

**North Fort Homeowners Association, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 674  
Clayton, NC 27528**

**JUNE 21, 2024**

We are writing to all the lot owners on Buffalo Road because the flowering trees along that line are rapidly reaching the end of their normal lifespan and the State is sponsoring a program which might help with removal and appropriate replacement.

When those trees were planted twenty plus years ago - directly under the power lines in a remarkable absence of foresight – there was something of a fad for street planting of what is popularly known as the Bradford Pear. You may also see it referred to as a Callery Pear (Bradford is a subspecies).

All reputable nursery and horticulture sources strongly discourage its use now and urgently advise the removal of those that have been planted. This is in part because they cross-pollinate with native species. The result is invasive and crowds out the native trees.

The Callery or Bradford Pear is also short-lived and weakly branched, making it subject to splitting in heavy snows or wind storms. They are also subject to fire blight and many people find the odor of the blooms highly objectionable.

More crucially, most forestry and horticulture sites estimate the normal life span at 20-25 years. As a result, simply ignoring the problems these trees cause will shortly cease to be an option. That is why the HOA is writing to make owners aware of the replacement program sponsored by the state Forest Service.

The link to the main page for the program is at the bottom of this letter. It will take some time and effort to absorb all the relevant information.

Please note in particular that several tree removal services in our area are listed as offering a substantial discount on removal costs. **Only the lot owner can register and qualify for this program.** The HOA is not able to do it for you.

We strongly urge all individuals with these trees on their property to review this information carefully and avail themselves of this assistance from the state in addressing the problem.

Your HOA

<https://www.treebountync.com/the-program.html>

**P.O. Box 674  
Clayton, NC 27528**

**Phone 919-333-3567**

[BruceAllen@Signaturemgt.com](mailto:BruceAllen@Signaturemgt.com)