

Charter Point Notes

July 2011

Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong. ~ James Bryce



Welcome to the Neighborhood!



The Crowe Family
4471 River Trail Rd (Lot 183)

The Gaston Family
5447 Brightwater Lane (Lot 174)

The Herbert Family
4389 Fern Creek Drive (Lot 27)

Yard of the Month



Michael & Gloria Payne
5477 River Trail Rd, N.
Lot 53



URGENT

Remember to submit a **Request for Approval** form before beginning ANY exterior construction or remodeling project. Charter Point Covenants and Restrictions REQUIRE architectural preapproval. A copy of the request form is posted in this newsletter and available for printing from the website, www.charterpoint.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Arlington Area Updates

Update on Ordinance 2011-349

On June 28, the City Council approved Residential Waste & Recycling Ordinance 2011-349. The conversion plan will begin going into effect next Spring. See p. 6 in this issue for more information.

Ft. Caroline Road Construction

According to the project manager, "By the end of the month [June] we will have completed the underground work associated with the south side of the roadway (installation of water mains and underground storm sewer system) and will be constructing the south half of the new roadway, curb and gutters, and sidewalk. We expect to shift traffic onto the newly constructed south half of the pavement in September, at which time we will begin construction of the north half of the new roadway. We still anticipate completing construction of the project in December 2011" (June 2011. *Arlington Monthly*, p.14).

Old Arlington, Inc.

The mission of Old Arlington, Inc. (OAI) is to preserve and cultivate the history of the Old Arlington area for the promotion of economic development and revitalization. A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, OAI was established in 1993 when citizens became concerned about the possible loss of historic structures in the area, most notably the Norman Silent Film Studios. The new organization quickly partnered with the City of Jacksonville and obtained grant funding to commission a survey of historic structures, which began the preservation process. The unique assets of the Old Arlington community — our central location, miles of beautiful riverfront, Tree Hill Nature Center, charming neighborhoods and strong community spirit—afford us a unique opportunity. We are a vibrant organization working tirelessly to promote and protect the history of our community. To learn more about OAI, please visit our website at www.oldarlington.org. (June 2011. *Arlington Monthly*, p.3).

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Start cleaning out your attic, garage and closets . . .

Charter Point Garage Sale!
Saturday, October 8
8AM - 2PM



The C&R permits posting Garage Sale signs on a temporary basis. Feel free to post a small sign in your yard to attract buyers.

Charter Point Directory

The 2011 Charter Point Directory of residents has been printed and will be delivered by neighborhood reporters between late June and early July. Only dues-paying members of the Charter Point Community Association for 2011 will receive a directory. If you are a member and do not receive your directory by July 10, please contact Doris Barletta, Directory Coordinator, at 743-4996 or bob.b1@comcast.net.



Are you part of the Charter Point Breaking News email group? If not, you are missing important news, such as security alerts, civic bulletins and community meeting reminders. You will also receive an prompt e-copy of the *Charter Point Notes* newsletter. Join your neighbors "in the know" as Breaking e-News members! **You can also find Charter Point on Facebook!**

To join, email Linda Hemphill, Breaking e-News Administrator, at cpcanews@aol.com. All Breaking News emails are sent bcc: to assure email address privacy. And all e-addresses are held in strict confidence by the Administrator. Don't forget to provide your new email address if you change email accounts.



**Charter Point
Community Association Board**

Officers

President:

Walt Holton
4304 Fern Creek Drive
762-1502 or WLHolton@Bellsouth.net

Vice-President:

Linda Hemphill
5487 River Trail Road N
745-1833 or cpcanews@aol.com

Secretary:

Jill Smith
5457 Pearwood Drive
619-9010 or jsmith@terra-comenv.com

Treasurer:

Bobby Huey
4499 Charter Point Blvd.
743-9837 or yeuh@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Community Improvements:

Ben Allen
4534 Oak Bay Drive, W.
745-3164 or yougocarol@yahoo.com

Covenants & Restrictions:

