

THE BECKETT'S RIDGE *buzz*

Volume 6, Issue 2

www.beckettsridge.com

July 2006

Changes made for safer turns

Several changes have been made to the intersection of Summit Drive and Beckett's Ridge Drive to make it safer.

Last winter, the Granview neighborhood homeowners' association asked the Town of Hillsborough to install a three-way stop at the intersection of Beckett's Ridge Drive and Summit Drive. The Granview neighbors were concerned about visibility for drivers who are turning left from Summit Drive onto Beckett's Ridge Drive. Many residents of Beckett's Ridge opposed the idea of extra stop signs.

In April, the Beckett's Ridge HOA Board met with the Granview HOA Board to discuss the proposal. Assistant Town Manager Demetric Potts, Hillsborough Chief of Police Clarence Birkhead and Hillsborough Police Capt. Davis attended the meeting.

A compromise was reached: The town has relocated the existing stop sign on Summit Drive so that it is closer to the intersection with Beckett's Ridge Drive. The town also repainted the stop stripes on Summit Drive. The Leyland cypress trees near the intersection have been trimmed to help visibility. No extra stop signs will be added.

If those measures do not take care of the problem, the HOA boards will meet again to discuss other options.



Photo by Bill Cloud

The stop sign on Summit Drive has been moved forward and the Leyland cypress trees trimmed back to help drivers turning left onto Beckett's Ridge Drive.

Watch leader fills open seat on HOA board

Susie Oles, of 2312 Beckett's Ridge Drive, is the newest member of Home Owners Association Board of Directors, filling the seat left open by the recent resignation of Jacky Rosati. Oles continues to head the neighborhood Community Watch Program. She has lived in Beckett's Ridge for two and a half years with her husband, Rob, and two children. She helps with the family's kitchen and bath business, which is based in Pinehurst.



Susie Oles

The board thanked Abdul Salehmohammed of 2212 Beckett's Ridge Drive for also expressing interest in the position. He was encouraged to apply for a board opening in the future and to take an active role in the community watch program.

The board also thanks Jacky for her devoted service on the HOA board.

How to garden happily in the company of deer

By Margaret Cloud

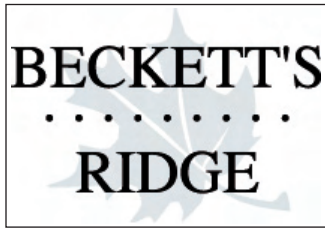
If you are a Beckett's Ridge gardener, you likely have encountered some deer, or at least the damage they leave behind. A couple of weeks ago, several branches were missing from one of our tomato plants -- not broken off in a storm, just

... gone! Another time, deer chewed up my winter pansies overnight. Our backyard is their cafeteria - they munch the day lilies, azaleas and camellias. And some gourmet deer helped themselves to a neighbor's herb plants.

Deer populations are rising in North Carolina at the same time that

neighborhoods such as Beckett's Ridge have pushed into their rural woodland habitats, squeezing their space for browsing for food. They're lovely creatures, and it's easy to understand why they're invading our yards, but let's face it -- they can be real pests. Here are

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Newsletter Publication & Submissions

HOA members may submit brief announcements and articles for the newsletter by the 15th of each publishing month (March, June, September, December). Ads for BR homeowner-owned businesses and services will be included as space allows (business-card size). They must be in a jpeg or pdf format. Send inquiries to brbuzznewsletter@yahoo.com or to Beckett's Ridge Buzz Newsletter c/o Beckett's Ridge HOA, PO Box 97243, Raleigh, NC 27624. The BR Buzz paid advertising policy is available upon request. Costs for the publishing and distribution of the BR Buzz newsletter are funded by HOA dues and ad revenue.

Neighborhood Notes

Beckett's Ridge Web Site: Paul Newton has revitalized our neighborhood web site – take a look! Please use <http://www.beckettsridge.com> as the address; any previous URLs may no longer be valid. Please register on the site so that you can view (and participate in) the forums and see other information and announcements.

Neighborhood Watch: The HOA Board is recruiting block captains for the neighborhood Community Watch program. If you are interested in participating, contact Susie Oles at 732-6969 or Susieoles@olesmgmt.com.

30-Foot No-Disturb Buffer: Residents along the western side of Woodbury Drive have a 30-foot non-disturb buffer included on their property. The BR HOA has recently been made aware that before any structures such as sheds can be built within that buffer, permission must be obtained from the Town of Hillsborough (as well as from the HOA Board). While the Town of Hillsborough has not been policing encroachments into the buffer, it may do so. Please contact the Town of Hillsborough Planning Department if you have any concerns with your property's buffer restrictions. Their phone number is (919) 732-1270.

Tot-lot work: The Woodbury Drive tot lot driveway was paved in May. A 6-foot metal park bench has been ordered and will be installed soon. The Beckett's Ridge HOA Board is seeking prices on rubber mulch or a similar surface for the Woodbury tot lot.



Wow! George Eberle and his daughter, Jessica, show off George's giant sunflowers, the tallest of which reached 11 feet, 9 inches, at their home on Woodbury Drive. Have a neighborhood photo to share? Send it to brbuzznewsletter@yahoo.com.

Welcome, new neighbors!

