



The Providence Plantation Home Owners Newsletter

3rd Quarter 2009

Greetings Providence Plantation Homeowners!

You are receiving this e-newsletter because you are on our newsletter email 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 unsubscribe function at the bottom of this email.

This is your newsletter, your neighborhood and your Homeowners Association so your feedback is always welcome!

Please visit our website, www.providenceplantation.org.

From the President



Fall 2009



Hi Everyone,
I hope you had an enjoyable and safe summer.

As a result of my concern for the safety of our neighborhood children, the beginning of my newsletter article has a similar theme to many of my previous Autumn articles. Now that the new school year has begun many of our children will be walking to and waiting at bus stops before the sun has risen. Additionally as the weather turns cooler, leaves begin to change colors, and we turn our clocks back an hour on Nov. 8th, daylight hours will become shorter and our neighborhood children will be out playing before dinner time at dusk. Please be extra vigilant and allow yourself more time when driving through our neighborhood in the morning and evening. I am happy to announce that over the summer we filled two of our vacant Board positions. We warmly welcome Laureen Sullivan as our Secretary and Sandy Sparks as our Membership Chairperson and thank them for volunteering their time to assist the Homeowners Association and the residents of our neighborhood. The Newsletter Chairperson position is still vacant. If you are interested in serving in that position

please contact me.

Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Two of the most frequently asked questions I received over the summer had been, "What happened to our entrance wall on Highridge Rd and when will the wall be repaired?" On July 13th a CMPD officer driving on Providence Rd. struck the wall as he tried to avoid striking an auto in front of him that had skidded on the wet roadway. Thankfully he was not seriously hurt and by the time you read this newsletter most of the damage should have been repaired. The process to accomplish this was long and tedious, and required us to get separate estimates for the repair of the wall, and replacement of damaged landscaping and lighting. These estimates then had to be forwarded to the City Risk Management for review. We then had to wait for the City's independent adjuster to inspect the scene and submit photos and his estimates for repairs. Fortunately his estimates were close to the estimates we received and after some negotiations we received full payment for the repairs.

I constantly receive questions from neighborhood residents, many of which are repetitive or similar in nature. I try to answer the questions as quickly as possible, but with 1400+ families in our neighborhood the volume of questions sometimes make it difficult to do so. To assist the Board in alleviating what has become a time consuming task, please utilize the FAQ link on our website, <http://www.providenceplantation.org/> before contacting a Board member with a question. If you can not find the answer to your question after doing so, then by all means contact me or another Board member. The FAQ are also listed below. Please save them for future reference.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it illegal to park cars on the street in our neighborhood?

It is not against the law unless there are City signs prohibiting it, but it is a violation of most of the 32 different sets of Covenants and Restrictions.

How can I get a copy of the Covenants and Restrictions?

Copies can be obtained at the office of the Register of Deeds.

Register of Deeds

J. David Granberry

720 East Fourth Street

Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704-336-2443

Fax: 704-336-7699

Email: ROD@co.mecklenburg.nc.us Website: <http://meckrod.manatron.com/>

Why doesn't the Homeowners Association enforce the Covenants and Restrictions?

The Homeowner's Association does not have the authority to enforce them. They can only be enforced by the original owner of the property or developer who instituted them. or by any homeowner who lives in the area where they apply. All of the sets state that if a homeowner is taken to court and found in violation of the Covenants and Restrictions they will be responsible for all court costs.

What is the Homeowner's Association doing to discourage vandalism in our neighborhood?

In an effort to deter and apprehend the person(s) involved in any act of vandalism in Providence Plantation and to especially prevent additional acts of vandalism during the holiday season, the Providence Plantation Home

Owners Association Board had voted several years ago to offer a reward of \$500.00 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. Please discuss this with all of your family members. If you have any information regarding these incidents or obtain information about future incidents, please contact me at 849-9234 or Police Officer J.D. Russell at 544-4835 or 544-4836. Your identity will remain confidential.

What can be done about unsafe drivers who drive recklessly through our neighborhood?

