



Commonwealth Park

EST. 1939

Winter 2012-2013

Post Office Box 18833

Charlotte, NC 28218

One Down, Another To Go

By Jerome Deveix, Commonwealth Avenue

2012 was an exciting year for Commonwealth Park. Neighbors banded together to rally local media outlets and the Charlotte City Council to commit the city to buying out the Charlotte Inn. Folks banded together and worked with local government and police to install stop signs at Commonwealth and Woodland, promoting safety for those within a substantial radius. Friends banded together to – well – band trees once again as we continue to conserve our beautiful Charlotte tree canopy. For more detail as to our accomplishments last year, see the Communications tab of the commonwealthpark.org web site, which in itself is a recent neighborhood association development.

Now that reflection has passed, we can collectively look to our community's potential for realizing continuous improvements to our urban neighborhood. Rezoning in and around our 'hood will be at top of mind as careful monitoring and involvement will help ensure decent – if not exciting – developments in our grasp. Focus on the development of our area's assigned elementary school should continue to be front and center as it not only has implications to our children's education but also to the overall quality of life in our community. And the recent creation of a formal neighborhood watch group will serve as a platform to continue developing our neighbors' instincts which will help promote a safe and welcoming neighborhood.

Given that we've addressed some major obstacles and have a plan for keeping this momentum going, a helpful resolution for CP neighbors to consider on the individual level might be to take a fresh look at one's property and consider how improvements – small and large – could start to take shape over the course of the year. Clearly there are seasonal maintenance activities that come to mind such as pruning and planting trees and shrubs, cleaning gutters, regularly mowing lawns, removing leaves and branches from roofs, adding fresh coats of paint and washing windows. Let's also consider that little things like parking cars in the middle of lawns and leaving trash and large fallen branches in visible areas all contribute to our community's personality. A little bit of planning with regard to placing large bulky items curbside and the rolling out garbage and recycling bins avoids unfortunate eye sores. *Did you know that pick up of large bulky items must be scheduled with the city, which can be done by calling 311?* A little effort goes a long way and I'm proud to drive around our 'hood and see how much it has improved over the past decade both in terms of physical appearance and fellowship.

Not only will these small incremental efforts protect and improve your home investment, but added all up they improve the look and feel of the entire community.

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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**Tuesday, February 5
7:00 p.m.**

WTVI Conference Room
3242 Commonwealth Ave.

Topics:

- Crime update/stats
- Charlotte Inn Update
- Neighborhood Watch
- Board/Committee Elections
- Eastway Crossing Rezoning
- Questions/Comments

SAVE THE DATE! CPNA Meeting Dates for 2013

Feb. 5	Aug. 6
April 2	Oct. 1
June 4	Dec. 3

Don't forget to join the neighborhood association! (see last page for details)

One Down, Another To Go

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Maybe you've been wanting to take care of something but it's been difficult finding time, money or motivation. This is the time to make those New Year commitments and focus on follow through. A little elbow grease goes a long way and often neighbors are willing to help out in the spirit of camaraderie. Learning about the city's code enforcement policies is a great way to prepare for what can soon become habits (what's the adage... 21 days??). For detailed information on this topic, please visit the Home page of the commonwealthpark.org web site.

Lastly, let's make it a point to check out the new community web site from time to time in order to stay aware of hot topics, upcoming social events, and resources on how to stay safe. It's also great place to learn about upcoming CP Neighborhood Association meetings as well as pay for annual membership dues (which we've kept at a very reasonable \$20 per household) via a new PayPal option. And don't forget to join our Facebook page where up-to-the-minute updates keep many of us very plugged in with happenings.

Happy new year everyone; may this be the best year yet for us all!





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New US Foods Store in former Wal*Mart

By Matt Hickey, Carolyn Drive

That green sign you see on the former Wal*Mart building is no illusion! National distributor and wholesaler US Foods has opened a new first-of-its-kind "Chef Store" in Commonwealth Park. The store, which opened in November, stocks over 4,000 items from meat, dairy, and produce to bulk prepared foods, cutlery and appliances. While it is aimed at chefs and restaurants, it is open to the general public and offers free membership.

The store fills about 30,000 square feet, less than one third of the building, and the remainder is not yet leased. US Foods spent over \$2.3 million adding a loading dock on the side and creating the new façade and glass-fronted entrance, which is a dramatic change from the former Wal*Mart. Future "Chef Store" locations are planned for Columbia, SC and Oklahoma City.

