

## *From the President's Corner*

A belated Happy April Fools' Day! I wonder when and where that tradition began? It was my mother's birthday, so I always stop to salute her. Be assured that we have not tried to "pull anyone's leg" in this issue!



April 2011  
Dogwoods Poolside

That beautiful time of the year is upon us here in Whitehall. That has almost become a cliché, as Whitehall is beautiful all year 'round. Just looking at the homes that have become available, it's obvious that one doesn't leave Whitehall by choice, but for most because the time has come to choose a retirement community.

Please be considerate of homeowners who have units up for sale, and realize that potential buyers will be looking around at all surrounding areas. Please keep your decks uncluttered, your waste bins out of sight, and turn in a work order if you have shrubs that need to be pruned. This is the time to prune hardwoods, although we have to wait until after the azaleas have flowered to prune those bushes back.

Everyone is curious about the pool schedule! The pool diver has been down to investigate for leaks, and has found that several "skimmers" have cracks, etc. and must be either repaired or replaced to the tune of \$1000. The Board has already approved this expense, and the repairs should be done as soon as possible. There were two new city pool ordinances taking affect on April 1, 2011, but due to Board foresight, we are already in compliance. One stipulates the need for a secure entrance (installed before the last pool season), and the other requires a minimum fence height around the pool. Our existing fence meets those requirements. As soon as repairs to the skimmers are made, a city pool inspector will come out and let us know whether everything is "good to go". We will shoot you all a bulletin as soon as we know more. So it is time to hunt up your pool card; if you are a renter, contact your landlord if you have not been provided with one. Please take time to review the pool regulations and expectations for behavior, as well.

You'll notice that we are gradually trying to add new items to each newsletter. The survey you responded to last month gave us many great ideas, and we are recruiting new journalists all the time! If you have an idea, send it in to Tom Williams, our editor, at [twilliams@edalliances.com](mailto:twilliams@edalliances.com).

*Sincerely,*

*Toni Cambier*

### **Grounds Beautification Group Activities**

Please join this fun group on **April 17<sup>th</sup>** to plant the annuals at the front Spring Forest Entrance. We will start at 9:00 and will not go longer than 3 hours. You can work as long as you are able. Don't forget to bring your garden gloves. We welcome rakes, shovels and clear plastic bags. We will also plant under the signs on Falls Church Rd. If you can make it or have any questions please let me know at [karenkistler@earthlink.net](mailto:karenkistler@earthlink.net) or 919-618-6155.

*Future Dates are May 1st, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>*

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**Adopt a Neighbor!**

The Whitehall Board of Directors has come a long way toward establishing speedy and confidential communication lines with all Whitehall residents. There is, however, a group of residents who do not have access to email; they receive their newsletters by mail. A nagging worry is the fact that there is no way to get all other email bulletins to them – it is not practical to try to mail each one. Would you be willing to adopt a resident in your cluster who does not have email access, and get a printed copy of each email bulletin to them in a timely manner? There are, at present, approximately 20 residents in need of such a guardian angel. If you are willing to help, let one of your Board members know, and you will be matched up with a resident who lives fairly close to you. Let’s continue to grow our community!

**WH HOA**

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**So You are Interested in Composting?**

Put May 7 on your calendar to pick up a Compost Bin at the sale, offered by Wake County at 4121 New Bern Ave. in the parking lot. They bring in a couple of semi loads, and it is first come, first served. Bins are sold at cost – a great deal; starting at 9:00 am and running until 3:00 pm or until they run out of stock.

**For more information call 996-6860.**

**Whitehall Homes for Sale**

5943 SENTINEL

5805 SENTINAL

These **2 Bedroom** homes are listed at \$139,000—\$139,500

1710 FALLS CHURCH ROAD

1833 FALLS CHURCH

6047 SENTINEL

These **3 Bedroom** homes are currently listed at \$139,900—\$179,900

1723 FALLS CHURCH

Listing price on this **4 Bedroom** home is \$169,900

Provided by Carolyn Andrews

Allen Tate Realtors

919-349-2263

*Whitehall Community Bulletin Board*

**Services Offered:**

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](mailto:whitehallcommunity1@gmail.com) by April 25th. Ads will be run on a first come, first served basis.



