



WOODS WATCH

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The Coventry Woods Neighborhood Association

Winter 2024-2025



A new, wide sidewalk at Cedarwood Park has replaced the gravel trail that looped around the playground.

Changes underway at Cedarwood Park

Main goal of Park and Rec project: Make it easier for more people to use

Does 6624 Reddman Road ring a bell? Probably not -- unless you just moved into Coventry Woods and rely on a cellphone to google your way around the neighborhood.

It's the formal address of Cedarwood Park, which has been a laid-back destination for strollers, wagon-pullers and joggers for several generations.

The 8.6-acre site holds a woods and pond for nature browsers, a grassy field for kicking balls and launching kites, a playground with equipment for kids plus several benches for anyone who just wants to relax in an urban mini-oasis.

It's the go-to place for public events, especially the CWNA's annual Trick or Treat event held just before Halloween.

And many in Coventry Woods have been noticing county work crews there in recent months. Bill Cooper of the CWNA Board of Directors has been our point person dealing with Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department about this.

The site, county property since Sept. 29, 1997, is neither growing nor shrinking, nor connecting to a larger greenway. But changes are already underway.

A portion of the county budget goes to maintaining its parks, nature preserves and greenways. Funding for parks is tied to their designation: "regional" or "local." Cedarwood is in the "local" category: It primarily serves the needs of people living within walking distance. Changes tend to be small. The most recent tweak of note was the installation of new playground equipment several years ago.

Park changes that began in 2024 and continue in 2025 focus on accessibility.

What about accessibility?

Public access to the park is from Reddman Road as well as the northern stub of Stonecrest Drive. There has always been a path made of rough gravel between Reddman and Stonecrest that loops between the playground and the woods. It has already been replaced with a paved concrete

See PARK / Page 2

PARK / From Page 1

sidewalk following the original path; the result is a widened and attractive walkway. Also paved: A short spur that connects the new walkway to the playground. The sides of the walkway have been graded; rolls of sod were laid along those sides just after Christmas.

Getting between Stonecrest and Reddman and accessing the playground is now easier – a benefit for mobility-impaired visitors as well as those pushing baby/infant strollers or pulling wagons.

On Reddman, the sidewalk extends to the curb; at Stonecrest, the paved walkway goes to the park’s boundary line. Also: a short sidewalk spur directly links to the playground. (Translation: less mud and muck for on shoes.)

What about the playground?

No changes in the current plans relating playground equipment. But a new water fountain, operating spring through fall, has been installed along the walkway’s playground spur. It includes an ankle-high spigot – great if the pet you’re walking gets thirsty, or if you want to rinse mud off the bottoms of your shoes.

Park benches already in place are being repaired or replaced. Work should be completed within a couple months. Similar work on picnic tables should be finished this summer.

The enormous and very old oak near the playground? It is not in great health. A few years ago, a support truss was added to help prop a long and low branch; the tree is not getting any younger. The CWNA’s Bill Cooper was told that county arborists are trying to determine if the oak can be saved.

What about the woods and the boardwalk?

Driving up Reddman to the park, you immediately notice changes when you look at the woods: The massive curtain of untended bushes on its edge has been removed. The grassy, open area has increased. Behind that, dead trees and underbrush have been removed, and

saplings have been thinned. The grass field is a bit wider, and the appearance of the woods from Reddman is more open, attractive and park-like.

The main access to the woods is still across from the playground. But the loop path through the woods has been regraded, widened, and surfaced with crushed gravel. It is easier to walk for all.

What about the boardwalk?

One big change: The boardwalk along the path leading to the pond has been completely removed.

The boardwalk had been repaired in various places over the years. Parks and Rec decided to remove it entirely.

One reason was public access: The close-up incline connecting to the boardwalk was too steep to accommodate strollers, wheelchairs and wagons.

Another reason was liability: The treated-wood railings, flooring and supports require periodic replacement. An accident at any time could put the county at legal risk.

According to Park and Rec, the boardwalk was also too narrow to vehicles used by its work crews.

A boardwalk is still in place at Sheffield Park, on the other side of Albemarle Road and near Winterfield Elementary.

At Cedarwood Park, you can no longer look straight down from a boardwalk to view the pond... but from the renovated loop path, a gently graded spur leads straight to the pond’s edge.

What about the pond?

The pond is fed by rainwater from above and by groundwater draining from higher ground in the park and other nearby land on higher elevation. Under the gravel path replacing the boardwalk, a culvert channels water into the pond.

The pond itself was not directly impacted by boardwalk removal and path replacement.

The project supervisor told Cooper the county environmentalists would be asked to assess the quality of pond water for the park’s wildlife.

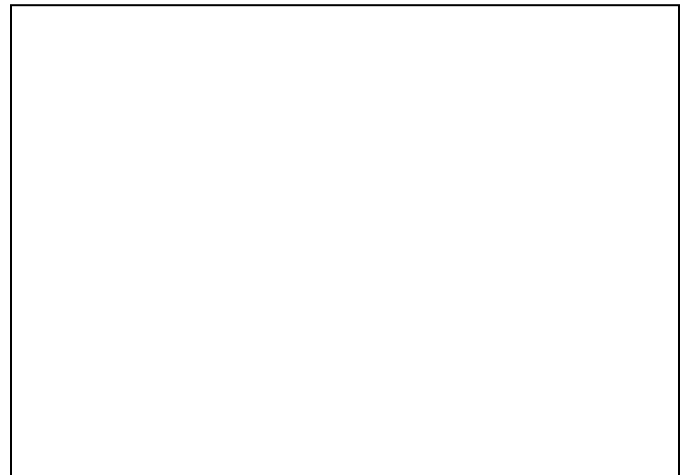
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Yards of the Month



October 2024 / Halloween

Tonya and Daniel Edwards, 6429 Farmingdale Drive.