If you're looking for recipe materials in large quantities, this may be a very good place to try shopping! The store is open seven days a week (most days 7am to 6 pm), with hours, specials and information available at the website (www.usfoods.com) in the online flyer.

Rezoning and Updates at Eastway Crossing

By Matt Hickey, Carolyn Drive

Other changes are also in progress at Eastway crossing. The owners of the shopping center have determined that the trees planted in the parking-lot islands in the 1990's were not thriving in the small islands provided for them so they have begun to replant new trees in larger islands. They have also begun preparations to develop (and probably sell) several outparcels of the shopping center that face Eastway Drive.

A new convenience store and gas station may soon be built in the parking lot near the US Foods Store. While no tenant has formally been announced, it is believed to be a chain that is new to Charlotte and will likely be their first store inside of I-485. This development may not require any rezoning; the Wal*Mart property was separately zoned and developed, and the current site plan may allow development.

Neighbors should take special note, however, of the proposed Rezoning of the North part of the shopping center. A "site plan amendment" (SPA) to the present zoning has been submitted to the City to allow some demolition and some new construction. At a 'community meeting' held on December 18th at the shopping center, the owners' representative Mr. John Turner and Kevin Ammons of Cole, Jenest and Stone showed neighbors plans of the proposed changes and provided a chance for neighbors to ask questions and voice concerns.

This petition (Petition #2012-102) , if approved, would permit these changes:

- A new 15,000 square foot drugstore with a drive-through at the corner of Eastway and Central, where the western wear store is now.
- A new fast-food restaurant with a drive-through next to the McDonald's facing Eastway
- Closing one of the two shopping center entrances from Central Ave

Based on comments from CDOT, neighborhood associations and other agencies, the rezoning has been delayed and a public hearing before City Council will not be until March 18th. There may be more amendments or changes; the Commonwealth Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) has not taken any position on this rezoning petition at this time but intends to discuss at the February 5th Neighborhood Meeting. CPNA has been working with partners in Merry Oaks, Medford Acres, Eastway-Sheffield and Commonwealth Morningside.

Information on rezoning is available at the City's website (www.charlottenc.gov) under "planning." Some neighbors have also been sharing information, questions, and thoughts on the Google Groups page for CPNA and by email. If you are interested in this particular rezoning, please attend the February 5th neighborhood meeting (7pm at WTVI) or reach out to Allison Billings, CPNA Board Member at afbillings@gmail.com.



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Charlotte Inn Update

By Allison Billings, Commonwealth Ave.

As expected, the City closed on the IHOP/Comfort Inn parcel in late December and staff are now soliciting bids for demolition. The scheduled closing on the Charlotte Inn parcel will happen on or before April 30. Since it is most cost-effective for the City to mobilize the demolition company only once for all sites, neighbors should expect the demolition to begin on the IHOP/Comfort Inn parcel in mid-April with the demolition of the Charlotte Inn happening in late April or early May. CPNA conducted a survey to collect neighbor feedback about the future uses of this land and is sharing these results with the City's Economic Development department. A discussion of future uses of these parcels will be on the agenda at our February 5th neighborhood meeting. Please attend so you can participate in the decision.

How to be Successful with Resolutions (New Years or Otherwise)

By Jordan Deveix, Commonwealth Avenue

A new year is upon us and so is the tradition to think of a resolution to help better your well being. As this article is being printed, it will be around the time of year where resolutions – which had such good intentions – become forgotten, ignored and given up upon. Some may have gone through this cycle so often; the resolution part is skipped over and the same old routine continues. But did you know that even though we have all pledged repeated and numerous resolutions, the actual success rate for resolution makers are **10 times higher** than those who desire behavior change but do not pledge a resolution? These successful resolutioners do not have a secret the rest of us don't know about. In fact, many who have gone on to be successful have gone through at least one lapse.

