

The Providence Plantation Home Owners Newsletter

First Quarter 2009



Dear Providence Plantation Homeowner:

You are receiving this e-newsletter because you are on our newsletter and e-mail list or you have recently updated your contact information through our Directory/Membership outreach.

If you do not wish to receive this communication, please, use our un-subscribe function at the bottom of this e-mail. This is your newsletter, your neighborhood and your Homeowners Association so your feedback is always welcome!

**YOUr Neighborhood Begins With
YOU! Community IS Communication: One
cannot exist without the other.**

March 2009

Visit us at www.providenceplantation.org

From the President



As we close out the first quarter of 2009, I'm guessing that a lot of us do so with a sigh of relief and perhaps, some apprehension of what is still to come. If so, I share your sentiments. Nevertheless, I'm thankful to live in Charlotte, where - at least in this district - my kids have the opportunity to attend top-notch schools, as well as being secure in the knowledge that Providence Plantation still ranks as one of the safest neighborhoods in Mecklenburg County. Indeed, and as a general statement, I think we all have a lot to be thankful for, no matter what the economic climate may be. Knock-on-wood.

As part of my job here on the PPHA Board, I also get to deliver the general message of the board to the neighborhood; at least four times annually. Typically, this involves some sort of plea for funds, but I think I will skip that exercise this time. What I will do is report that we have (give or take a handful of stragglers) just 661 homeowners who have paid dues for this calendar year. This entails just 45 percent of our total homes and reflects a drop of about 19 percent, dating back to our 2007 numbers.

Our high water mark occurred in 2007. Then, I was enormously happy to have more than 800 homeowners pay their dues. As a board, we also knew that current events would factor into the budget for 2009. And, so it has.

I promised that I wouldn't ask for money this quarter and I won't. But as President, it is also my responsibility to let you know what this will mean. First of all, the budget for landscaping (five entrances - flowers, mowing, lighting, irrigation, facades - you name it) and security services (CMPD off-duty patrols in marked vehicles) might have to be curtailed in the future. I take no pleasure in reporting these facts to you. The sweat equity invested by this board on your behalf - whether or not you choose to pay dues - and consisting of just 14 individuals, will continue.

We also continue to find ways to save money in order to ensure that homeowner's dues are used in the most efficient way possible. We have and will continue to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the

membership. In the face of declining membership contributions, however, we may be forced to also seek new avenues to fund the business of the neighborhood.

It has been suggested and we are actively discussing the introduction of advertising in our newsletters. We welcome your input (YES, NO, YES - I want to place my AD) on all of that. Please weigh in when you get a chance. We want to know what you think.

Finally, I regret to advise the membership that I must step down from the board, effective immediately. Following serious surgery in December, I have been advised that I need another procedure. This and another unexpected, equally challenging change at home require my full attention.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the neighborhood and if I have disappointed anyone, for any reason, at any time, then I apologize for that. Every person that I have met who has served on the board - today, as in the past - has brought value to the community. This is an excellent group of volunteers and they will continue to provide good service to the neighborhood in the future. The association will always have my support and the board, my gratitude.

All the best,

Joe Keefe

E-mail theclunes@hotmail.com to sign up for this e-newsletter

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Treasurer's Report - Bob Hayes



Hello to everybody. I am the new guy on the Board, as I was appointed at the January 2009 meeting to fill the rest of the term for retiring Treasurer Barbara Miller. Barbara had served as Treasurer for the past fifteen years, and has now stepped away from her officer duties so that she can spend more time enjoying her new "career" as a traveling retiree. As the new guy I am still getting my feet wet and getting a handle on all of the issues. So far I can report that we have had a CPA firm conduct a review when Barbara left, and they have not found any significant problems. Barbara did a very professional job of maintaining the finances of the Homeowners Association. My job will be to maintain the high standards that she set.

With regard to the finances of the Association, I can report that we have a substantial cash reserve, but we are struggling to meet our current obligations with our current income. The downturn in the economy has caused a drop in our membership, and therefore a drop in our income. I was disappointed to learn when I came on board that even in good economic times we were never able to get our membership above 60% of the homes in the neighborhood. Now that some of us are struggling, our membership has dropped to below 50%. Perhaps all of you can help. If you notice that any of your friends and neighbors are not members, please go out of your way to remind them of the good work that we do and encourage them to join.

A copy of our 2009 budget is shown below. You will notice that the budget, which was established in early January projects that we will have 775 members this year. It now appears that we will

probably have less than 700. That will reduce our income to about \$56,000.