November 2024

Santi Rai, 5258 Glenbrier Drive.



December 2024 / Yard of the Season

Letti Hernandez and Rogelio Montes, 4801 Kipling Drive.

Mark Your Calendar

- Jan. 6 – CMS resumes classes for spring semester.
- Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King Birthday (Federal, state and local holiday; no garbage/trash pickup in Coventry Woods)
- Jan. 20 – Presidential inauguration day
- Jan. 20 – CMS holiday (no classes held)
- Jan. 25 – Full moon (“Wolf Moon”)
- Jan. 29 – Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake)
- Jan. 24 – CMS teacher workday (no classes held)
- Feb. 1-28 – Black History Month
- Feb. 9 – Super Bowl
- Feb. 17 – President’s Day (federal and state holiday)
- Feb. 17 – CMS teacher workday (no classes held)
- Feb. 24 – Full moon (“Snow Moon”)
- Feb. 26 – CMS early release day
- March 1 – Tentative start of Ramadan (Islamic holiday)
- March 3 – Oscar awards
- March 4 -- Mardi Gras
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday (Christian holiday)
- March 8 – International Women’s Day
- March 9 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 14 – Purim (Jewish holiday)
- March 14 – Holi (Hindu holiday)
- March 14 – Pi Day (3.14...)
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- March 25 – Full moon (“Worm Moon”)
- March 29 – Charlotte Knights home opener
- March 31 – CMS teacher workday (no classes held)
- April 1 – April Fool’s Day
- April 2 – CMS early release day
- April 14-21 -- CMS spring break (no classes held)
- April 15 – Tax day (deadline for individual returns)
- April 18 – Good Friday (state holiday)
- April 20 – Easter
- April 23 – Full moon (“Pink Moon”)
- April 27 – Earth Day

Real Estate Transactions For Sale

3706 Calico Court. Asking \$450,000
5020 Coronado Drive. Asking \$399,999

Under Contract

4800 Beechknoll Court. \$440,000

Page-turning adventure for neighborhood family

Their new business: East Charlotte bookstore

Thanks to Coventry Woods residents Scott and Robin Tynes-Miller, you no longer have to drive to a different side part of Charlotte to buy new bestsellers and other books you've been hearing about.

Troubadour Booksellers – motto: “A community-centered bookstore in East Charlotte” – is at 1721-7C Sardis Road North. That's at Monroe Road in the shopping center that also holds New Zealand Café, Chex Grill and a Harris Teeter.

The bookstore opened in October 2024 and is one of only a small handful of new-book retailers in metro Charlotte. Troubadour is the first in East Charlotte since Newsstand International (on Independence Boulevard) and The Intimate Bookstore (Eastland Mall) closed many years ago. The Tynes-Millers moved to 1318 Cedarwood Lane in 2017 from the University City area. “We both had previously lived in East Charlotte and wanted to return,” Scott says. “We went to a party held by a friend in Coventry Woods and really liked the neighborhood. We were shopping for a home, so we scoped out the neighborhood and had our agent check it out.”

They live with daughter Nora, 3, plus a dog and three cats. And with books. How many books, Scott?

“Never as many as I'd like. But I've trimmed the total to maybe 500.

“Having a bookstore had always been kind of a pipe dream for me. During the pandemic, I thought about that a lot more. Robin and I talked about it more, and with friends and family. We did a business plan, research, and after several years we went for it.”

Troubadour holds about 6,000 individual books – around 5,500 titles. “We are a general-interest new bookstore: a little bit of everything,” Scott says.

“Our specialty is critically acclaimed adult fiction and children's books. We have most all major genres accounted for.”

Troubadour stocks puzzles, games, greeting cards, calendars, socks and gifts. Among the items: earrings by Modern Goldfish, run by Kenna



Scott Tynes-Miller

Covington, who lives on Amity Place in Coventry Woods.

The compact store is well-lit and has a children's area. There's comfortable furniture near the entrance. (“We want to be welcoming. It's there for people to meet and gather.”). Coffee made there is from beans by Enderly, a Charlotte-based roaster. Troubadour hosts book clubs and holds author signings and readings. A recent event was a signing/Q&A with authors published by Cowboy Jamboree, based in Rock Hill.

Scott says he's essentially the full-time store manager. Robin's full-time job is artistic and operations manager of Three Bone Theatre, a Charlotte-based independent acting company established in 2012. The troupe was recently named 2024 Professional Theatre of the Year by the NC Theatre Conference. Three Bone is currently working on “Mary Jane, a drama that will be staged Feb. 7-23 at The Arts Factory, 1545 W. Trade St.

Store hours: 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sundays; closed Mondays. Details: 704-443-7076; www.troubadourbooksellers.com.

Meanwhile...

In Coventry Woods, “Little Library” boxes are in front of 5341 Coronado Drive and 5249 Glenbrier Drive. Donate a book and/or take a book from the boxes' shelves – free of charge!

