

Inside this issue:

Social Report	1
Msg. From The Prez	2
'Hood Directory	2
Our Mail Carrier	3
School News	3
Street Light Bill	4
Reminders...	4



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## *Hearthstone Social Committee Report*

*by Cheryl Overton & Betty Huskey*



### **GRAB YOUR HAWAIIAN SHIRTS & GRASS SKIRTS - HEARTHSTONE'S FIRST ANNUAL LUAU**

(FALL DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING AT THE PARK)

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Friday in September. Hearthstone's Annual fall Dinner and Meeting will be taking place at the Colonel Francis Beatty Field House Friday the eleventh of September.

#### THIS IS A MUST ATTEND EVENT!

In addition to the festivities there will be an informative Neighborhood Meeting followed by the election of the NEW Homeowners Association board of Directors for 2010. Look for a flyer containing more details. Please

consider stepping up to serve as a board member OR step up and recommend someone for one of the positions which will become open for 2010. It is our history that the incoming board members are voted in during our Fall neighborhood get-together at the pavilion and are present for the last board meeting of the year (usually December timeframe) where current board members provide insight on the position to make for a smooth transition.

### **RECAP-SUMMER BEACH BASH BLOCK PARTY**

Wow! That was fun! This June's Block Party brought out over a hundred attendees. What a great way to get everyone together and have a relaxing fun filled Summer evening. Thanks again to everyone that helped make this a great event. Steve that was the BEST BBQ I have ever had!

Photos will be available soon at <http://www.hearthstoneneighborhood.com/photos>.

### **IMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR HEARTHSTONE SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Do you love Partys?

Have you ever been compared to Martha Stewart?

Do you feel that "The difference is in the details"?

Do you take pride in your work?

Do you want to make Hearthstone the ABSOLUTE best place to live?

If you have answered "YES" to any of these questions then please consider volunteering a small amount of your time to the Hearthstone Social Committee. We have found that the last few events have been increasingly successful and to build on that success we need more help. Please call Cheryl 401-4661 or Betty 846-3360.

## *A message from The President*

*by Ron Walls*

With the end of the past school season, vacations, travel, and just ordinary family stuff taking up time, it's been a while since our last communication. Hopefully everyone has been well and enjoyed the summer months full of sunshine, clear skies, family times and fun activities. Although it was a while ago, I want to thank all of the people who came out for our summer "Beach Party". A good time was had by all and mucho kudos to the Adult Social Crew of Betty Huskey and Cheryl Overton for their planning and putting all of this together. A "SHOUT OUT" as well to Jim "Grill-master" Huskey for cooking and providing leadership in the pulled-pork tent (Ken Klug and I have a new appreciation for the art of pulling pork now)! Thanks as well to Steve Wray and Jeff Overton.

- In the 3+ years my family and I have lived here, there are a number of things that I find to love about our community; among them some of the most important to me are the **Pride** that everyone takes in their property, which enhances the appearance of the entire neighborhood; as well as the **Camaraderie** of our residents. Being on the board these past two years has allowed me to not only get acquainted with more folks in the neighborhood but also get a little closer to issues and events happening within our community. With that said I segway into conversations I have had in the neighborhood regarding speeding cars (although this seems to have lessened some), roaming dogs (this has not so much) and most on the lips of your-fellow residents - the perceived increase of cars parked along the streets which could potentially create a hazardous driving environment.
- Our Declaration of Restrictions (fully disclosed in the back of our yearly "Hearthstone Neighborhood Directory"); although broad in context, serves the neighborhood well as a good guideline for individual behaviors with the benefit of all residents in mind. These DoR's have a safety component as well as a community aesthetic component to them. Working together in this manner will continue to make Hearthstone the wonderful community it is to live in.

**OAK TREES** The oak trees in the neighborhood have been shedding their leaves since early spring and residents are buzzing about it and what effect this "thing" will have on our canopy. Your board has spoken both to members in and outside the community; including professionals in the landscaping business; an Arborist and the extension agent for the Dep't. of Agriculture, who serves our area. Those we spoke to are not unanimous in their consensus of what to call this fungal condition; but they do agree that it a fungus brought on mainly by the wet spring we had. This condition is pervasive throughout the Charlotte area with oaks, which is a variety of trees susceptible to fungus under these conditions. This year has been considered good for foliage diseases; however, the fungus is thought to be more of a cosmetic nuisance than injurious to the tree itself. It is anticipated that next years leaves will return without the fungus.

**DUKE EASEMENT INFORMATION** Since we had our Duke tree-cutting incident back in late 2008 and early 2009; the board wanted to make residents (especially those whose properties are effected by the easements / rights of way restrictions) to be aware of what the conditions are as well as what plantings are permissible under that easement. There are three documents now uploaded to our website ([http://www.hearthstoneneighborhood.com/files/folders/duke\\_energy](http://www.hearthstoneneighborhood.com/files/folders/duke_energy)) which provide information on:

- the rights of way restrictions;
- door hangers which are to be used to provide notice to homeowners of impending activity;
- approved tree planting list;

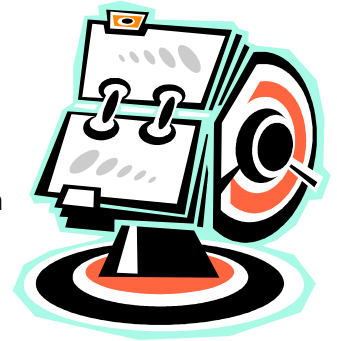
The board also has copies of the rights of way agreements and plat maps from 1966 and 1967.