2009 PPHA Budget		
(Revised 01/07/09)		
	2008	2009
Income:		
Interest Income	\$1,000.00	\$600.00
Membership	\$66,000.00 [825 x \$80]	\$62,000.00 [775 x \$80]
Total Income	\$67,000.00	\$62,600.00
Expenses:		
Electricity	\$2,000.00	\$2,100.00
Water	\$1,500.00	\$1,700.00
Beautification	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00
Insurance	\$2,700.00	\$2,565.00
Postage & Box	\$1,500.00	\$1,700.00
Security Patrols	\$21,000.00	\$21,632.00
Membership	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Newsletter	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Directory	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00
Newcomer	\$250.00	\$250.00
Service Charge	\$200.00	\$150.00
Website	\$450.00	\$450.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,200.00	
Professional Fees	-	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$67,000.00	\$66,747.00

Municipal Services - Steve Sanders



Parks, Greenways & Nature Preserves

As the chairman of the Municipal Services committee for the HOA, I watch over and typically report about the repair and replacement of street signs, pot holes and street lights. Please feel free to contact me if you are having any particular issues related to these matters. However, this time I am writing about another Municipal Service: The area's parks, greenways and nature preserves.

Despite getting a surprise March snowfall, the temperatures are warming and it is getting to be a great time for outside activities. The

Charlotte-Mecklenburg website has maps and other information about the parks that are under their management and is a great resource for finding outdoor destinations and trails near Providence Plantation. As a starting point, here is a link to the "Greenways" webpage:

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Park+and+Rec/Greenways/Home.htm>

Did you know that the Plantation's very own "Four Mile Creek" is slated to be part of the greenway system? The county owns hundreds of acres around the stream and floodplain at the wooded area off the Providence Road/High Ridge entrance, continuing along the North side of the neighborhood towards Trade Street in Matthews. There do not appear to be budgeted plans for the completion of this section of the Greenway yet, but it is on the 10-year Greenway Plan to be built by 2017. The Four Mile Creek greenway will give us a vehicle-free nature walk accessible from the neighborhood, and will ultimately run the full-length of the creek from Matthews to Pineville.

* * *

Contact Steve Sanders at 704-849-2334 or ssanders@sandstonegroup.com

New Neighbors - Joye Baucom



We missed a lot of you at our Annual February New Neighbor Social.

If you are a new neighbor and haven't been introduced, please e-mail or call me for a form so we can introduce you in the next issue.

**Joye Baucom, New Neighbors
704.564.2643
jbaucom@cottinghamchalk.com**

Neighborhood Appearance - Sylvia Ann Beyer



Landscaping update

As we had stated earlier in the year, with the addition of our new landscaper last year, we wanted to begin the process of improving the Providence Plantation entranceways one by one. This fall our landscaper, Carolina Landscape Group Inc., put together a plan for the Providence Road entrance that would improve the overall appearance. The board chose to begin the renovation project with the Providence Road entrance because we felt it was seen by more residences than the other entrances and it needed the most improvements. So with the board's approval, the Providence Road makeover began. In this plan we added 17 (3 gal.) Kaleidoscope Abelias, 20 (3 gal) Soft Touch Hollies, 30 (3 gal) Happy Return Daylilies, 10 (5-6 ft.) Emily Brunner Hollies along with 5 yards of organic topsoil that was brought in and 30 bales of long leaf pine needles. We also had 2 of our existing Crepe Myrtle trees replanted to provide better symmetry with our walls. We look forward in the future to continue to improve our entranceways one by one.

Within the next few weeks, you will notice our landscaper applying weed preventer as well as fertilizer to the entrances to get ready for the spring. Annuals will not be planted until late May.

Your suggestions and comments are always appreciated. You can contact me (Sylvia Ann Beyer) at shinhappypeople@mindspring.com

Useful Service Contacts

Ambulance/Fire/Police 911

Poison
Control
1-800-222-1222

Fire Station #9

McKee Rd.