Craig Hemphill
5487 River Trail Road, N.
745-1833 or rcraigh@aol.com

Hospitality:

Nancy Barnes
5478 River Trail Rd N.
744-9055 or nancyfsu76@aol.com

Membership:

Bob Barletta
4432 Fern Creek Drive
743-4996 or bob.b1@comcast.net

Security:

Nathan Jackson
4440 Oak Bay Drive, W.
762-1983 or nej904@aol.com

Social:

Carol Allen
4534 Oak Bay Drive, W.
745-3164 or yougocarol@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor/Breaking e-News:

Linda Hemphill cpcanews@aol.com

Residential Directory Coordinator

Doris Barletta bob.b1@comcast.net

Website

Rene Sapia renesapia@comcast.net



Summer Safety & Security Reminders

With summer's arrival we can expect an increased number of visitors to Jacksonville and to our neighborhood. Many residents will welcome the increased activity; for others, summer days will be business as usual. Regardless of your schedule, it is important to remember that most schools are closed for the summer, which means increased children's activities. Please be alert for joggers, walkers, and children playing in the street or riding bicycles, scooters, and/or skateboards.

We encourage everyone to be security focused -- especially vigilant at night and on weekends -- and to report suspicious persons or activities to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) non-emergency number at 630-0500. If acts of vandalism or other criminal activity are witnessed in progress, please call 9-1-1 immediately to report the incident and seek JSO/emergency assistance. As soon as possible after the situation is resolved, please follow up with CPCA Security Chairman Nate Jackson at 762-1983 or nej904@aol.com.

Summer is a time for the whole family, including pets, to enjoy the great outdoors. Please also be mindful of possible summer hazards for pets:

Give your pets plenty of fresh, clean water. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful to not over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.

Take leisurely walks during the cooler times of the day, such as the morning or evening hours. Remember to protect your dog's feet from getting scorched by hot pavement.

Try to keep your pet from drinking pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals that could upset their stomach.

Keep your pets on their normal diet. Any change can give your pet severe indigestion and diarrhea. And keep in mind that food such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes & raisins, salt and yeast dough can all be potentially toxic to animals.

Make sure pets are wearing identification tags or are micro-chipped so that if they get lost, they can be returned promptly.

Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car. The temperature inside the car can rise to dangerous levels within minutes. Your pet could suffer from heatstroke, or even death. It is also against the law.

Walking with a Purpose by David Roddy

Many people in Charter Point walk throughout the day and early evening. That is why we see so many "trim and fit" residents. Some are walking with a new purpose called "Prayer Walking." As they walk, they silently pray for each house they pass. There is no visible contacting, no proselytizing, no fanfare or requests. It is a prayerful, loving concern for the well-being of the family in that home and for peace for the household. This is a very doable activity with untold blessings for our community and Jacksonville. Our goal is for every street in Charter Point to be covered by a Prayer Walker. If you are interested in being a part of this, contact David Roddy (Charter Point team captain) at 743-6867.





It Pays to Advertise!

Attention Charter Point residents: Advertise your business, community activity or For Sale items in the *Charter Point Notes* newsletter. Or if you've been pleased with the work done by a service provider, recommend the company to your neighbors (free). Reasonable ad and newsletter sponsorship rates. Contact Linda Hemphill, *Charter Point Notes* editor, at cpcanews@aol.com for more information.



For Sale: MINT 2006 Mercedes C230 Sport

Beautiful, well-maintained and garage-kept 2006 Mercedes Benz C230 Sport, 4-door Sedan. Mint condition.

Luxe grey leather with heated front seats, sun roof with power rear window, sun shade; four new 5-spoke MB Premium Wheels with four new Michelin Primacy HP Tires; Factory navigation with telephone, satellite radio & CD. 22,234 original miles; New Benz engine assembly replaced, September 2010; Fully transferrable MB Warranty for a balance of 4 years or 50,000 miles (expires September 10, 2015 or 68,708 miles). All service records (by Brumos MB) are available, as well at CarFax. Delivery can be arranged within 1,250 miles. Affordably priced for immediate sale at \$22,500. Contact Doug at 904-744-1299. Don't let this beauty get away!