The position of President will also be looking for a smiling face to step in as Ron Walls will be stepping down after two years of service and making way for another. The position of president is more of an anchor to keep track of the various committees and a general finger on the pulse of the neighborhood. It is the respective committee heads and associated volunteers who, working as a group, make things happen in serving the Hearthstone Community.

## ***2009 Neighborhood Directory Distributed***

*by Kim McClintock*

The 2009 neighborhood directory was distributed in May to members of the neighborhood association. The directory has several new features this year including a table of contents, a new "Service Directory" listing neighborhood young people, and a new program called "Kids Safe House" which is a home where there is an adult generally home during the day and neighborhood children can go to if they are hurt or frightened while out playing. A decal of a "house" will be on the mailbox of these neighbors. Finally, it included information on the revised "Helping Hands" program for a neighbor who needs help moving a piece of furniture, jumping a dead battery, opening a stuck door or other chore that they might not be able to do alone.



We hope you find the new features helpful! If you note any corrections that need to be made to the directory information, please forward that information to Kim McClintock ([home@mcclintockhvac.com](mailto:home@mcclintockhvac.com)).

## ***Meet Your Mail Carrier: Pam Phifer***

*by Kristin Andes*

Who is that smiling, efficient woman in the white truck who so dependably delivers our mail Monday through Saturday each week? Meet Pam Phifer. Pam has been with the US Postal Service for 20 years and has delivered to the Hearthstone subdivision for the past several. Here is the kicker: Pam is a neighbor! Pam, her husband Tim, and their beagle Jake live just outside the neighborhood at 3126 Tilley Morris Road.



Pam has lived on Tilley Morris for 10 years. She laughingly says some of us may have met Jake; he usually ends up in Hearthstone if he escapes and goes walkabout. Pam's daughter graduated in May from UNCC. Her son, who finished undergraduate work at UNC Chapel Hill in May with a degree in chemistry, will continue on at Chapel Hill for four more years in its pharmacy graduate school. (Talk about dyed in the Carolina blue wool!) Pam and Tim, who met at the Post Office, married three years ago. Tim has three children and one grandson and really enjoys golf. Pam directs her extra energy toward a second job, helping a ladies' clothier (Sorbe) with bookkeeping and invoicing.

So, next time you see the mail truck, say hi to our neighbor, Pam!

## ***School News***

*by Annie McCanless*

School started August 25th! Parents need to be in touch with their schools to find out schedules, bus stops, and other important information. Providence H.S. and Robinson Middle have principals who are new to them.

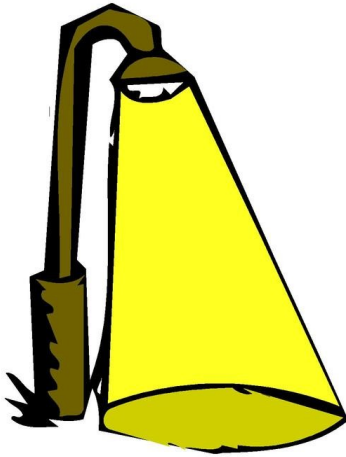


Drivers in the neighborhood need to be on the lookout for children who are walking to bus stops in the morning and afternoon. Remember we have students in our neighborhood attending Mecklenburg and Union County Schools.

Please remember that cars parked in the road interfere with school buses, and that with our children returning to their scholastic endeavors we should do our best to observe quiet hours between 8pm-8am (curb barking dogs, loud contractors, noisy cars, yard maintenance, etc.)

## *Street Lighting Tax Bills Illuminated*

*by Jen Walls*



Did you know that each homeowner in Hearthstone is assessed a portion of the street lighting bill annually? Until recently, many homeowners were unaware they owed the Mecklenburg County Tax Collector, until they began to receive delinquent notices and garnishment threats over bills they had never received!

Hearthstone is not alone in experiencing this situation. Residents are encouraged to check out a story titled "PSI: Homeowners Threatened Over Mystery Bill" at [www.wbtv.com](http://www.wbtv.com) for details.

Have you received your lighting bill? You can check to see if you owe anything by searching your property online at: <http://meckcama.co.mecklenburg.nc.us/relookup/>. If you are like many Hearthstone residents, you will be surprised to find you owe taxes and perhaps interest on unpaid taxes for lighting bills which you have never received.

You can clear this up in a jiffy by contacting the Mecklenburg County Tax Collector at 704-336-6899. Send your lighting payment to:

**Mecklenburg County Tax Collector**  
**Attn: Street Lighting**  
**P.O. Box 31457**  
**Charlotte, NC 28231-1457**

To ensure proper crediting, place the bill number in the memo line, and include a "print screen" of your bill at the look-up site. You may also want to ask where your bills have been sent in the past, and ask them to correct your mailing address in the system.

## *Important Neighborhood Reminders...*

### **Burning**

A number of residents have recently expressed concern regarding burning activities in neighborhood yards. Drifting smoke has seeped into neighboring homes causing health issues, and unattended fires have presented a safety hazard. Please remember that burning for other than approved recreational purposes is banned in Mecklenburg County.

Our neighborhood Fire Chief, Dave Banick, recently attended a Hearthstone Board Meeting and provided a copy of the recreational fire guidelines from the Fire Marshal's Office of Mecklenburg County. The fire code allows camp fires, recreational fires and fire pits as long as they are not constructed within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material *and* as long as they are constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Fire extinguishing equipment must be available for immediate utilization. All other burning is prohibited without a permit.

Unauthorized fires may be reported to the Fire Marshall's Office at 704-336-2154 or to the Regional Air Quality Office in Morrisville at 704-663-1699.

