

# Neighborhood Development Services **NEWS & NOTES**



City of Charlottesville • Building Inspections  
Engineering • Planning • Zoning

A Quarterly Review  
April 2012  
Volume 111, Issue 2

## *Message from the Director*

It's the start of April, a few days into the formal spring season, and we've already had weeks of summer-like weather! We've noticed neighbors cutting grass and a lot of gardening activity underway. As we continue with building new sidewalks, make sure you keep the adjacent greenery trimmed for pedestrians. This means clearing a minimum 7' vertical height for tree branches. Bushes, ivy, and other plantings must be cut back from the edge of all public walkways. If you notice a location that needs attention, knock on your neighbor's door and share this information. You can also contact our inspection staff.

Enjoy the weather!

*Jim*

James E. Tolbert, AICP

## ***In this newsletter:***

Planning Commission News	2
Board of Architectural Review News	2
Comprehensive Planning	3
Building News	3
New Sidewalks	4
Property Maintenance	4

*NDS Mission:*  
To sustain a high quality of life for the Charlottesville community through progressive customer service, planning, engineering and code enforcement.

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**Neighborhood Development Services**  
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**Find us on the web at**  
**<http://www.charlottesville.org/NDS>**

# Planning Commission Update and Upcoming Sessions

## **Planning Commission**

*Meets on the second  
Tuesday of each month*

### **Items from Tuesday April 10, 2012**

4:30 PM -- Planning Commission Agenda Review  
5:30 PM -- Planning Commission Regular Meeting Items:  
Street Closing for Laurel Street, Special Permit for 221 I Hydraulic Road, 850 Estes Street Subdivision, Preliminary Discussion Lochlyn PUD

### **Upcoming Planning Commission Work Sessions**

April 24th, May 22nd, June 26th

**Future Planning Commission Agenda items**  
Special Permit for 1719 Hydraulic Road and Rezoning for Lochlyn PUD

**The Charlottesville Planning Commission presented the annual planning awards. Announcement of award recipients is noted later in this publication.**

The Comprehensive Plan Review outreach process is underway. A community meeting on Historic Preservation will occur on March 29, 2012. The City and County Planning Commission will meet on April 17th to review comment received and discuss community goals.

## Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Recent News

### **January-March Approvals:**

- Walkway, signage, side porch - Westminster Church 400-480 Rugby Rd
- Corten awnings- 201 E. Main St
- Addition to Theta Chi - 600 Preston Place
- Front yard renovations & rear studio - 5 Gildersleeve Wood
- First & Main Streets Medallion located in intersection
- Balkan Bistro awning - 1003 W Main St
- New apt building approved in concept - 1306-1308 Wertland St
- New boarding house - 1250 Wertland St
- Re-approve canopy, roof fence, stair tower - 124 W Market St
- New HC ramp - Co. Courthouse - 410 E High St
- Replace 3 basement windows - 433 N 1st St
- Snooky's façade renovations - 102 E Main St
- Second floor loft addition - 505 W. Main St.
- Replace five 2nd story windows - 222 E Main St
- Extend longer driveway - 29 University Circle
- Add PV solar panels - 230 W Main St
- Revisions to approved design - 600 Preston Place

### **Denied:**

- Extend shorter driveway - 29 University Circle
- Material of screen walls and window change - 600 Preston Pl

## **BAR**

*Meets on the third Tuesday of each month  
Starting at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers  
For more BAR information, please go to  
<http://www.charlottesville.org> then click on Dept. of  
NDS/Historic Preservation & Design Planning/ BAR*

### **Deferred:**

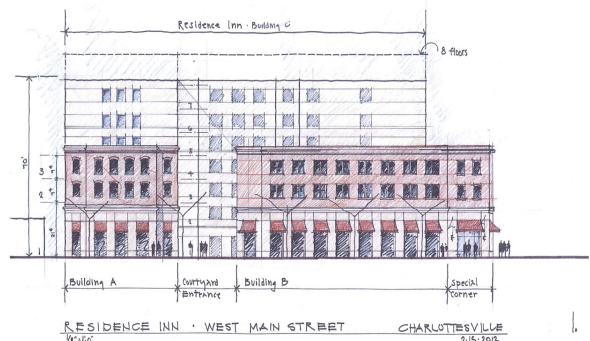
- Addition to Sigma Chi - 608 Preston Place
- Retaining wall, HC ramp, site changes - 601 Park St
- Addition to Commerce St elevation - 505 W Main St
- New HC ramp at First Baptist Church - 632 W Main St
- Replace garage & rear porch; master landscape plan - 705 Park
- New roof top appurtenances - 218 W Water St

### **Preliminary Discussions:**

- New hotel with structured parking - 315 W Main St

### **Other Actions:**

- Will ask City Council and Martha Jefferson neighborhood to consider an ADC district there
- Held a work session to discuss guidelines for long-term tents and for public landscapes



New Hotel with Structured Parking - 315 W Main Street

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# 2012 Planning Awards

And the winners are...