704-432-6874

Police/City-Non Emergency
311

Buried Cable Locator Service
1-800-632-4949

Piedmont Natural Gas
www.piedmontng.com

1-800-752-7504

Duke Power

www.duke-energy.com

1-800-POWER-ON

704-594-0000

Street light out - 311

The Charlotte Observer
www.charlotteobserver.com

704-358-5000

Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation
www.parkandrec.com
311

Charlotte International Airport -
24 Hour Info
www.charlotteairport.com

704-359-4910

704-359-4013

Charlotte Visitor Information Center
www.visitcharlotte.com
1-800-231-4636

North Carolina Wildlife Federation
www.ncwf.org

704-332-5696

Neighbors For A Safer Charlotte
www.neighborsforasafercharlotte.org

Highway Patrol
www.nccrimecontrol.org

1-800-572-8765

AT&T(Bellsouth)
www.att.com
1-877-737-2478

Windstream (Alltel)
www.windstream.com
704-847-4828

Time Warner Cable
www.timewarnercable.com/carolina
704-377-9600

Drivers License, DMV
www.ncdot.org/dmv
1-919-715-7000

Elections Office - Board of Elections
www.meckboe.org
704-336-2133

Public Library
www.plcmc.org
704-336-2725

Recycling
311
www.wipeoutwaste.com
www.curbit.charmeck.org
704-336-2673

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Water & Sewer
www.charmeck.org/departments/utilities

311

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Water - New Service
704-339-2221

Road Conditions
511

North Carolina Dept of Transportation
www.ncdot.org
1-877-DOT-4YOU

Socials - Jane Golz



2009 Social Events and Groups

Do you need to chase the winter blues away? Why don't you consider joining one of the many social organizations here in our neighborhood. We are always looking for new members and would enjoy an opportunity to meet you.

Ladies Book Clubs Groups meet one night a month in members' homes to discuss selections. The reading selections are chosen ahead of time by members, varying from fiction to memoirs, and sophisticated to humorous. To be placed in a group, contact Cami Hayes, 704-708-8867.

Ladies Bunko Group Sign up to play this fun dice game on a monthly basis. The existing group has 12 members, meeting monthly at each other's homes for socializing and fun. There is no talent required to play the game. We are always looking for new members or substitutes. Questions? Contact Sandy Sparks, 846-7963.

Men's Golf League Sign up for pre-determined tee-times at local courses and play 18 holes with other men from Providence Plantation. We also urge you to get on the email list announcing times and locations. Contact Paul Whitaker, 458-4340.

Men's Monthly Poker Sign up for email notice of upcoming game time and place. Players rotate hosting the game on a monthly basis. Contact Steve Dionisi, 704-942-7564.

Supper Clubs Good conversation and great meals! What a fun way to get to know others in the neighborhood. As groups are formed, members set dates to meet 4-5 times between January and September to rotate among members' homes for dinner. We are always looking for new members to insert into our already existing groups. To join a group, or to get on the substitute list, contact Jane Golz, 849-8326, jane.golz@yahoo.com.

Jane Golz, Socials
704-849-8326 (jane.golz@yahoo.com)

(*) You must be a Dues-Paying Member of the PPHA in order to join in any of the Social Groups.

Neighbor to Neighbor...

Go to our web-site, www.providenceplantation.org, to take advantage of free advertising to your neighbors!

Keep the classified ads section of our website in mind. If you are looking to advertise a yard sale or have items you'd like to buy, sell, or donate, remember that your neighbors may be interested too. Click the Classified Ads link on the Providence Plantation website and remember to send your postings to lynnweiner@windstream.net.

Advertisers must be dues paying members of the homeowner's association. Advertisements are intended for garage sales and personal property items. This is not intended for commercial/business advertising.

Lynn Weiner: Meet Fire Station 39



Just like many of you, I spent a good amount of time watching as Fire Station 39 was constructed on Providence Road. In fact, I've already forgotten what that area looked like without it there. This state of the art fire station is the home to Engine Company #39, a four (4) person fire company along with Battalion #7. The station was placed in service to accommodate this growing part of southeast Charlotte. The station opened December 20, 2008 and, as luck would have it, I met Crew C who ran the very first call. Vince Wolfe, Jeff Nixon, and Jason "Smiley" Clark gave me a guided tour and talked to me about their station, their work, and the Charlotte Fire Department.

Fire Station 39 is approximately 12,000 square feet containing offices, a multi-purpose gathering/training area (complete with television and video links to other stations for training purposes), kitchen, gym, showers, sleeping quarters, and a bay to house and maintain its truck and vehicles. The station was constructed green with a life expectancy of 100 years. In responding to

my question as to what makes the station green, they told me that their exhaust systems are environmentally friendly, material used for roof panels limit emissions, and a sand filtration system recycles water while solar panels on the roof help heat the water. The station is also home to a new generation series truck which is more efficient and environmentally friendly.