The difference between giving up at this point and waiting for another year to go by and those who pick themselves up and continue with their journey is all a matter of perspective. The success stories are those who see their lapses as learning opportunities to pinpoint the weakness which caused the lapse and correct the behavior to move forward with their lifestyle improvements. Below are a few ideas to help you pull yourself out of your lapse and closer to your goals:

- **Counter Conditioning** - Using behaviors incompatible with the problem (eating fruits/veggies instead of high fat foods, going for a walk instead of being sedentary)
- **Fading** – Gradual reduction of an undesired behavior rather than abrupt change
- **Self-Liberation** – The belief that something can change as well as the commitment and re-commitment to act on that belief (AKA willpower)
- **Stimulus Control** - Keeping things around and visible to remind you not to give up, such as keeping walking shoes where you would watch TV and surrounding yourself with beautiful outdoor pictures to inspire you to get outside

New Year's is not the only time of the year to make a resolution; it can happen any time of year, any time of day. The key is to not sink into self-blame and wishful thinking, but to identify what you truly want to accomplish to improve your well being, set those goals, and go for it. The weight of importance you put upon a resolution will influence the outcome of becoming a success story for others to look at for motivation. Let's make 2013 the best year yet for us.

Source: ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal. Jan/Feb 2013. Vol. 17. No. 1

Seek and Find

By Lou Galanty, Pinecrest Ave.

D	R	C	D	L	A	R	E	M	E	O	M
I	A	U	M	L	W	Q	P	C	A	P	B
A	T	J	B	P	T	N	E	S	G	A	E
M	K	A	O	Y	P	E	B	E	M	L	H
O	L	S	N	N	E	V	N	T	A	O	W
N	Z	P	E	L	X	I	V	R	J	P	A
D	A	E	L	P	R	K	M	O	A	C	N
E	P	R	S	T	O	A	L	N	Q	G	O
S	O	A	I	M	E	A	E	A	E	R	C
N	T	C	K	L	I	M	P	P	P	G	R
S	L	E	R	I	H	P	P	A	S	I	I
T	T	S	Y	H	T	E	M	A	S	I	Z

Can you find ALL the jewels??

Find the following words – left to right, right to left, up and down or diagonally

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| DIAMOND | RUBY | TOPAZ | CITRINE | AMETHYST |
| ZIRCON | GARNET | OPAL | LAPIZ | JASPER |
| | EMERALD | SAPPHIRE | PEARL | |



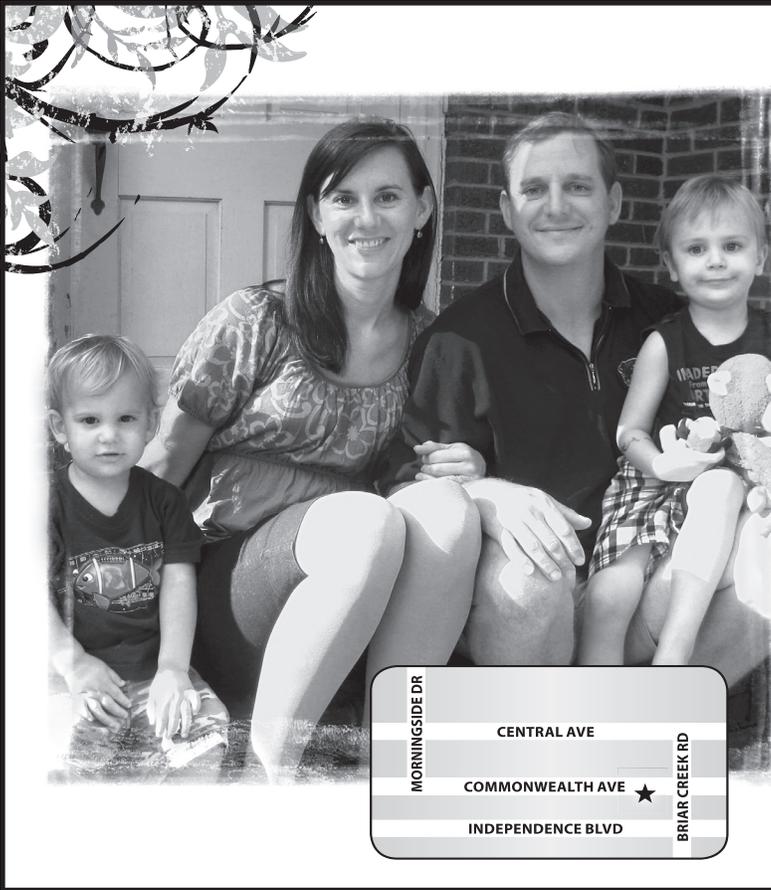
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Check here if you would like to be contacted to volunteer on a committee or be a part of our neighborhood watch team. A neighbor will contact you shortly!