IT Professionals of Jacksonville

www.itprojax.com

bill@itprojax.com

William J. Cuartero
President

5354 Oak Bay Drive, E.
Jacksonville, FL 32277

Office: 904.743.0084
Fax: 904.212.0406

A Dell Solutions Provider: Network Administration; Network Security; Firewalls; Email Set-up; Wireless Networks; Dell Equipment Sales. 30 years of Information Technology experience.

GREEN TOP LAWN CARE

Complete lawn & landscape services

Residential & Commercial

Lawn Maintenance
Landscaping - Cleanups
Trimming - Sod - Mulch

Free estimates
Licensed & Insured

Brian Waller
Office: 904-743-3395
Cell: 904-545-4801

brian.waller@comcast.net

Update - Lawn Standards & Others

By far the most prevalent topic of neighborhood concern expressed by many Charter Point homeowners is sub-standard lawn maintenance, especially gross neglect. In fact, improving deteriorated lawns was the overwhelming grievance voiced during the C&R revision project and Consent gathering process. Sadly the number of neglected lawns has increased, which begs the questions, "Why?" and "What can be done to improve these situations?" Since lawn maintenance standards were imposed over a year ago, there are a growing number of lawns with mostly dead grass and/or large areas of insect infestation and disease. Many have shown no signs of improvement for a year or more.

After the revised Covenants & Restrictions were adopted in April 2010 (including lawn upkeep), the Board launched a "soft sell" marketing approach, hoping to inspire those with deteriorated lawns to step up. More stringent action was warranted in some cases, with improved results. Also, a modest sum of CPCA funds were allocated to maintain front lawns at abandoned properties. Liens were filed if the absent owner could not be located or ignored requests for corrective action. Enforcement challenges the Board often encounters is reaching an out-of-state owner of a vacant or rental property or determining the appropriate financial entity to contact if an abandoned property is in foreclosure.

Since exhausting earlier efforts, the C&R Committee (with unanimous Board approval) began taking more aggressive corrective action on 18 marginally maintained properties, some in a glaring state of neglect. Beginning with neighborly visits by C&R committee members Walt Holton and Bob Barletta, attempts were made to discuss the matter with homeowners personally. Letters were sent to owners who could not be reached and to out-of-town owners and financial institutions (bank-owned foreclosures), asking for an immediate corrective action plan. Depending on the response, the next step will be to monitor proposed action plans to assure implementation, commence fines if no plan is proposed or implemented within a reasonable time frame. Liens will continue being filed on CPCA maintained abandoned properties to recoup lawn care costs.

Corrective action was also commenced toward 10 other properties to resolve various long-standing violations, such as street-exposed window A/C units, excessive exterior mildew, street-visible sheds and installation of a free-standing carport, to name a few. COJ Public Works was contacted to correct a portion of missing sidewalk. COJ Code Enforcement was contacted concerning two grossly overgrown properties, but the complaint fell flat -- overgrowth, such as overgrown shrubbery, scrub and saplings will not be addressed by the City.

Be assured the Board has not been remiss in taking steps to correct these problems and will continue to work diligently and judiciously to effect positive aesthetic change.

Unintended Consequences of a Lush Green Lawn

Much of the South has been suffering through a major drought most of this year. However, as I drive through many neighborhoods, I see lush green yards. I see homes and businesses irrigating their lawns without regard to the designated irrigation schedule mandated by law.

It has been reported that the Suwannee River is well below where it should be during a drought like we are experiencing this year. Springs, such as those in the Ichetucknee River are also showing extreme reductions in flow. Yet, we continue to allow our potable water to be wasted on lawns.