Jackie Pendergraft, 2113 Baycourt Tr.
William & Laura Melega, 2204 Woodbury Dr.
Terrance & Natalie Gallagher, 1011 Scotsburg Tr.
Prashanth Jade, 2107 Beckett's Ridge Dr.
Jimmy & Kimberly Baughman, 2206 Oakhurst
Richard & Sharleen Hathaway, 2520 Summit Dr.
Todd & Keri Boyette, 902 Chandler Ct.



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Starting in Aug. 2006, we are offering a fun and inspiring after school art program for students in grades K-5. Children may attend 2, 3, or 5-days per week from 2:30-5:30 p.m. At 500 Millstone Dr., we are conveniently located off Beckett's Ridge Dr. Space is limited, so contact us now for an application!

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How to garden happily in the company of deer

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some tips to help you live with deer. (The suggestions came from a leaflet from Niche Gardens nursery (Chapel Hill) and from an information sheet by W. Royce Hardin, agricultural extension agent for Orange County. Many nurseries have free handouts about deer and other plant topics.)

Deer damage plants in two ways – by feeding on them (usually at night) and by rubbing against them (male deer rub their antlers against trees and shrubs from late summer through early winter). Here are ways to discourage them:

- Use deer repellent sprays – these are usually plant-based, using strong scents or oils that deer don't like. I have used Deer Off (buy at Home Depot, Lowe's, nurseries, hardware stores, or www.havahart.com) and I Must Garden Deer Repellent (it is sold at Bailey's Inside-Out nursery on Old 86 near I-40, or order it from www.imustgarden.com.)

- Hang perfume-y bars of soap in trees or shrubs.
- Organic fertilizers such as horse manure sometimes keep deer away.
- Fences, of course, but the fence needs to be at least 6 feet tall.
- Some plants repel deer – they hate ornamental grasses, for example, and plants with a strong odor or thorns. If these are used around the perimeter of the yard, they might help.

When adding new plants to your yard, concentrate on those that deer (allegedly!) don't like. Some examples:

Trees and shrubs: American Holly, Birch, Butterfly bush, Boxwood, Chinese Holly, Forsythia, Honey locust, Japanese pieris (pieris japonica), Juniper, Ligustrum (Privet), Lilac, Mahonia, Nandina, Norway spruce, Pyracantha (Firethorn),



Photo by Bill Cloud

Deer check out shrubs on the edge of a yard on Baycourt Trail.

Pittosporum, Viburnum, Yucca

Perennials: Artemesia, Baptisia, Bee Balm, Columbine, Coneflower (Echinacea), Coreopsis, Dianthus, Ferns, Feverfew, Hellebores, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, Mint, Narcissus (Daffodils), Ornamental Grasses, Periwinkle, Rosemary, Russian Sage, Salvia, Sweet Woodruff, Yarrow

Annuals: Ageratum, Alyssum, Celosia, Cleome, Coleus, Cosmos, Digitalis, Heliotrope, Larkspur, Marigold, Nasturtium, Petunia, Salvia (annual), Verbena, Zinnia.

Good source of plant information: N.C. State's horticulture web site:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer>

Hillsborough makes improvements to culvert

The Town of Hillsborough has repaired the storm water culvert on Beckett's Ridge Drive near Scotsburg Trail. The rock supporting the culvert was falling away and there was erosion near the sidewalk at that culvert. The town workers removed the rip-rap around the culvert and replaced it with concrete. They also put concrete underneath the sidewalk to reinforce it due to the previous erosion problem.

At this time, the Town has no specific standards in place that requires rip-rap or any other material to line a drainage ditch or storm water culvert. The town's only concern is preventing erosion and maintaining the flow of storm water. With that in mind, homeowners are welcome to submit architectural requests to the HOA Board if they wish to make cosmetic improvements (removing or adding rock, removing or adding planting) to the drainage ditches in the front or sides of their homes. Structural improvements to the ditches or culverts would have to be approved by the Town.

Please keep your ditches and culverts free of leaves, mud and debris so that water can pass through .



Photo by Bill Cloud

Rocks, which kept falling away, have been removed from around a culvert on Beckett's Ridge Drive and replaced with concrete.

Town Notes

Farmer's Market: On Saturday mornings, be sure to go to the Hillsborough Farmer's Market for fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, plants and other items. 7:30 a.m.-noon each Saturday, April-October, in the parking lot of the SunTrust Bank at 128 N. Churton Street (at E. King St.)

Rabies shots: North Carolina law requires that cats and dogs be vaccinated for rabies. Rabies is active in wild animals in our area. Here are some upcoming low-cost rabies vaccination clinics (a shot costs \$5 in cash). Dogs must be on a leash; cats must be in carriers.

Aug. 14-19: Hillsborough Veterinary Clinic (732-9969) 8-10 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday and 8-11 a.m. on Saturday.

Sept. 7: 6-7 p.m., Hillsborough courthouse parking lot.

Sept. 9: 9-11 a.m. at the Orange County Animal Shelter, Martin Luther King Blvd. (Airport Road), Chapel Hill.

Daniel Boone Village: American Asset Corp., which developed Brier Creek Commons in Raleigh, has a contract to buy Daniel Boone Village, the shopping area on Churton Street near I-85, as well as 153 acres which extends east of Daniel Boone Village all the way to Hwy 86. The developer plans to build housing, office and retail space on the property. Boone Square (just north of Daniel Boone Village), where Food Lion is located, is not part of the sale.



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