



www.firewise.org

January, 2012

Dear Deercroft Homeowners and Property Owners

The Deercroft Firewise Committee, formed in 2007 to help protect our community from the risks of wildfire, is now into its 5th year of promoting fire safety awareness and reducing wildfire danger. The result of this effort, as well as that of all Deercroft Homeowners and property owners is that Deercroft is now safer from and better able to deal with the threat of wildfire, and continues to be nationally recognized as a Firewise Community. With the spring fire season starting in February, we would like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on fire prevention and fire safety awareness.

After a long summer and fall of working with the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, we have finally been awarded a Federal grant to fund our 2011-2012 projects, which include:

1. Two chipper days (spring and fall) to help with the disposal of slash from your property
2. Dam maintenance program (spring 2012)
3. Firebreak maintenance program (spring 2012)
4. Emergency exit creation and maintenance
5. Emergency phone network maintenance
6. Firewise Awareness Day (July 4th)
7. Childrens Firewise Awareness Day (Smokey Birthday Party - September)
8. Firewise Honorees - quarterly recognition of property/homeowners who exemplify "Firewise" property maintenance and activities. Recent Honorees include the Kniffins, Crosses, Lannoms, and Nagels.

The Springhill-Friendship Volunteer Fire Department, in conjunction with the NC Forestry Service, provides the first line fire defense for the community. Throughout the year, members of the Fire Department and NC Forestry Service participate in Deercroft Community activities such as the July 4th and Smokey birthday celebrations, maintaining the fire hydrants and lake standpipes, burning the dam and maintaining the perimeter fire break. But it is through the participation and actions of residents and property owners that the Firewise Committee's goal to reduce the chances and severity of a fire within the community will be achieved.

First and foremost, it is best to **not burn anything outside on your property. If you do burn outside, be aware that you must be in compliance with NC and Deercroft HOA**

requirements. Detailed information is available from Firewise Committee members or the County Forest Ranger at 276-0455.

Second, it is important to remove the ground fuel from your property, both home sites and undeveloped lots, that will increase the fire ignition and support potential. Ground fuel includes low growing vegetation, brush, leaves, pine straw and pine cones, tall dry grass, fallen tree limbs and low hanging branches. This effort is provided for in the Rules and Regulations of the Deercroft Community in Chapter 3, General Activities, Paragraph 2. The collected debris may be deposited at the Scotland County Recycle Center on Palmer Road, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 7AM to 6PM. **Do not place this debris on empty lots as it will only increase the fire danger.**

For your convenience, the Firewise committee and community volunteers will be holding “chipper days” (spring and fall) to help you dispose of slash (tree limbs, brush and branches up to 6 inches in diameter) that you have cleaned from your property and placed curbside. The spring chipper days are scheduled for March 15 & 16. Slash may be placed on the roadside starting March 1. **Please note** that leaves, pine straw, pinecones and other non-chippable debris **will not** be picked up during chipper days.

Finally, as the new year starts, be sure to check your home smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers, and make sure all electrical and propane appliances and devices are in good repair and operating properly. Make sure the HOA office has your correct telephone number for the emergency phone network.

Dates, timing and other details of all Firewise activities as well as other Deercroft Community Firewise information will be available at the Community Information Board and www.deercroft homeowners.com, the HOA office or from any Firewise Committee member. You can also request to be put on the community e-mail distribution list at dha@windstream.net for updates on community happenings and events. Additional information can be found at the national Firewise web site www.firewise.org.

Thank you for your community support.

Jerry Gaskill, Chair
The Deercroft Firewise Committee

Barbara Burke, President
Deercroft Homeowners Association