

## Make those Gas Lamps Solar!

Every house in Chatham Forest has a light post on its front walkway. Some lights are illuminated. Some are dark.

These lamps were an original feature of all houses in the neighborhood. The lamps burned natural gas all day long until the evening when the light they emitted was useful and attractive. It was mandatory that the lights stay illuminated.

But the mantles (the little white net things that eventually rot) were challenging to change. The national financial recession deepened and neighbors wishing to conserve resources asked that the rules be changed regarding the sidewalk lights. The HOA board decided that mandatory illumination wasn't necessary but the basic lamp had to stay.

Now, homeowners wishing to bring the light back in a sustainable way have options.

A solar product that fits well and matches the Chatham Forest sidewalk lights in both size and style is available at <https://www.earthtechproducts.com/imperial-eagle-acorn-finial.html>

If neighbors want to see one before buying, they can check out the lamp at the Bonitz's house at 21 Fox Chapel Lane.

Elizabeth Bonitz said, "Ours has been installed [since mid-February], and we love it!"

PSNC Energy must be called to come cap off and disconnect the gas line to the sidewalk light before any attempts to replace it are made. Even if the gas light is not lit, gas is still in the line and we don't need any accidental gas explosions happening in Chatham Forest! Their service visit costs about \$90.



### CFHOA's Committees Make a Difference. Get Involved

#### ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

- Review and approve new home plans
- Review proposed modifications to homes or property
- Review standards for houses and modifications (fences, walls, etc.)
- Report compliance issues to the board and management to address violations

#### SOCIAL/RECREATION COMMITTEE

- Write, or solicit articles from others, and organize volunteers to distribute the quarterly CFHOA Newsletter
- Organize neighborhood social events such as community movies, films, garage sales, cookie swaps, egg hunts, etc.
- Organize and maintain a baby sitting, street fairs, etc.
- Encourage and help organize as needed book clubs, home business meetings, wine and food gatherings, etc.



## Neighbor Spotlight

Troy Leshner-Thomas is your neighbor at 20 Hawks Spiral Way in Chatham Forest, Pittsboro. Each year Troy repaints his green mailbox after a light sanding and primer, when it's needed. Troy is offering this service to neighbors. For \$20 Troy will freshen up your mailbox with a forest green paint color approved by the CFHOA.

Troy isn't offering to fix the white post or even fix the mailbox, just paint it green.

If your mailbox needs some superficial TLC, contact Troy at 919-444-1248.

## Welcome to Chatham Forest

The spring season brings a lot of new neighbors to our world.

The Chatham Forest Homeowners Association and some volunteers who've stepped up to help us will soon be stopping by to share a packet of info with newcomers that includes coupons from local retailers and general information about living in Chatham Forest, Pittsboro, and Chatham County.

We look forward to meeting you!

CLIP • SAVE • POST CLIP • SAVE • POST

## CFHOA Member Events 2018 Spring Yard Sale Saturday, May 5, 8 am

Streamline, minimize, and clean out for a lighter more spacious spring and summer. Move fast to join forces with your neighbors to bring out the bargain hunters to our neighborhood.

The Yard Sale will be advertised on the Chatham Forest Facebook page, the Chatham Chatlist, NextDoor, and Craigslist. Spread the word to your neighbors, too!

Participating neighbors will receive a balloon at your mail box post to tell potential customers that you're wheeling and dealing! Items that are left over will be collected by the local Habitat for Humanity that afternoon..

Thanks to Barbara Palermo for leading the 2018 Spring Yard Sale. If you'd like to participate in the sale, let Barbara know by Tuesday, May 1st by emailing her at [bpalermo9@gmail.com](mailto:bpalermo9@gmail.com)

CLIP • SAVE • POST CLIP • SAVE • POST

## Mailbox Posts Available

In response to neighbors who found the the wait time required to get a new mailbox post quite long, the CFHOA Board instructed our management company to purchase 2 mailbox posts to keep on hand. If your post gets damaged or destroyed, contact Community Focus to buy one at the list price of \$500. Neighbors are responsible for installation.

