



THE CURRENT

Curbing Our Leaves



The Town collects loose leaves October through mid-February. It may take 4-6 weeks to complete one collection cycle depending on volume and weather. Residents are reminded to rake leaves **to the curb (not into the curb or ditches) during the week of collection** to avoid long-sitting piles from killing lawns or blocking streets, drainage and sidewalks. **Bicyclists and drivers risk accidents and injury because of leaves blocking traffic lanes. Leaves washed into storm drains can lead to clogging and flooding, and add excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) to our waterways.** Daily and weekly loose leaf collection schedules are posted [here](#).

Residents may also bag their leaves in 30-gallon brown paper yard waste bags, or fill yard waste carts, and set them at the curb for **regular weekly yard waste collections** (Thursday for those with Monday trash collection and Friday for those with Tuesday trash collection). Call **Public Works at 919-969-5100** about purchasing carts.

The most environmental option is to **compost** your leaves. If you want more, you may request a truckload of leaves (equivalent to two large dumpster loads) to be delivered to you. The leaves will provide needed carbon sources for your compost pile to rot beautifully with little to no odor! Call **Public Works at 919-969-5100**.

QUICK TOPICS

Alerts



Used cooking oil may be filtered for reuse or recycled through Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste collection program on Eubanks Road.

Do not pour fats and oils down indoor drains or into storm drains. Doing so can lead to costly sewer backups, sewage spills and pollution in creeks.



Stormwater Fee Billing Changes

Stormwater fees for 2013 are due by January 6, 2014. The billing structure has changed. Property owners now pay \$24 for units of 1,000 square feet of impervious surface. This may reduce or increase your fees slightly.



DEC. 18th EVENT on Page 2: View new flood insurance maps; talk with experts about risks.

Town of Chapel Hill Engineering Division
Stormwater Management 919-969-RAIN
www.townofchapelhill.org/stormwater

Where Should We Place Loose Leaves for Collection?





The Town's Water Quality Specialist Dave Almond tests water upstream from volunteers' monitoring report.

KUDOS to new Stream Team volunteer monitors, Pete and Julie Gaskell, and a bark-out to their dog, Frisco. As they tested their adopted segment of Bolin Creek, their electrical conductivity meter reading spiked to high levels. With their report, we were able to define which stream branch had high readings. We tracked pool water and re-surfacing waste discharged into the creek upstream. The pool owners and their contractor stopped the dis-

charge and were requested to submit records of their work to the Town. They will also need to re-plumb pool drains to prevent direct discharge to the creek in the future.

Volunteers with the Stream Team are trained citizen scientists who adopt sections of creeks in Chapel Hill. They conduct visual monitoring at least quarterly, assess changes in the creek, and advocate for the health and restoration of waterways.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Town's Stream Team, contact Wendy Smith, Stormwater Community Outreach Coordinator at 919-969-7246. New trainings will be held in February 2014.

Report Pollution!
Hotline: 919-969-RAIN or 911



Determine Your Level of Flood Risk

Open House for Orange County Residents and Businesses
Wednesday, December 18th
Chapel Hill Public Library
4:00-7:00pm

[More Information](#)



**Volunteers Make a Difference-
Record number participate in 2013 Big Sweep**



The Globe family - Dan, Gerry, John, Madeline and Sam- worked two afternoons to clear nearly a ton of tires, glass, metal and other trash from a neglected tributary of Morgan Creek.

GREAT JOB!



Cub Scout Pack 39 and students from Carrboro High School fanned out along Bolin Creek between Elizabeth Street and the Chapel Hill Community Center during the 2013 NC Big Sweep. The group's 59 volunteers collected an estimated 1,100 pounds of trash in two hours.
THANK YOU!

The 2013 NC Big Sweep litter cleanup, coordinated by Chapel Hill Stormwater Management, was celebrated by 378 volunteers in Chapel Hill and Carrboro who collected an estimated 3.4 tons of trash from in and along streams.

Many thanks go to Cub Scout Packs 39, 825, 821, 845 & 880; Hidden Hills Neighborhood Park Association; Carrboro High School Environmental Science students; third graders at Estes Hills Elementary School; Boy Scout Troops 845, 835, 39 and Venture Crew 39; Morgan Creek Valley Alliance; the Globe family; Carrboro Recreation & Parks; UNC's Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity & Carolina Covenant Gives Back service ambassadors; and Culbreth Middle School's Environmental Club.

This event is held each year in September and October.