If you would like to report a traffic violation directly to the CMPD you can do so at the TRAFFIC HOTLINE, Tel. number 704-432-2120 or by email at: bbryant@cmpd.org

The reporter must leave the North Carolina registration plate number (out of state

registrations not accepted), description of the vehicle and driver if known, date, time, and location of the violation, and a detailed description of the violation. Although the caller's identification will not be disclosed, the caller must leave his/her name and telephone number for verification purposes. This call generates a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle, indicating the concern and possible consequences of the driving behavior. Please also email the information to me: hkatowitz@carolina.rr.com

How can I get Speed Humps on my street?

If citizens are interested in having speed humps installed on their street, the following process applies:

Criteria:

- **A street must be classified as a two-lane, local residential street.**
- **A street's width must be less than or equal to 40 feet.**
- **Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes should be greater than 1,000.**
- **The speed of 15% of the vehicles should be equal to or greater than five (5) miles over the posted speed limit.**
- **Grade is less than or equal to 8%.**
- **Horizontal radius of street is less than or equal to 300.**
- **Street's current speed limit should be posted as 25 mph if it is a local street, or 30 mph if it is a neighborhood collector.**
- **Street should not be a primary emergency medical services route-CDOT will contact EMS departments in the area of the request to determine if the humps will interfere with a majority of their emergency response calls.**

Resident Petition - If a street qualifies for speed humps, the following will be required from the residents:

- **A 60% petition of all property owners on the street, including adjoining cul-de-sacs off the street.**
- **A letter of endorsement from the neighborhood assoc. is required, if one is listed on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission "List of Neighborhood Contacts".**

Prioritization for Installation - After the request is submitted to CDOT, the street will be evaluated and rated for priority. Petitions are mailed to citizens of the highest ranking 35-40 streets in January each year. Installation is accomplished by annual contract in late Spring.

How

do I report a malfunctioning street light?

Notify Duke Power on-line at

<http://mdenote1.dukeenergy.com/custweb/customerservice.nsf>

[/LightRepair?OpenForm](#) If it is a hazardous condition such as a wire hanging low or lying on the ground, please call at 1-800-POWERON (1-800-769-3766).

There is a homeowner that never mows his/her lawn. What can be done?

Neighborhood Development is dedicated to making sure that Charlotte's neighborhoods are great places to live. One way we do that is through code enforcement. The City of Charlotte's Housing Code requires homeowners and landlords to maintain all housing (homes, apartments, townhouses, etc. regardless of when built), within the city limits and unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County, in a safe and clean condition. The Housing Code also applies to abandoned commercial structures.

The City of Charlotte's Health and Sanitation Code requires property owners to maintain their premises in a safe and sanitary condition. Violations include high weeds/grass, accumulation of trash or junk, junk automobiles, etc. Contact the City / County Customer Service Center at 311 to report any suspected code violation. With your help, we can ensure that Charlotte is a safer, more attractive place to live, work and play.

My trash and yardwaste is not picked up in a timely manner. What can I do? Complaints or requests for any City services can be made to 311.

Please remember that board officers are neighborhood volunteers who devote their time and effort to make our neighborhood an attractive and safe place to live.

Harvey Katowitz

704.859-9234

hkatowitz@carolina.rr.com

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

by Bob Hayes

We are more than two-thirds of the way through the year and the Board has done a good job of living within our means. The down economy has caused our membership to decline a bit this year, which reduced our income. A review of our finances shows that we will likely finish the year under budget and we may not have to tap into our financial reserves, as was initially projected. We did this largely by saving money on landscaping, insurance and the cost of producing the directory.

Bob Hayes

704.708.8867

bobhayesincharlotte@gmail.com

Municipal Services

Steve Sanders
704.708.5585
erinsteve@carolina.rr.com

Architectural Review

Terry Wray
704.844.0117
terry@dellinger-inc.com

Membership/Directory

2009 Membership

Our new Membership/Directory Chairperson is Sandy Sparks

Sandy Sparks
704.846.7963
ssparks@scana.com

Neighborhood Appearance



Sylvia Ann Beyer
704.814.4031
shinyhappypeople@mindspring.com

Neighborhood Socials

Summer Fun

by Jane Golz

Fall and winter are just around the corner. What a great time to join some of our ongoing social groups and spend time with friends old and new scattered throughout the neighborhood.