## Chatham Forest & Pittsboro Community Contact Info

**CABLE TV & INTERNET** Spectrum  
Customer service. . . . .833-694-9259

**ELECTRICITY**  
Duke Energy . . . . .800-452-2777  
Power Outage . . . . .800-419-6356

**GAS, PSNC** . . . . .877-776-2427

**WATER / GARBAGE / SEWER**  
Town of Pittsboro . . . . .919-542-4621

**CHATHAM HOSPITAL**  
Siler City . . . . .919-799-4000

**DRIVER'S LICENSES**  
Siler City . . . . .919-663-2601  
Carrboro . . . . .919-929-4161

**LIBRARY**  
Pittsboro, Public . . . . .919-545-8084

**TOWN OF PITTSBORO**  
Town Manager . . . . .919-542-4621

**PITTSBORO POST OFFICE**  
. . . . .800-275-8777

**PITTSBORO POLICE** 919-542-3200

**CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS** . .  
. . . . .919-542-3626

**TAX ASSESSOR**  
Chatham County . . . . .919-542-8250

**UNC HEALTHCARE**  
Pittsboro . . . . .919-545-0911

**VOTER REGISTRATION**  
Board of Elections. . . . .919-542-6430

**WASTE MGMT.** . . . .919-545-0640

## When and where are HOA meetings?

### THE NEXT CFHOA BOARD MEETING IS TUESDAY, MAY 22nd

Generally speaking, the Board of the Chatham Forest Homeowners meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Chatham County Habitat for Humanity ReStore Meeting Room at 467 West St, Pittsboro, NC 27312

The HOA holds a "Homeowner Forum" for the first 15 minutes of each regular Board Meeting. Homeowners who sign up 72 hours in advance with the Management Company meet with the board one at a time then the board meets in a closed session for a collective response to

the owner. The HOA also schedules an "Open Forum Meeting" at certain times of the year in addition to the Annual Meeting where owners may attend the first part of the HOA Meeting as a group to discuss matters related to the community. Please be aware that the HOA may limit speaking times based on the number of attendees and individual concerns to be addressed in order to allow comment from each owner. Tentatively Scheduled OPEN FORUM MEETINGS (6:30pm-7:00pm): July 17, Oct. 16, and Jan. 15

**Board of the Chatham Forest Homeowners Association**  
President – Jennifer Wichowski, 343 Bellemont Road (2018–19)  
Vice President – Lesley Landis, 21 Randolph Ct (2018–19)  
Treasurer – Pat Serkedakis, 199 Chatham Mill (2018–19)  
Secretary – Chris Blice, 267 Chatham Forest Drive (2017–18)  
Member – Oakley Bennett, Chatham Forest Drive (2018–19)

Need a CFHOA Book of Covenants? Check the website of our management company, Community Focus, for a copy: <https://communityfocusnc.com/communities/chatham-forest-hoa/>

## Compliance Issues in Chatham Forest

The Chatham Forest Homeowners Association [CFHOA] exists to retain our property values. We also hope to develop opportunities to build bridges between neighbors. Chatham Forest residents having questions, concerns, or complaints pertaining to paint colors, fences, house additions, storage buildings or playground equipment (among other issues) on your properties should turn to the CFHOA Covenants & Architectural Review Committee [ARC] Guidelines to gain clarity on what is and is not allowed according to the legal covenants of the neighborhood.

### Typical Compliance Issues

The CFHOA Covenants & ARC Guidelines outlines several basic guidelines for compliance. The most common complaints involve lack of adherence to the following rules:

- Pets are to be contained in a fence or restrained on a leash.
- Yards are to be maintained by trimming shrubs, mowing grass, and removing debris.
- Ideally, gas lanterns are lit from dusk until dawn. (See the article about options to the gas lamp elsewhere in

this edition) If you choose not to light yours, do not remove the gas lamp.

- Fences facing a street, must have landscaping in front of it.
- Garbage cans, satellite dishes, solar panels, and large children's toys like trampolines are not to be visible from the street.

## It's fun to play at the (new) Y-M-C-A

The Chatham YMCA recently moved to a new location at 287 East Street, Main Street Station.