## **NDS Staff Member of the Year**

*Missy Creasy*

## **The Herman Key, Jr., Access to the Disabled Award**

*Building Goodness Foundation*

## **The Eldon Fields Wood Design Professional of the Year**

*Fred Wolf*

## **Neighborhood of the Year**

*Venable*

## **Outstanding Neighborhood Effort**

*Woolen Mills Neighborhood Association*

## **Outstanding Plan of Development**

*Burnet Commons II: "The Woods"*

## **Citizen Planner of the Year**

*Neil Williamson*

## **Outstanding Sustainable Development**

*Latitude 38*

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## City to Offer Free Deck and Pool Inspections in May

America will celebrate Building Safety Month during May. The City of Charlottesville Neighborhood Development Services Building Inspectors are participating performing free safety inspections. This will be the third year we have offered this service. We inspected approximately **80 wood decks** through this program and this year we will add **swimming pools** and **hot tubs**. Crane failures a few years ago, apartment floors collapsing and night club overcrowding disasters brought to light the importance of building safety. Residential deck failures and pool and hot tub drownings are publicized each summer. Pool accidents are the second leading cause of accidental death in children under five.



**We will take requests for courtesy wood deck, pool and hot tub inspections from May 1 through 7. Please request this inspection at 434-970-3182.** An inspector will respond between May 8-31. We will arrive between 8 AM and 4 PM and let you know we are there. We are not able to give an exact time because we are also performing the normally scheduled inspections requested each day. The intent is to offer this public service so you will have an idea where voluntary maintenance, change or repair would benefit. We are happy to discuss other building code concerns if you are present and will supply you with a written report for your records. There is no cost or obligation to you.

Building and fire inspectors, plan reviewers, and others in the City of Charlottesville work to ensure the safety of the structures in which all of us live, work, attend school, worship and play. To request this service, call Neighborhood Development Services at 434-970-3182.



## New Sidewalks Constructed Along Montrose Avenue and Forest Ridge Road

Construction of new sidewalks continues throughout the city. Sidewalks are complete along Montrose Avenue (photo at left) and work is now underway along Forest Ridge Road between Forest Hills Road and Rock Creek Road (photos middle and right).

New sidewalk will begin construction this summer funded by Safe Routes to School grants in the Buford and Burnley Moran School areas.



## A Walkable City

City code 5-149 states that *it shall be unlawful for the owner of any parcel of real estate to allow thereon any hedge, shrub, tree or other vegetation, the limbs, branches or other parts of which overhang, extend or protrude into any street, sidewalk or public alley in a manner which obstructs or impedes the safe and orderly movement of persons or vehicles thereon.*

Please make sure that all greenery is trimmed clear of the streets and sidewalks that front your property. A minimum 7' vertical clearance is required along sidewalks to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians.





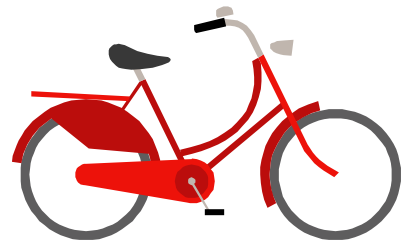
May...it's...

National Bike Month

Bike to Work Week (May 14-18)

Bike to Work Day (May 18)

Phew!...too tired to ride!



May is National Bike Month and the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator has been working with the Bike Safety Committee on a campaign to promote safe cycling in the City. Keep your eyes open for the "You Know Me...I Ride a Bike" safety campaign that will hit the streets in May. Also, mark your calendars for Bike to Work Week (**May 14-18**) and Bike to Work Day (**Friday, May 18**).

Work is also underway with the TJPDC to develop and promote a new mapping tool (Cville Bike mApp) that will assist the region in understanding bicycle travel patterns in an effort to prioritize funding for bike improvements. If you own a bike and either an iPhone or Android, you could play a big part in a program that will help the region know what parts of the cycling network needs improvement. The app will be available for download on April 14.

Other bike/pedestrian projects in the works include:

- ⇒ working with the Safety Committee to develop a 2 year priority list of bicycle improvements and create an education plan
- ⇒ renewing our Bicycle Friendly Communities status
- ⇒ applying for various grants
- ⇒ getting bike racks installed at businesses

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## Welcome to Amanda Poncy!

Amanda Poncy is the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and comes to the City from the local planning firm, Renaissance Planning Group, where she served as an urban planner/project coordinator for the last 5 years. She has a Master's Degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. Welcome!