This station is a 24 hour first responder. The station's firefighters are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with life saving skills. They travel with first aid supplies, oxygen, and a defibrillator enabling them to maintain basic life support until advanced life support arrives. For firefighting/search and rescue they utilize state of the art equipment, including a thermal imaging camera and meters to measure levels of gas and carbon monoxide. Their fire engine is self sufficient, designed to provide portable power through use of a generator, because firefighters must often cut off utilities at the response location.

The qualifications and continued training required of a Charlotte firefighter is extensive and very technical. In fact, they proudly told me that the number of applicants accepted by the Charlotte Fire Department is more selective than the number of applicants accepted into Harvard. There are 235 Charlotte Firefighters on duty at any given time. They work in crews A, B, or C, and are scheduled on a systemic rotation which is printed in pocket calendars many of them carry. (It reminded me of the CMS calendar I

used to carry to track CMS A/B days). The majority of Station 39's calls are medical. The staff also spends much of their time continuing their training, educating the public, and responding to potential dangers.

In response to my question about what I can pass along to our homeowners, this is what they told me:

- Please stagger street parking within Providence Plantation to allow passage of their very large truck.
- "Change your clocks/change your batteries". Get into the habit of changing the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at the same time you change your clocks. Also check the product manufacture date on your carbon monoxide detector. The life of these is generally 5-7 years.
 - Baked goods are always welcome!



It was my privilege to meet some of Charlotte's finest. We never know when we or someone we know will need them. They told me that their primary goal was to prevent the need for their response, but to be there, and fully prepared, if one is needed.

Contact Lynn Weiner, lynnweiner@alltel.net

Where in the World (Plantation...)



Okay - here it is again. One of our most popular features. "Where in the World?"...

Submit your answer to this month's picture puzzle at Whereintheplantation@live.com.

We look forward to hearing from you...

Security - Harvey Katowitz



Here are some crime prevention tips you can follow to lessen the chance of becoming a crime victim. Remember, 25% of the crimes reported in Providence Plantation involved Larcenies from an Auto. Don't allow someone to remove your valuables from the inside of your vehicle. Please consider the following tips to prevent you from becoming a victim.

- Always lock your doors and roll up your windows.
- Never leave valuable items in your vehicle.
- Store packages in the trunk of your vehicle while shopping.
- Remove your telephone, iPod, purse, briefcase, backpack, cash and even loose change each time you leave your vehicle.
- Park in well lit areas at night.
- Park your car in the driveway rather than the street.
- Consider a car alarm for added protection.
- Call 911 if you see any suspicious activity.

Here are some general safety tips for parents to help their children stay safe:

- Instruct your child on how to contact the Police Department, Fire Department or Ambulance by dialing 911 and how to contact a known family member or responsible trustworthy neighbor or

adult should an emergency arise.

- Check your child's route to and from school. Call attention to any dangerous spots such as vacant lots, alleyways, etc. Advise them what to do if a strange person follows or approaches them.
- Instruct your child's school to notify you immediately if your child is absent. Inform the principal who is authorized to pick your child up from school. Try to have the same person pick your child up every day when possible.
- Instruct your child to never take a ride from any strangers even if the person says that they are there to pick them up because their mom or dad sent them.
- Choose a secret code word to use with your child in case of an emergency. Tell your child never to go with anyone who does not know this code word.
- Advise your child what to do if they feel lost. Help them to identify the safest place to go or person to ask for help in reuniting them with you or other caregiver. Examples of safe helpers could be a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, person with a nametag who is working at the information booth.
- Teach your child to tell you if anyone asks them to keep a secret, offer them gifts or money, or ask to take their picture.
- Teach your child to always tell you if something happened while they were away from you that made them feel uncomfortable in anyway.

Especially for Younger Children:

- Teach children their parent's names, phone number, including area code and your full address.
- Teach your child how to use the telephone to make emergency, local and long distance calls and how to reach the operator.
- Never allow your child to use a public restroom unattended.
- Don't "personalize" your child's clothing or accessories with his/her name. Children may respond to a stranger who calls them by name.
- Teach your child that a stranger is someone that neither you nor they know well.