Ladies Book Clubs

The groups all meet one evening of the month, rotating among members' homes. The hostess chooses the book that will be discussed, providing beverages and snacks when the club meets at her home. We are still filling a group that meets the second Monday of each month. For more information, contact Cami Hayes,

704-708-8867, bobcami@carolina.rr.com.

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, gsparks@carolina.rr.com.

Men's Monthly Poker

Sign up for email notice of upcoming game time and place. Players rotate hosting the game on a monthly basis. For more information, contact Steve Dionisi, 704-942-7564, sdionisi@carolina.rr.com.

Supper Clubs

Good conversation and great meals! As groups are formed, members set dates to meet 4-5 times between January and September, then take the holiday months off prior to re-shuffling the names for the new year. This is our most popular ongoing event, with over 35 couples now participating. For more information, or to get on the list of names to be included in the new season please contact Jane Golz, 849-8326, jjgolz@alltel.net.

For more information about any socials, or to help run existing events, please contact

Jane Golz, Socials
704.849.8326
jane.golz@yahoo.com

Block Captains

Your Neighborhood Needs You

by Jane Golz



BLOCK CAPTAINS

Providence Plantation has over 1400 homes with approximately 6,000 residents. By dividing the neighborhood into 16 geographical sectors, we have the ability to distribute information back and forth between the board and the residents in a more timely and efficient manner. If you go to our website

(providenceplantation.org) you will see a black hat that

says "Block Captains." Through that link, you are able to see the geographical definitions of the sectors by street name and address, as well as by a color coded map. Eventually we would like each sector to have two block captains who will help us with a few very specific things;

- Make Sure we welcome our new neighbors
- Help to maintain utilities and signage
- Be a point person for severe utility outages or storm damage

We still have a few areas with no coverage. If you would enjoy a chance to meet your neighbors and make a couple phone calls a month for the good of the neighborhood, we welcome you to inquire further about the program. Openings remain in the following sections:

Sector	Captain(s)	Email or phone
1 / High Ridge	Diana Congdon	mkfromdiana@aol.com
2 / Lancelot	Michelle Proctor	mwproctor@aol.com
	Elizabeth Hilliard	mandehilliard@aol.com
3 / Kuyikendall	Harvey Katowitz	hkatowitz@carolina.rr.com
	Lynn Sass	846-2171

4 / High Ridge II	Dianna Blanke	db3grands@yahoo.com
	Barry Bazen	bbazen@profitadvisorygroup.com
5 / Nancy Creek	Betsy Kaperonis	bgrantnyc@aol.com
	Cindy/Hugh Crawford	cindycrawford@alltel.net
6 / Cherry	Open	
7 / Providence Glen	Open	
8 / Shea	Nancy Brinitzer	NBeyes@aol.com
9 / Fortis	Julie and Chris Hutt	huttchand@aol.com
10 / Foxfire	Open	
11 / Grimmer	Open	
12 / Pulte	Open	
13 / Plantation I	Open	
14 / Plantation II	Marilyn Bain	849-0972
	Bonnie Foulds	atriad@earthlink.net
15 / Toll	Mary Gail Frawley-O'Dea	mgfod@aol.com
16 / Parham	Open	

We would like all Block Captains to attend our annual meeting. See meeting article for more information.

Jane Golz, Block Captains
704.849.8326
jane.golz@yahoo.com

Newcomers

Welcome to the Neighborhood

by Joye Baucom



Introducing New Neighbors

With Bonnie Foulds assistance, we delivered New Neighbor Folders to everyone who has moved into the neighborhood in recent months. So unless you just moved within the last week or so, we are current with getting the neighborhood information into your homes. If you have been overlooked, call me. I only have a record of those selling through the multiple listing service.

Also, 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.

Thanks for your patience.