An editorial published in the *Gainesville Sun* (6/23/11) attributed the following statement to Bob Knight, director of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, "...some 50 billion gallons of water is annually being lost from the Suwannee River region as a consequence of water pumping in the Jacksonville area." Do you realize as you run your irrigation to keep your precious green grass alive that you are directly impacting the water supply of another region? I'm sure it is merely an unintended consequence of the desire to have a nice green yard regardless of how unnatural that desire is.

The St. Johns River is also subject to extremely large water withdrawals upstream to meet the unquenchable thirst for communities further to our south. These large withdrawals of water increase the concentration of all contaminants draining into the river. Some of those contaminants are from other communities, but a large portion comes directly from storm water runoff from homes and businesses here in Jacksonville, including right here in Charter Point.

I'm sure most people never read the instructions and warning labels on the products they use on their lawns. Maybe they do and just don't pay proper attention to the application instructions or how to properly handle and dispose of them. I'm sure most have no idea just how dangerous and persistent the chemicals are in the environment. Why should they worry? After all, they have an EPA registration. As it turns out, most of the items approved for use by the EPA were tested for carcinogens and have never been tested for endocrine disruption. Did you know the EPA frequently relies on testing provided by the applicants? I have read about several chemicals used by industrialized countries in the past which have shown up in highest concentrations in the tissues of the native populations of the Arctic who never used them. The chemicals apparently have worked their way through the environment to the animals those people rely on for food. The contamination of those populations was probably an unintended consequence of using chemicals which was initially deemed safe for use.



Just a few weeks ago, I attempted to rescue an adult Barred Owl in my backyard. I knew the bird was in trouble as it was non-reactive to my large, barking, and charging dog. After removing my dog from the area, I spent hours on the phone trying to contact various rescue organizations for help. I eventually determined the Jacksonville Zoo was our best option and after getting instructions on how to safely capture a bird, whose beak could easily take off a finger, caught him, and delivered him to their animal hospital. I checked back with them a few days later to follow-up and learned he did not make it. He apparently died after showing increasing signs of neurological problems as the day wore on after we dropped him off. I am awaiting a call back to see if he was tested for poisoning after reading up a bit on rodent poisons. In between telephone calls and research trying to get him help, I took many pictures of him as well as some video footage of him sitting there for hours in my back yard struggling to stay upright. I believe his death was an unintended consequence of someone who may have had a mole or rodent problem in their yard and thought nothing of using that product they saw in the lawn care section of their hardware store. This bird likely ingested the poisoned varmint which clearly would have been taken care of naturally.

Products like Dcon and other anti-coagulant rodenticides are widely used and incredibly dangerous. They are a likely secondary poison to any animal that feeds on rodents and happens to ingest one which has been poisoned by one of these products. How many people know that animals (not only rodents) take about 5 days to eventually die from internal bleeding after ingesting one of these products? A rat trap seems to be a far more humane way to take care of such a problem.

It is my opinion that the natural beauty of our region is what we should strive for in the way of beauty and not the ideal that has been sold to the public by the multi-million dollar ad campaigns of the big chemical and fertilizer companies. The owls, hawks, osprey, and eagles do a fine job of rodent control and the poisons some choose to use instead are killing far too many of these majestic birds as well as the occasional pet of neighbors. Know what you are using and consider the unintended consequences.

Sharon F. White
Fern Creek Drive

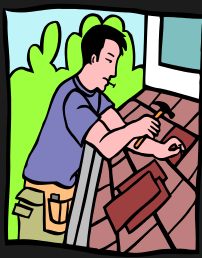
June 24, 2011



St. Johns River
Water Management District

Note: According to St. Johns River Water Management District, a healthy lawn *can* be achieved by watering properly, even amid watering restrictions. In cases of disease and insect infestation, watering will not be enough to correct these problems. Consider using an environmentally-friendly treatment plan. To promote good roots, don't stress the lawn by mowing the grass too short. Water to 3/4" during late evening or early daylight hours to avoid evaporation and fungus. For more information, visit www.sjrwmd.com to learn more about responsible watering, restrictions and eco-friendly lawn care.