Especially for Teens:

- As you always want to know where your child is, let your child know where you are or will be.
- Talk to your child. Listen to your child. Find out what they're thinking, and what they're feeling. Every day, know whom they hang out with, what they do, and where they're going. Not only will it help you influence and keep track of your child, but you also can get to know each other better.
- Discuss the effects of alcohol and other drug use and why they are especially bad for young people. The more your child knows, the better informed their decisions will be about drug use.
- Advise your child what to do if there is drinking or drug use occurring at a party and make it easy for your teenager to leave - always have a back-up driver your teen can call for a ride home.
- Insist that your teen NEVER accept a ride with someone who has been drinking or taking drugs.
- Insist that your teen NEVER tolerate party activities that include vandalism, theft, sexual intimidation, assault or other illegal activity in addition to drinking or drug use. Encourage your teen to

call 9-1-1 if necessary.

During January, I attended a Town Hall meeting during which Police Chief Rodney Monroe identified six problems that the CMPD has focused on:

1. Chronic offenders - Holding them responsible for their actions.
2. Gangs - Identify individuals as a gang member when they commit a crime.
3. Juveniles involved in crimes - Work with other agencies to address this problem.
4. Improved Technology - To assist and keep the police department focused.
5. Staffing - Reduced specialized units to have more officers on patrol and to have detectives, traffic officers and drug enforcement in division offices. Increase the number of officers in the police department.
6. Increase the number of CMPD divisions - The South Division and North Division would be divided.

Note, money has not been budgeted for additional officers or divisions. The South Division, which Providence Plantation is part of, occupies 57.3 square miles. It is the third largest division in size and is the most populated division with approximately 130,000 residents. The next most populous division has approximately 90,000 residents. The division has 400+ distinct neighborhoods and 25 retail and housing complexes. There are 84 Officers, 3 Response Area Commanders, 7 Sergeants, 1 Investigative Technician and a Captain assigned to the division. The division is divided into three geographically distinct response areas.

Each has a Response Area Team that is responsible for reducing crime at the neighborhood level. A Response Area Commander leads each team and serves as the area's primary police representative. The division also has a Focused Mission Team which the division commander is able to deploy strategically to be a proactive force in crime hot spots and to address emerging problems.

Providence Plantation is in Response Area 3 and in addition to the Response Area Team it has 8 patrol officers and 2 Community Policing Coordinators assigned to it.

It is important to report all incidents of crime to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

- For crimes in progress and other emergencies dial 911. For non-emergencies, and past crimes call 311. You can also report the following past crimes using the Online Reporting System; Larceny, Harassing Phone Calls, Theft from Auto, or Property Damage. You can do so by [clicking here](#) or by a link from <http://www.cmpd.org>

Also, please notify me so that this information can be passed on to the off-duty officers that patrol our neighborhood. I can be contacted between 9am and 9pm.

During 2008 there were forty-four crimes reported in Providence Plantation. Three of the crimes actually occurred in 2007.

2008 Crime Statistic Synopsis	2008	2007
Arson	0	0
Aggravated Assault <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victim struck in face by object thrown by boyfriend. Arrest made	1	1
Non-Aggravated Assault <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victim struck in chest by spouse• Victim's finger accidentally closed in door by ex-spouse	2	4
Hit and Run	1	4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto parked on street struck. 		
Larceny from Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property stolen by friend of victim's son. Arrest Made - Refused to prosecute Jewelry taken while house being renovated. (Occurred in 2007) 	2	3
Larceny from Auto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas siphoned from auto parked on street Suspects Arrested while breaking into auto Property stolen from unlocked auto Property stolen from unlocked auto Auto window smashed - property taken Auto window smashed - alarm sounded - no property taken Property stolen from unlocked auto Unlocked auto - no property taken Auto window smashed - property taken Property stolen from unlocked auto Auto window smashed - no property taken 	11	4
Larceny-Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladder borrowed by worker Never returned (Occurred in 2007) ***Property taken by acquaintance - Refused to prosecute ***Property taken by person allowed in residence ***Property taken by person allowed in residence Real estate signs taken Golf clubs stolen from outside of garage Property taken by worker inside home 	7	6
Fraud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempt to obtain 2 credit cards using victim's SS# (Occurred in 2007) Credit cards used fraudulently. 	2	5
Residential Burglary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf clubs stolen from opened garage Friend of victim entered unlocked house and stole property. Arrest Made - Refused to prosecute Door kicked in - property stolen Back door pried open - property stolen Back door pried open - alarm sounded - no property stolen Friends of victim's son broke in and 	7	2

stole property. Arrest Made - Refused to prosecute		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back door kicked in - property stolen 		
Commercial Burglary	0	1
Robbery	0	1
Auto Theft	0	1
Vandalism	8	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window of vehicle broken by rock • Shrubs pulled up - One placed inside of mailbox. • Damage to camper • Damage to camper • Auto egged • Christmas decorations damaged • Mailbox damaged • Auto window smashed 		
Other Crimes	2	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto taken without permission by family member - Arrest made • Auto borrowed by family member - Not returned 		
Sexual Offense	1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male riding scooter exposed himself 		
Total Crimes Reported	44	42