Joye Baucom, New Neighbors
704.564.2643
jbaucom@ccbhrealtors.com

Website

Webmaster

by Lynn Weiner



I Love a Happy Ending

I returned home from a weekend vacation to an email from a neighbor requesting that PPHOA announce 2 found dogs with no identification. Harvey Katowitz responded to the request with an email blast to our distribution list. Although the pet owners were not on that list (but hopefully are now), their neighbor informed them of that email, and they were soon reunited with their dogs.

We often don't know the outcome of these announcements, but we hope for the best. In this case, the neighbor who found the dogs sent a grateful email to the board members she had contacted.

Every time I receive one of these emails or phone calls, I am very thankful that we have a way to communicate this type of information. This is one of the "perks" of your homeowners association. It takes much volunteer time, along with internet subscription fees, to collect and maintain all those email addresses, construct the messages and respond to those calls from neighbors. This is a service that benefits everyone in Providence Plantation, whether they pay their dues or not, because without every ones' involvement, it just doesn't work.

I want to thank all of our dues paying members for their support in making this type of PPHOA service, along with many others, available to us all. If you are not a dues paying member, please consider becoming one. There is a Join Us link on our website to do just that. If your neighbor is not on our distribution list, and thus not receiving this e-newsletter, please forward it to them.

Community IS Communication: One Cannot Exist Without the Other.

Lynn Weiner
704.321.9055
lynnweiner@windstream.net

Safety and Security

by Harvey Katowitz



The following crimes were reported in Providence Plantation from June 1st to August 31st.

Crimes Reported	Jun	Jul	Aug
Auto Theft			
· Homeowner's "Classic" auto stolen while parked on street.		1	
Burglary			
· Leaf blower stolen from open garage	1		
Damage to Property			
· Garage door and driveway painted	1		
· Mailbox damaged by fireworks		1	
· Auto tire slashed while auto parked on street		1	
· *Auto tire punctured			1

· *Auto tire punctured			1
· Mailbox damaged by fireworks			1
Fraud			
· ID stolen by Bank employee and credit cards opened in homeowners name	1		
Harassing Phone Calls			
· 40 lewd telephone calls made to resident in June & July		1	
· Telephone calls & texts made to resident			1
Hit and Run			
· Vehicle struck while parked on street	1		
· **Vehicle ran off road and damaged property	1		
Larceny-From Auto			
· License plate stolen from commercial vehicle	1		
· IPOD stolen from unlocked auto		1	
· GPS, IPOD and misc. items stolen from unlocked auto			1
Larceny-Other			
· 5 checks stolen from mailbox were cashed/deposited	1		
· Mailbox stolen			1
· Jewelry stolen while house was being remodeled			1
Stalking			
· Acquaintance of homeowner. Ongoing since 2001		1	
Vandalism			
· Garage door and driveway painted	1		
Total Crimes Reported	8	6	7

* Crime was committed by acquaintance of victim.

** Arrest made

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 at: http://www.charmeck.org/online_reporting/report.htm 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 at: hkatowitz@carolina.rr.com

Census Takers

With the U.S. Census process beginning soon, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

** A U.S. Census worker will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

** Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information.

Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, he/she will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will they solicit donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by E-mail, so be on the lookout for E-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an E-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Tips for a Safe Halloween



Try to Trick-or-Treat when it is still light outside.



Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see and be seen.



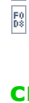
If you must go out at night, make certain that your costume is light in color.



Carry a flashlight so you can see and be seen easily.



Use reflective tape on your costume so people driving cars can see you.

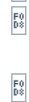


A facemask will keep you from seeing well. Take off your mask before you

cross a street.



Why not use makeup instead of a mask?



Have a parent or guardian go Trick-or-Treating with you.



Only call on homes with lighted porches or with exterior lights on.



Plan your Trick-or-Treat route ahead of time. Pick streets that are well lighted.



If you want to participate in Trick-or-Treating, leave your porch or front exterior lights on.



Cross only at corners. Never cross the street between parked cars or in the

middle of the block.



If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.



Wait until you get home to sort, check and eat your treats.

Providence Plantation Homeowners Association

www.providenceplantation.org

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