



MR. ART WOOD

AND HOW HE GOT HIS NAME *By Regina Clay*

Several years back, the power was out for about six hours due to a car accident that toppled the power pole at the corner of Mecklenburg Avenue and Country Club Lane. I never did learn how serious the accident was, but the pole had to be replaced.

The remains of the old broken power pole continued to be an eyesore for years... until 2013 when Cress Barnes and her sons decorated it for Yard Art Day, Deborah Triplett's brainchild and grassroots arts exhibition that takes place every Labor Day.

Afterwards, the pole was decorated by anonymous others, and then it remained undecorated for about six months. My husband Lee and I missed them greatly, so we decided to revive its decorations. We didn't have much to use, so we ended up making hats and bow ties. Happily this sparked interest by others in decorating it again.

On Facebook, Deborah called for submissions for giving it a name. And that's how Mr. Art Wood got its name. Then back in 2016, the pole was tagged for removal. Deborah and I thought the "neighborhood icon" needed to be kept. So I contacted Duke Energy and got a reprieve—"no plans to remove it at this time."

Its features had become faded with time and it developed two serious cracks so Lee and I glued it together and refurbished it. Cress Barnes generously repainted the facial features with her special touch. So it is back!! Please feel free to join in on its decoration or contribute items to the cause.

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