*****These crimes occurred at separate times at the same location**

Harvey Katowitz, Security
704-849-9234 (hkatowitz@carolina.rr.com)

Block Captains - Jane Golz

The Homeowner's Association was formed many years ago when the neighborhood was much smaller as a reaction to some CMS busing policies. Our neighborhood now has 1400+ homes and 2400+ registered voters - we can collectively pack a powerful punch! The idea behind the concept of block captains is to have a system in place that allows individual home owners to help the board and the board to help individual homeowners. With a volunteer board of about 12, the ratio of homes to board members is something like 115:1, this is where you come in...

There are only a few responsibilities of a block captain:

- 1) Make sure we welcome our newcomers: If you know a house was for sale and see the new resident has moved in, please contact Joye Baucom (Newcomers Welcome Chair) so she might deliver a Newcomers Welcome packet.
- 2) Help maintain utilities and signage: If you see a street light is out, a sign is down, a pothole needs repair, please contact the appropriate official with Mecklenburg County.
- 3) Be a point person for severe utility outages or storm damage. Following a severe snow storm or hurricane, we may have widespread utility outages (power, water, cable) or debris that the city will need to clear on our major streets. Some houses may be without phone or cable, so we need a point person in each section to be our eyes and ears with the city.

Individual block captains have generously set up other programs for their sectors; email-trees, street newsletters, block parties, etc. None of those are required but they have been well received and we sure do appreciate their enthusiasm and efforts. We still have a number of sections with no block captains. If you are interested in learning more, look on the website to see about the geographical divisions and what sections are currently covered. All block captains are invited to join us during our monthly HOA meeting, but it is not necessary to attend if you wish to volunteer as a captain.

Jane Golz, Block Captains
704-849-8326 (jane.golz@yahoo.com)



Architectural Review

Well, with spring not too far away, many homeowners are beginning to plan their spring home improvement projects. Before beginning any of those projects, be sure to review the restrictive covenants for your section of Providence Plantation. If you do not have a copy of your restrictive covenants, you can get a copy from the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds. In order for us to review your project, you will need to submit a copy of your plans or sketches to me. You can do this by U.S. Mail, e-mail, or by putting a copy in my newspaper box.

Another thing to think about before beginning any of your home improvement projects is to check with Mecklenburg County to see if you will need to obtain building and/or zoning permits for your project.

Terry L. Wray
Architectural Review Chairman
2611 Peverell Lane
Charlotte, NC 28270
(704) 844-0117
terry@dellinger-inc.com

Next PPHA Homeowner's Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Providence Plantation Homeowner's Association will take place on April 2nd, 2009 (7:15 PM) at the Providence Plantation Swim & Racquet Club. All residents of the neighborhood are welcome to join us.

Local Schools Receive National Awards



Providence Spring Elementary was recently named as a Blue Ribbon school; only 2 in Charlotte and six in the whole state received this status. The U.S. Secretary of Education recognizes private and public schools with this award for helping all students achieve at very high levels. Providence Spring Elementary (PSE) placed in the top 1% of all North Carolina Schools. More than half of the students at PSE live in Providence Plantation.

Crestdale Middle School was recently named a "School to Watch." This national award recognizes middle schools for academic achievement, adolescent

development, and equitable education. The National Forum started the Schools to Watch initiative in 1999 to identify and honor schools nationally for meeting or exceeding 37 criteria in four categories. Schools are recognized for their success in four areas: launching best practices focused on academic achievement; responding to the developmental needs of young adolescents; offering a fair and equitable education for all students, and instituting organizational processes and procedures that foster and sustain academic growth.

Article submitted by Jane Golz. If you have news to report about your school, please send it in to theclunes@hotmail.com and put PPHOA in subject line.

CMPD Corner



Here is a note from the Police Department's community coordinator for Providence Plantation:

Please see the attached Response Area 3 Newsletter. Please post this to residents in your community and send through your e-mail contacts. This is something new we just started and will be updating it monthly.

Thank you

Officer J.D. Russell
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept
South Division RA3 Community Coordinator
704-544-4835

Click here to see their e-newsletter:

<http://www.providenceplantation.org/Newsletters/SDRA3MAR2009.pdf>

