



# THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

is published each month except July and August. It is distributed to residents, applicants on the waiting list, and other interested persons.

Vol. MMVIII, No. 1

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

January 2008

## A CAROL WOODS FACELIFT

When a set of architect renderings and siding samples appeared in the Social Lounge last spring, some of us placed them in the category of Concept Plan. These pastoral depictions of ideal cottages somehow said “future dream” to those of us who remembered the brown paint of Carol Woods’ Scout Camp phase (or CCC camp for those of us old enough).

Wrong.

We now know that the transformation of the Historic District cottages was in fact imminent, and we are in the midst of seeing it accomplished before our eyes.

As of December 31, five of the original cottage buildings are completely resided in one of three luscious pastel tones: soft green, cobblestone (otherwise known as beige), gray (greige), or woodland crème, which philistines call yellow but those with more discriminating tastes call saffron or butter or gold. The trim for all 26 buildings is arctic white.

The architects, DTW of Durham, have already determined the color of each of the buildings based on a balanced mix of colors and the relationship of each building to its neighbor. The colors have complimentary shutters, burgundy for the yellow, green for the green, and blue for the greige, a decision made, *in situ*, as the architects determined what looked appropriate for each color. Buildings will be sided on a regular schedule: twelve buildings in 2008, the remainder in 2009. Costs are incorporated into the 2007-2009 budgets as a planned metamorphosis, and the re-sidings, for reasons of fairness, will follow

the chronological order of apartment numbers. Nine of the buildings will be crème, nine green and eight cobblestone.

The decision by the Master Planning Committee, a body made up of Board, resident and staff members, to undertake this project, was not merely aesthetic. The existing wood siding required frequent repair as well as periodic painting, a process necessitating, Carol Woods fashion, the daunting development of a periodic consensus. Acceptance of the color in the 1998 repainting took two years!

In the course of being resided, the old siding is removed and the exterior walls wrapped in a vapor barrier for protection, prior to installation of the new siding. The original windows are being replaced with vinyl pre-finished Energy Star units, which are much more energy efficient and easier to open and close. In addition, several of the decorative features will be enhanced with more substantial and appropriate moldings. The revamping will not only lengthen the life of these buildings and improve energy efficiency, it will also lower maintenance costs over time. The pre-finished Hardiplank siding and trim has a 15-year color warranty, a 50-year material warranty, does not require painting and is insect and fire resistant.

After a short period when folks were adjusting to the color change (sometimes negatively) the consensus is extremely positive according to Jim Call, Director of Project Development. “I’ve heard nothing,” says he, “but good comments.” Woodland Crème, the least favorite color in the early going, has now pulled ahead and is lapping the rest.



*New face with shrubbery intact*

MR

## GOOD INTENTIONS 2007

I said I'd write a poem every day –  
 I didn't.  
 I said I'd walk at least a mile –  
 I couldn't.  
 I said I'd swear off drinking gin –  
 Why should I?  
 I'm eighty-four, and I might die –  
 I didn't.  
 I thought I'd write a novelette –  
 I didn't.  
 I thought I'd lose at least ten pounds –  
 I couldn't.

For every day that I'm ok,  
 I celebrate my luck and say  
 When I can still make jokes and grin,  
 I'm happy with the state I'm in.

JB

---

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENT



**Marcia Hellerman** (Apt. 3117) grew up in Washington, DC, studied biochemistry at Radcliffe, and got a Master's degree in anthropology. She describes herself as a "research person" and loves doing projects that increase her knowledge.

She lived in Poughkeepsie for fifty-one years. In addition to raising three children, Marcia had a full life becoming a licensed real estate appraiser, working as a volunteer for various community organizations, and taking art and computer courses. A brother's praise for the area brought her to Chapel Hill. She is exploring and getting acquainted with all it has to offer.

Marcia is active and seeks more art courses. She enjoys bridge, books and knitting. Four grandchildren and their parents are planning visits to check out Carol Woods and her new apartment.