The new facility offers Cybex strength training exercise equipment and cardiovascular equipment such as stair climbers, elliptical trainers, arc-trainers, and stationary bikes as well as equipment from Precor, and Life Fitness. Free weights are available as are personal training sessions for an additional fee. Bathrooms have lockers and showers. Free childcare for members' children is

in the KIDZONE. Regularly scheduled fitness classes are available in addition to virtual classes where you can select your favorite kind of class and fitness level from internationally known instructors and work out to them at a time that's convenient for you. Membership options are available for individuals, families and seniors.

Call the YMCA at 545-YMCA (9622) or stop by for a tour.  
Monday – Friday 6 am–8 pm  
Saturday 8 am–5 pm

## Tick Tidbits: Use the 3 Ps for Protection

An exploratory survey conducted in 2015 indicates that people in 94% of Chatham County households had exposure to ticks within the previous year. In comparison, the national household average is 45 percent according to a 2015 CDC study. Residents of Chatham county have a high risk of contracting a tick borne illness.

To protect yourself and your loved ones, we recommend the three P's:

### The Three Ps

Personal protection includes using repellents, treating clothing, drying your clothes for 15 minutes after being outdoors (washing does NOT kill ticks), and conducting daily tick checks.

Pet protection includes using prevention products that kill ticks on

## Carolina Gardens: Tips for April and May

From <http://www.carolinagardener.com> :

### APRIL

- The best time to get azaleas back into shape with pruners is right after their flowers fade.
- From the middle to the end of April, continue planting the veggie patch with summer favorites like corn, squash snapbeans, okra, peppers, watermelons, eggplant, cucumbers and tomatoes.
- Basil, dill, chives, rosemary, marjoram, sage and thyme are easy-to-care-for herbs that can be flavorful additions to almost any culinary creation. Plant them now.

- Mint is also a useful herb but plant it in a pot rather than in the garden because this rampant spreader can quickly overwhelm a garden bed.
- Have patience with hostas. Many pop up late in the spring, so don't be quick to think that the winter did them in.
- Plant dahlias. Since most grow long and lanky, plant a support stake in each hole now to help prevent damage to the tuber later.
- Now is a good time to divide such popular perennials as baby's breath, shasta daisies, asters, liriopie and phlox.
- After they fade, cut back the flower stalks of daffodils, hyacinths and other spring bulbs that perennialize in the garden. Let the foliage die back naturally to allow the plants to absorb energy for next year's flower show.
- Three secrets for a full-flowering clematis: (1) Plenty of sun (5–6 hours a day); (2) keep the roots cool with 3" of organic mulch, and (3) sprinkle a little lime around this alkaline-lover's planting site.

### MAY

- Continue planting the summer vegetable garden with heat-lovers: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, green beans, eggplants and watermelons.



### Join us for our upcoming Tick Talk at 1:30pm, Sat. Apr. 21 at New Horizons West.

*Jennifer Platt, DrPH is the CEO and Founder of Tick Warriors. While she was working on her doctorate in public health she contracted Ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne illness, in 2011. Her personal experience with tick-borne illness and interest in using environmentally-safe products led her to start TickWarriors in 2016.*

- Acid-loving vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers receive extra pep from the sulfur of unburned matches. Stick 4–6 matches head-down in the soil around each new plant.
- Fill landscape holes with fast-maturing ornamental annuals such as marigolds, portulaca, cosmos, cleomes, petunias and zinnias.
- Plant chrysanthemums. When they reach 6–8 inches tall, pinch the tips off, to keep them bushy and increase flower production.
- If you prefer to fill your garden with annual transplants, set young plants in the garden on a calm, cloudy day or late in the afternoon to minimize shock.
- Consider cannas this year for the flashy foliage such sassy new introductions as 'Red Stripe', 'Bengal Tiger', 'Tropicanna', 'Australia' and 'Pink Sunburst'.
- Before you instinctively reach for the hoe, make sure you are not killing a friendly snake predator that helps keep the garden free of mice, moles, voles and other pests. The University of Kentucky Extension Service has a helpful identification site at: [www.kentuckysnakes.org](http://www.kentuckysnakes.org).
- Mowing your lawn faithfully now every week helps stop the spread of weeds by preventing the unwanted plants from forming seed heads.
- Now is a good time to give many of your indoor plants a "vacation" on the deck or patio by setting them in an area that receives dappled sun. Be sure to keep the plants on a regular watering schedule.