*Ready Recyclers!!*  
**BIG BLUE BINS ON WHEELS ARRIVE  
 HERE IN AUGUST!**

This is the first step in what we hope will become a regular column. All of your hints and tips that might make recycling easier for the rest of us are welcome, so please share. For starters, post this list recyclables on the refrigerator or cabinet door:

- glass food container
- plastic bottles (only those with screw tops)
- milk, juice, drink cartons
- metal food cans
- clean aluminum foil/trays
- 3x3 ft flattened corrugated cardboard (it's all about what will fit in the truck)
- soft plastic beverage rings (cut each ring to prevent harm to birds)
- aluminum beverage cans
- newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and white paper
- paperboard boxes and tubes



*Cat Etiquette*

Yes – you’ve all seen the alerts about cat problems. The reality is that we live very close together, and especially for units that house two or three free-roaming cats, it can become an annoyance to nearby residents. How?

- Cats walking all over newly washed cars
- Male cats spraying (marking) an area, producing unwelcome odors
- Cats defecating in flower beds
- Most serious: cats darting underfoot after dark, tripping residents and causing them to fall and injure themselves

Any resident can call animal control and request that traps be set around their home if there have been constant problems in their area. If a cat is trapped, the resident must pay a fine to retrieve the cat from animal control. This is not just a Whitehall practice, but a citywide ordinance.

**Reminder: Mosquito Control Option**



In the March issue, we shared details on the services of **John Morris of Mosquito Squad** which has been servicing individual properties in the Whitehall community for over a year now. If you are interested, please feel free to contact him at **919-851-5135** or by email at [raleigh-durham@mosquitosquad.com](mailto:raleigh-durham@mosquitosquad.com). 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.

*In Community a Garden Grows*

*What grows in thoughts all united?  
 That once was naught but dead  
 All of us, and more invited  
 To shovel, trowel and dig*

*Each of us lulled into forgetting  
 The troubles of the day  
 While learning to work in peace and spaces  
 As we built it day by day*

*Side by side we planned and planted  
 First one, and then the other  
 Not knowing for certain where we were headed  
 Or, the Community we'd discover*

*Let no one say it can't be done  
 We must continue to find a way  
 To rest assured that all will grow  
 In this garden we bless today.*

**Author**  
 Deb Stout of 5949 Sentinel Drive

**Occasion**  
 The Blessing of the Whitehall Community Garden

**Date**  
 March 21, 2011

A very special thanks to our fellow resident, Deb Stout, for sharing her creativity and inspiration with us upon this special occasion!



## Building Better Security in Whitehall

Steps taken to improve safety of all Whitehall residences:

- A fence has been completed connecting the fence at 6042 Sentinel with a chain link fence bordering Spring Forest. This should block unwelcome foot traffic in that area.
- An enthusiastic Community Watch group is at work, headed up by Jerry Posner, Kris Said, and Don Eldridge. They are working on an increased police presence (i.e. officers parking in the area to do paperwork) and Community Watch signs going up shortly.
- But they need the help of everyone to lock their cars and report anyone on foot in private areas as well as suspicious cars. Call 911!



### *Recycling Tip for This Month*

Hang a large plastic bag in the corner behind your refrigerator where it is out of sight. Drop items to be recycled into it, then empty into your bin on Tuesday night. Saves steps outdoors during the week! DO NOT leave the plastic bag in the bin because it gums up the line at the recycling center. Recycle the bag instead!

