county pool inspector comes. Cross your fingers!

Last, but not least. The time to prune trees, evergreens, hollies, etc. has arrived. If you have concerns about anything around your home or in the common area, contact Renee at York Properties. Pruning azaleas has to wait until after they flower. Same holds for other flowering shrubs.

Sincerely,

Toni Cambier

Architectural Control and Grounds (AC&G) Committee

The AC&G committee is charged with the review of requests submitted by home owners for changes to the grounds or exterior of their home. The requests must be submitted in writing and written approval obtained before starting work. In an effort to expedite the approval process, Truman Newberry is working on a sample should help clarify what should be submitted. In the meantime, the [Whitehall Rules & Regulations](#) indicate the [Rules and Procedures for Exterior Change](#) along with the required forms that need to be submitted.

Upcoming Community Garden Events

- Sunday, March 13th @ 2—5 pm Membership drive in the Garden
- Friday, March 18th @ 5 pm Happy Hour in the Garden (bring your own beverage and a chair)
- Saturday, March 19th @ 5 pm Spring Equinox Eve Progressive Dinner for Level 2 Members

(See Complete article on p. 2)

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Community Garden News (Continued from P. 1)

March Garden Activity

The recent spring weather created a burst of activity at the old Whitehall tennis courts, now the location of our new community garden. The Master Garden Plan has been designed and approved and lots of activity is springing up. Leaves raked up from the area have been shredded and some beautiful shredded green liriopse leaves, dropped off courtesy of our landscaping crew, will soon be put to use in the composting area.

An impromptu happy hour was held Friday, Feb. 18 in the Pavilion area of the Master Garden Plan. A small group of Whitehall residents attended, with many other residents sending regrets because of prior engagements. It was a wonderful way to spend a bit of time with fellow Whitehall residents and share some excitement about the garden. Some work was even accomplished, as the four raised garden boxes that the garden already has, were moved away from the main garden entrance at the northeast corner of the courts. They are now in place in the Temporary Garden area.

Community Garden Temporary Garden for 2011:

The Whitehall tennis courts are approximately 108 feet by 120 feet, which is a very large area. It will probably take more than one year to complete the Master Plan. Rather than let areas sit idle, while work is being done on other parts of the garden, we want to take advantage of the space and the sunlight. We encourage members to come to the garden and try their hand at gardening. We have much to learn about what things will grow best in our new space and how best to grow things. Having a Temporary Garden will bring more people into the garden. While we grow our individual gardens, we can work on building our community garden and our sense of community.

One individual will be able to rent a 4 foot by 4 foot for the 2011 season. The rental amount will be \$25.00 for the season. You need to join as a Community Garden Club member to rent a space. The space will be marked on the ground and rented and assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Level 2 members will have first access. Each individual will be responsible for obtaining his/her own growing container, soil and seeds. We currently have 24 spaces available for rental.

WE MUST REITERATE THAT THIS IS A TEMPORARY GARDEN ONLY FOR 2011. ONCE WE GET TO THE POINT OF BUILDING OUT THE PERMANENT MASTER PLAN, THESE GARDENS WILL BE REMOVED.

If you are interested in renting a space, please indicate when sending in your membership information and a sub-committee member will contact you very soon. We anticipate that these spaces will be ready for use within a few weeks.

WH HOA

Board of Directors

Current officers

President

Toni Cambier

Vice President

Glenn Abbey

Secretary

Marya Metivier

Treasurer

Pat Summers

Board of Directors

Marlene VandeBerg

Truman Newberry

Lisa Williams



Whitehall Community Bulletin Board

For Sale: Pilates Total Gym (small reformer-type equipment) complete with instructional DVD, small footprint, portable, like new, \$100 obo. Great for women who want gentle but effective exercise. Contact me at (919) 601-1836 or trixie619@yahoo.com.

If you have something to sell, a service to provide to Whitehall residents or are looking to participate in an activity with a neighbor and would like to post it in our newsletter, please submit your 2-4 line ads to whitehallcommunity1@gmail.com by March 28th. Ads will be run on a first come, first served basis.

February HOA Board Meeting Highlights

Based on resident feedback from the WH Newsletter Survey, the HOA Board has started this new column to share the highlights of their regular HOA Board Meeting. The HOA Board holds its regular monthly meeting on the 3rd Monday at 6:30 PM in the WH Meeting Room. All WH residents are welcome to attend.

All Board Members were present as well as Renee Shingleton representing York Properties.

The meeting began at 6:30 pm and adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Old Business Highlights:

- Phase I of gutter project has been completed
- Painting on selected units will begin soon as the weather improves and prep work is completed
- Board approved a wooden fence to prohibit non-resident foot traffic between 6042 Sentinel and the WH chain link fence between WH and next neighborhood. Cost—\$500
- Sewer overflow between 5805 and 5803 addressed
- Individual architectural requests were handled
- Sonja Shogren has volunteered to serve on the architectural committee

New Business

- Planning for the 35th Whitehall Anniversary celebration
- There was discussion of an idea to establish a security committee for WH which would print and post signs, etc. and will recruit residents as volunteers
- Recycle bins/trash cans— there was a discussion about how to handle the trash and recycling bins that remain out after 7 pm on Thurs night. York will follow up on details with the City of Raleigh on possible options
- Examination of possible new paint colors, 2 selected for sampling

The next regular meeting is March 21st at 6:30 PM.