*Peggy Griffenhagen*

## FROM WOOLWORTH'S TO WALMART

Where, oh where have all the dime stores gone? Remember them? Kresge, Grant's, Kress, McCrory's, and on and on? What treasure troves they were!

**Jane Berryman** remembers clutching her dime allowance and heading for the jewelry counter where she salivated over the glittering rings. Even though experience had taught her three days of wearing one would result in a green finger, she was sure each time she'd pick the real McCoy. **Burt Linker** recalls having to be taken to Durham since Chapel Hill boasted no 5&10. His target was Big Little Books, and he confesses to amassing a collection of several hundred. And who among us on the feminine side doesn't remember with great nostalgia feeling oh, so sophisticated when purchasing even the tiniest bottle of Evening in Paris perfume?

Those of us who grew up in small towns could walk alone to one of these fantasy lands. We had special power without an impatient parent hovering over us. We could browse to our heart's content, and as long as we didn't mangle the merchandise no vigilant clerk objected. Of course the clerks in each emporium knew us and our parents well, and we and they both knew there'd be quick communication if we misbehaved.

The dime store was another world for most of us; even the smells were different. A small merry-go-round-like appliance near the cash register kept a ready supply of mouth-watering toasted nuts at hand—for many of us the first taste of cashews. And the candy bars! For only a nickel there were luscious combinations of chocolate and caramel, nougat and nuts exuding that tempting odor only chocolate can give. Even better, no one cared if we spent long minutes weighing the relative merits of one against another.

But no more! These marvelous outlets have disappeared. In their place have arisen the WalMarts and Targets, chock-full of everything from bananas to baby dolls but nary a product going for a dime. No nine- or ten-year-olds would be allowed to spend endless time simply surveying whatever seemed to catch their fancy. Any child would be hurried along with the rest of the family to get the shopping done and be on their way. More's the pity!

LB

## OUR LIBRARY

The mission of the Carol Woods Library is to fulfill the recreational and informational needs of residents and employees. It is well equipped with a computer and a reading machine for residents with low vision. There are documentaries, travel, art, dance, music and films on CDs, audio tapes, and videos. Most of these are gifts from residents, but there is a small budget for the purchase of additional materials.

The collection encompasses almost five thousand hard-cover books. It grows almost daily, necessitating the occasional removal of unread or badly damaged books, which usually go to book dealers, other libraries, or a senior center.

Mysteries and suspense are the most popular fiction selections, biographies the best read in non-fiction. Periodicals are also popular; all donated by residents who sometimes get their early-read national newspapers into the library before many of us are awake. Readers are asked not to remove periodicals or reference books from the library.

You can coach yourself with a *Driver's Handbook* before you take your next driving test. You can read about your neighbor in the *Resident Biographies*, peruse the minutes of the Residents' Meetings or search *Menu and nutritional Analysis* to determine the ingredients and nutritional content of foods served in our dining room. There is a section for books written by Carol Woods residents, a North Carolina collection, a Chapel Hill section, a history collection and a formidable section of large-print books.

Most of the paperbacks are presently kept in Building 5, regretfully no longer overseen by Buddy the bird. Other residential buildings also have selections from the library.

Recent renovations dealt mostly with new carpet and perfectly engineered lighting. Don't be dismayed if the library is dark as you approach. The lights will turn on automatically to welcome you 24 hours a day.

Around 40 volunteer residents work at the library, mostly behind the scenes. A good many are trained librarians, but the really important thing is that they love libraries.

GD

## BOOK CORNER

For those of you out there who continue to doubt the significance and results of an Islamo-Terrorist threat to the West, the memoir, *Infidel*, should give you a reason to listen up. Ayaan Hirsi Ali (the "Ali" was added in a necessary attempt to disguise herself) has made plain the toll on a woman who attempts what we'd regard as a common-place effort at self-assertion in the Islamist universe.