## Join us in the Whitehall Garden. We're growing Community, Friends, Plants and Beautiful Spaces Submitted by Cindy Lambert

"God almighty first planted a garden. And indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures."-- Francis Bacon

"It is only when you start a garden - probably after age fifty - that you realize something important happens every day."  
- Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

The weather is fooling around with us. The warm days beckon us outside to bask in the pleasant breath of the Spring that we have been longing for. Cold and dampness sends us scurrying back inside, wondering where that warm face of Spring has disappeared to. In what now seemed like a much too brief moment of warmth, a small band of Whitehall residents began creating our Whitehall Community Garden. From a distance it doesn't look like much, but if you come in and walk around you can glimpse the beginning of a wondrous metamorphosis. Tender spring vegetable plants are sprouting up; some a little too thickly planted (one of the lessons to be learned about the power within one tiny seed). They will be thinned, creating an opportunity for us to savor the tender sweetness of a lettuce leaf that had to be sacrificed for his sibling to grow stronger and larger.

The leaves of the oak trees, that stand as sentinels to our garden, were raked and shredded in February; the very first garden task undertaken. The trees stand silently by, as their offering leaves are breaking down, just as silently. Soon we will have dark rich compost to feed the plants that will come to live in our Garden. We are gaining momentum and are building our Garden and our Community.

The weekend of the Spring Equinox included a Friday night Happy Hour, a Saturday night Progressive Dinner (including herbal cocktails, kale "potato" chips and delicious chocolate pie) and a Welcoming Spring Garden Ceremony on Sunday. We honored one of our Whitehall Elders, Helen Aaroe, who was a stand-in representative for all the Whitehall Elders that have been longtime residents of our beautiful community. A garden poem (see page 2) written and read by Deb Stout lent a heartfelt personal touch to the ceremony. We concluded the ceremony by Walking the Nine Palaces of the Garden, which described the nine feng shui areas within the garden.

Soon more temporary garden boxes will be appearing as more Whitehall residents try their hand at growing things. It will be interesting to see what our new gardeners will choose to grow....vegetables, flowers, herbs??? Come by in the weeks ahead and see what is popping up. There are still a few rental spaces available if you are tempted to dig in and see what some soil and seeds can produce for you.

The City of Raleigh grant has been submitted and positively received. We should be hearing back on that very soon. We will begin work on the centerpiece herb wheel as soon as the grant comes through.

We are also organizing some fundraising events in the very near future, so watch for info coming out on these. We are planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beer and Wine Tasting Event, a Pie Baking Contest (who can resist pie?) and more Garden Happy Hours.

Also, let us know if you have any items you no longer need and would like to donate to the Community Garden, such as pots, garden tools, picnic tables, plants, etc.

The Community Garden is for all Whitehall residents. All residents are welcome to visit the Garden and see it as it unfolds. We will continue to have updates in the Whitehall Newsletter to let all residents know what is going on in the Garden. We have gotten some feedback from residents who are interested in the Garden but can't commit to working 8 hours a month in the Garden. So we are adding a new category of "membership" for those people that want to be involved in the garden in some capacity.

So here again are the garden membership categories:

**Friends of the Garden** –

Suggested Annual Donation: \$10

Time commitment: None

Friends will be on our email list and will receive Garden news and invites to Garden events.

**Level One Membership**

Annual Membership Fee: \$20

Time commitment: 8 hours a month

**Level Two Membership:**

Annual Membership Fee: \$50

Time commitment: 8 hours a month **Both level one and two memberships 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 space in the Temporary Garden area, if desired, for \$25 per 4 ft X 4 ft space

Level Two members have additional benefits of first access to Temporary Garden Spaces and invitations to special Garden events.

We invite you to join with us, your neighbors, as we embark on this journey to grow community, plants, friends and beautiful spaces.

Please fill out the following information and send it to:

**Cynthia Lambert 5833 Sentinel Drive Raleigh, NC 27609**

**Email:** [cynthiamlambert@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiamlambert@yahoo.com)

**phone 919-523-5147**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle appropriate item(s) and make check payable to: Whitehall HOA**

- |                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Friends of Garden                    | \$10 |
| Level 1 membership                   | \$20 |
| Level 2 membership                   | \$50 |
| Want 4 X 4 ft temporary garden space | \$25 |