Mosquito Control Option



Based on a number of WH residents' requests, **John Morris of Mosquito Squad**, which has been servicing individual properties in the Whitehall community for over a year now, provided the following information for this newsletter. The information below represents only the key highlights of his information. Please feel free to contact him at **919-851-5135** or by email at raleigh-durham@mosquitosquad.com with any questions, and also please reference that you are calling from Whitehall so he can give you the **special WH rate** he has set.

- The season applications generally begin in Mid-April and run through October. Treatment occurs every 21 days and if at any point during that 21 day interval you notice there is a significant increase in the mosquito population, please call and we will re-spray your property, at no charge, generally within 24 hours.
- Normal season price for a townhouse is \$350; special price of \$275 to all Whitehall residents that sign up for a season.
- Barrier spray applications generally last for about 21 days and reduce the mosquito population by 85-90%.
- Our treatments are safe for adults, pets, children and the environment.
- Mosquitoes feed on the undersides of green plant material and the only time they are biting us is when the females are getting ready to breed. Mother Nature blessed the chrysanthemum plant with the ability to produce a natural toxin that kills mosquitoes. Mosquito squad uses a derivative of the chrysanthemum plant to kill mosquitoes.
- Mosquito Squad uses backpack leaf blowers to mist all the areas where mosquitoes feed as well as shrubs, mulch, and under decking. This process eliminates mosquitoes for approximately 21 days, regardless of weather conditions. At around the 21 day mark, the chrysanthemum oil naturally decays and we return for another spray.

Longing to sit outside this summer without dousing yourself with mosquito repellent? **Mosquito Squad** totally changed my life and is guaranteed. What do you have to lose besides itchy bites?? *This is a great service!* Several residents tried it last season and we can't say enough good things about it. If you're unsure, contact me at whitehallcommunity1@gmail.com for more info.
—Marya Metivier





Survey Says...

Thanks to the 86 residents who responded to the online survey regarding our newsletter. Your feedback was most helpful and will be used in shaping the course of the e-newsletter in the coming months. A copy of the full results were provided to each member of the HOA Board prior to their February 21st Meeting. The full report the Board received included the statistical data as well as every single comment that was offered in the optional comment section on each question.

Here are the highlights:

- A combined 87% of respondents said the newsletter should be done either once per month (56%) or once every two months (31%).
• 89% said they opened the newsletter within 1-3 days of receiving the hyperlink
• A combined 91% said they "read all of the articles" (63%) or "most of the articles" (28%)
• 96% said the articles are "about the right length"
• A combined 93% said the "overall appearance" of the newsletter was "good" (61%) or "excellent" (32%)
• A combined 82% said the newsletter was "very informative" (38%) or "moderately informative" (44%) - another 17% said it was "somewhat informative"
• In response to Question 7, "What are items you would like to see in future newsletters?" there were 40 individual responses. These are being reviewed by the HOA Board as well as the newsletter contributors for future items. Based on the feedback, one such addition is the HOA Board Highlights started in this edition of the newsletter.
• 92% of the respondents said "Yes" to Question 8, "In your opinion, should we try to continue to publish the electronic newsletter?" 4% said "no" and 4% said "unsure". Please know the newsletter and posting it on the website is done totally by volunteers at no cost to the HOA.
• In response to Question 9, "What statement below best describes your time in Whitehall?", the breakdown was:
Less than a year: 1%
1-2 years: 7%
3-5 years: 27%
6-10 years: 27%
11-20 years: 25%
21 or more years: 12%

Comments or questions about the survey may be directed to Tom Williams at twilliams@edalliances.com

Whitehall Community Garden Member Form

Yearly Level One membership fees are \$20 per person plus a commitment to provide 8 hours of hands-on help per month.

Yearly Level Two fees are \$50 per person plus a commitment to provide 8 hours of hands-on help per month.

Make check payable to Whitehall HOA (on check memo line write Community Garden) and send to: York Properties, Attn: Renee Shingleton, 1900 Cameron St., Raleigh NC 27605

All members receive the following benefits:

- Newsletters and notifications of all garden news and upcoming events
A portion of the produce, as available, from the community sections of the garden
Voting privileges on garden decision issues
Direct participation, if desired, in garden sub-committees
Rental of a 4 foot by 4 foot space in this year's Temporary Garden area, available after March 26 for \$25 per space (limited to one space per member)

Level 2 members receive additional benefits of:

- First access to rental of a 4 foot by 4 foot space in this year's Temporary Garden area (available until March 26, 2011)
Invitations to special community garden events

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

I (we) want to rent 4 foot by 4 foot space in Temporary Garden: ___yes ___no

Garden Sub-committees:

Below are some of the sub-committees that have been identified so far. Please check one (or more) that inspires you and that you'd like to join. A sub-committee representative will contact you with more info.

- ___ Composting Area
___ Temporary Garden Area
___ Fundraising
___ Spring Equinox Garden Ceremony and Celebration
___ Tool shed and Tools
___ Soil/Planting Medium Procurement
___ Permanent Raised Beds: Vegetables
___ Permanent Raised Beds: Flowers
___ Permanent Raised Beds: Fruits
___ Permanent Pavilion Area
___ Feng-shui/Energetics of the Garden
___ Watering Activities Coordination
___ Community Garden Organization (nominations for officers, mission statement, Bylaws, governance, meetings, schedules, coordination,