Somali-born, one of three children from the second of three wives of a dissident Somali politician, Hirsi Ali was a typical child, perhaps more thoughtful than most but certainly not a rebel. Like her mother and grandmother, she was circumcised in a painful and terrifying ordeal at five or six. And with the changes in her father's political fortunes she recalls moving from one town, one country to another in the horn of Africa, one of the most volatile regions of the world.

By adulthood, when she is ready, even willing, to undertake an arranged marriage, the fact that her husband is not only a complete stranger but living far away in Canada, gives her the incentive to escape to Holland. This action sets her on the kind of journey any young woman in the West would find liberating. She finishes a PhD; she joins a social network of savvy political neophytes and wins election to Parliament as the beautiful and charismatic champion of the rights of female Somali refugees to Holland. And she makes a film with one of Holland's most respected filmmakers, Theo Van Gogh, about the oppression of women in Muslim culture, an act that results in the brutal murder of Van Gogh on the streets of Amsterdam by an Islamist terrorist, and threats to her own life.

The remainder of the book describes her harrowing life on the run, as Hirsi Ali is hounded from one corner of her world to another, one safe haven to another, surrounded by a phalanx of bodyguards. The latest word on her fate is that, even though she was temporarily given a respite in the U. S. as a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, she has been told by the Dutch she must return to Holland, which foots the bill for her bodyguards. If she is too fearful of the obvious danger there and does not return, the Dutch will withdraw her protection. She is truly, in other words, a woman without a country. Even Salman Rushdie had it better than that!

MR

## DECEMBER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

In keeping with the Holiday spirit, this gathering celebrated generosity and gratitude at Carol Woods. **Lois Frost** reviewed procedures for charitable contributions to the Residents Life Fund. **Jean Joseph** announced the Council's favorable reception of a resident group's dog park proposal. **Lew Woodham** reviewed the impressive array of items recycled by our community, and recognized the faithful volunteer crew which shepherds this on-going process. **Diane Henderson** announced residents contributed \$156,000 to the employee appreciation fund, providing an \$813 gift for each full time employee. **Ann Merzbacher** announced a Christmas Eve Carol Sing-a-Long, and **Sally Rohrdanz** reminded us of the Holiday Party.

Robert Dunham, outgoing Chair of the Carol Woods Board, presented an informative and inspiring annual report, which detailed an impressive list of Board accomplishments and celebrated the maintenance of our traditions and values by the Board, by our administration and staff, and by residents.

Pat Sprigg announced next year's 3% fee increase, which compares favorably with 6% being the national average. Staff turnover continues low compared to national norms. Eighty-five per cent of employees consider this a good place to work and would recommend it to their friends. In the wake of the recent Galloway Ridge tragedy, our policy (which discourages the practice of hiring private duty staff and requires advance registration) is being reviewed and will be redistributed. We have achieved a remarkable 98.8% response to the Resident Feedback Survey, a testament to the community spirit of our remarkable community!

*Ken Reeb, Sr.*

## CONCERTS AND LECTURES

### Lectures:

**January 17** - The South and the White House – Wm. Leuchtenberg

**January 24** - No Lecture – Symphony night

**January 31** - What's it Worth to You (Gems) – Kim Piracci

**February 7** - War on Poverty research – Bob Korstad, James Leloudis

**February 14** - No Lecture – Symphony night

### Concerts:

**January 16** - The Bagg Trio – Viola, Oboe, Piano

**January 23** - Karen Allred – Piano

**January 30** - Richard Clark – "The Doctors' Trio"

**February 6** - Eric Pritchard, Barbara McKenzie – Violin, Piano

**February 13** - No concert

### Art Show:

**February 8** - Jyoti Duwadi – Sculpture, drawings

Reception: February 8

**STAFF:** Nancy Martin, Chair; Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Dorrie Prouty and Mary Reeb. Pat Bartell, proof reader.

**Circulation:** Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Helen Hawley, Beth Jukes, Eva Lynch, Jessie Lutz, Stella Lyons and Lang Prouty.

## CAROL WOODS

P.O. Box 2121

Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1438

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Permit No. 258