Reminder: Architectural Pre-Approval is required before commencing any exterior home improvements, such as structural expansion, fence construction, painting, driveway paving, roofing, etc. Be sure to heed certain requirements within the Charter Point deeded covenants and restrictions, which outlines what is expected before commencing an exterior construction project and the parameters of what is permitted. It also lists the steps necessary to obtain approval for the proposed construction. Obtaining approval for your construction project is not a difficult process, but it is required to be sure that each project falls into the guidelines set forth by the C&R. An application form is available for printing from the Web site (www.charterpoint.org). Thank you for adhering to neighborhood standards!

CHARTER POINT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION OF STRUCTURES

This form is designed to provide Charter Point homeowners with a convenient method of complying with the covenants and restrictions (found at WWW.CharterPoint.org), relating to construction of new structures and modification, remodeling, or repair of existing structures (See Article III, Section 8). Specifically, homeowners must submit the information elicited by this form to the Association, channeled through its Covenants and Restrictions committee, which has limited authority to approve and disapprove proposed construction. Use of this form does not alter any of the requirements of the covenants.

Date of Request: _____

Homeowner's Name: _____

Property address: _____ Lot #: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Location of improvement on the lot (Attach a drawing, copy of building permit if applicable, and copy of contractor's proposal): _____

Proposed improvement/Type of structure: _____

Note: improvements covered by Article III, Section 4, must be in rear of lot and be walled, fenced, or sufficiently landscaped so that the structure is obstructed from view from outside the lot.

Dimensions: _____

Materials: _____

Color: _____

Landscaping: _____

Contractor: _____

Estimated commencement date: _____ completion date: _____

Owner's signature: _____

Provide form to chairman of covenants and restrictions committee

Approved by City Council, 6/28/11. Implementation to begin in the Spring of 2012.

Automated Residential Waste and Recycling Collection with Carts

Southland Waste Systems has provided residential solid waste collection services to the City of Jacksonville for over 30 years, and currently serves 71,400 homes in Service Area II, the Northside, Mayport and Arlington.

- Conversion to automated waste collection has significant financial benefits to the City - **recycling revenue increase of \$41 per ton and \$11 per ton of avoided Trail Ridge Landfill cost** for every additional ton of waste diverted to recycling. The rate paid to Southland will remain **unchanged**, with **no impact on City's budget**, but with **potential savings** with conversion to **compressed natural gas** for truck fuel.
- The **current waste collection system** using manually loaded rear loader trucks and a 2 or 3 man crew is **antiquated** - unchanged since the 1950's. The current system is less productive, more labor intensive, with greater safety and employee injury issues, high Worker's Comp claims, and high employee turnover.
- **Automated collection** with new **state of the art**, fully automated trucks and heavy duty 96-gallon carts has many benefits, including improved service and customer satisfaction, safer working conditions, higher collection productivity, minimal turnover of higher-trained professional drivers, and reduced fuel costs.
- Heavy duty **96-gallon carts** with tight fitting, fixed lids and strong wheels will be used for collection of household waste and recyclables. Carts hold the equivalent of 3 large garbage cans or over 5 of the 18-gallon recycle bins, provide cleaner, uniform appearance on the street, and reduce or eliminate spillage, litter, animal scavenging and other problems with the current system. **Smaller 64-gallon carts** will be available upon customer request.
- Carts provide additional capacity, ease of handling, eliminate the need to sort, and **increases recycling participation and recycling revenue to the City**. Increased recycling also helps the City meet high State mandates for recycling.
- Southland will implement automated collection in 3 phases during April, May and June 2012, with approximately 24,000 homes in each phase, to insure a smooth transition for our customers. We will provide each customer with prior notice and informative brochures, fliers and other information, working in close coordination with the City's Solid Waste Division, and **will complete the phased transition by July 1, 2012**.
- The very substantial initial capital cost - **over \$14 million** for 28 new trucks, 145,000 carts, and transition costs - **all at Southland's expense** - fully justifies the extension of both Southland's waste collection contract and recycling processing contract with the City.

Current Collection



New System