

final thoughts...

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to write an article, have an idea, or submit photos for the next Holler issue, please email the board at: TheBoard@HearthStoneNeighborhood.com
The next Holler issue will be released in the fall so get those ideas working!

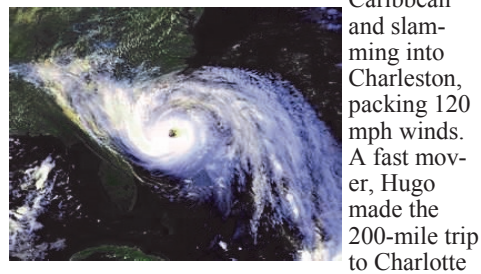
When Hugo Called on Hearthstone

~ By Ed Singletary



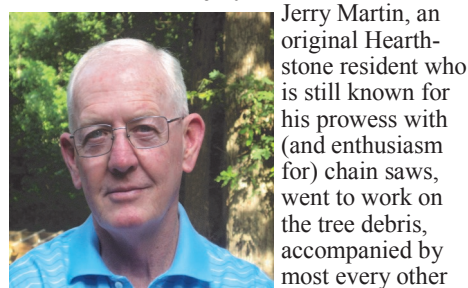
In the course of its 33-year history, Hearthstone has faced a number of challenges, both natural and man-made. In the former category, no event tops the rude and unlikely arrival of Hurricane Hugo in September of 1989. The neighborhood's response to this near-disaster was in many ways emblematic of characteristics which define Hearthstone to this day.

A Category 5 mega-storm, Hugo formed off the Cape Verde Islands to the west of equatorial Africa, wreaking havoc across the



Caribbean and slamming into Charleston, packing 120 mph winds. A fast mover, Hugo made the 200-mile trip to Charlotte in just over six hours, spinning off tornadoes fore and aft. It was a direct hit on the metro area – at night, no less - and an anomaly in Charlotte's known metrological history. With sustained winds of 60 mph and gusts to 90, Hugo's legacy of devastation was both broad and deep. 23 years later, Hugo-sculpted trees abound in the woods of Beatty Park.

While Hugo didn't leave a lasting mark on the landscape of Hearthstone, the residents who endured it recall 9/29/89 and the ensuing weeks as a time of hardship and selflessness. Toppled trees crisscrossed Rocking Chair, Quilting Roads and Butter Churn Lane, as well as the yards of every house. At least one house took a direct hit. Electricity was out for over two weeks. Most every home was flooded to some extent. Candles and gas-powered generators abounded in the houses of residents who didn't retreat to temporary quarters elsewhere. Just getting into and/or out of the area was beyond problematic. Yet, no resident or pet sustained serious injury.



Jerry Martin, an original Hearthstone resident who is still known for his prowess with (and enthusiasm for) chain saws, went to work on the tree debris, accompanied by most every other

resident capable of pitching in with the heavy manual labor involved in the clean-up. Neighbors cooked for one another and otherwise shared in the tasks of daily living.

Jerry, who moved to Rocking Chair Road with wife Charlotte in 1979, when it consisted of a half-dozen houses on two streets (Rocking Chair and Quilting), was instrumental in establishing the nearby Country Haven Swim and Racquet Club (now the Weddington Swim & Racket Club). The Martins arrived shortly after Ray and Diane Ramsey - the first Hearthstone owners - and Dana and Vicky McKittrick moved to Rocking Chair. The three families had been neighbors in the Country Woods neighborhood near Sharon Amity Road, and remain neighbors today. Jerry recalls the founding of the Neighborhood Association and the Country Haven club as two defining events in the first decade of Hearthstone. It was a neighborly place – and a bit of an anomaly in an area of farms and vacant land in what was then a remote corner of both Mecklenburg and Union counties. It was also near alone amongst new neighborhoods in the Charlotte region: the developers spared most of the trees during construction. Jerry notes that “everyone” came to neighborhood meetings during that first decade. And, their kids sustained friendships into college and beyond, as evidenced by the recent informal reunion of several of these twenty-something's last month.

The McKittricks were attracted to Hearthstone by features which still distinguish the neighborhood: access to good schools, the ability to walk its streets without interference from through traffic, the value and quality of the houses, broad front porches, the tree canopy and the adjacent woods (and what those woods became – Beatty Park). They cite the friendliness of their neighbors as incentive for both moving - and remaining - here.

As Hearthstone grew, it lost some of the cohesiveness which had characterized its beginnings. Issues arose which were more divisive than those which confronted the first generation of inhabitants. We'll explore some of these - as well as some more of the good stuff - in future issues of the Holler.

We encourage y'all to write in with your take on things, ideas for feature articles (which you either write yourself or relate to our “staff”), all the news that fits, etc. Meantime, somebody let us know who the heck Tilly Morris is (or was) and, if pertinent, why we should care. As always, don't let facts get in the way of a good story.....



coming soon >>>

In the Fall Issue

- *HearthStone recipes
- *Adult election dinner
- *Board members HOA updates
- *Halloween party for kids
- *Park recreation & information
- *Annexation in the neighborhood

Fun Fact

Did you know that summer 2012 begins in the Northern Hemisphere on June 20th at 7:09PM? Each year, the timing of the solstice depends on when the Sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator. The word *solstice* is from the Latin *solstitium*, from *sol*(sun) and *stitium* (to stop), reflecting the fact that the Sun appears to stop at this time (and again at the winter solstice).



Be sure to look for the 2013 directory information form in your Mailbox. Forms will be delivered in early October.



in this issue of the Holler >>>

- *New co-presidents message
- *Board members HOA updates
- *Introducing the new neighbors
- *Neighborhood information
- *Remembering Hurricane Hugo
- *2012 Neighborhood block party
- *Kristin's compost corner



“Where a house is truly a home ... HearthStone”

2012 Summer Issue



HearthStone Holler

Thank you to the individuals who have agreed to serve on the HOA board!

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Neighborhood Watch 704-996-0258	Ed Singletary singletaryfamily@aol.com

Contact your neighborhood board anytime at:
TheBoard@HearthStoneNeighborhood.com

Congratulations to all the 2012 Graduates of HearthStone!



Meet the New Co-Presidents

My name Kathi Hart and I am so excited to be one of the new Co-Presidents for Hearthstone. I have lived in Hearthstone since 2005 with my husband John and our little boy Nolan who is 4 1/2. John & I grew up together in a small town in central Florida and moved to Charlotte to escape the heat! When we moved in, we had no idea what a real community was all about. Hearthstone has been amazing and we feel so lucky to have stumbled upon it. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here and want to give back to the community we love so much.



In the past few years, neighborhood events have fallen off a bit. Many of us have really missed these traditions. This year we would like to get the Hearthstone HOA back in full swing.

My name is Tina Brooks and I am so pleased to be co-president with Kathi Hart. I have lived in Hearthstone since March of 2007 with my husband Colin, our 16-year-old son Ryan, our 4-year-old daughter Charleigh, and our new dog Roxy. I am originally from Canada and moved to the United States



in 2005. As a registered nurse I am currently working in Rock Hill. I love to sing, play all sports, and try new adventurous things. I feel we have a real gem as far as neighborhoods go. The togetherness, compassion and general caring for thy neighbor have warmed my heart since the day we moved in. I have enjoyed the past five years of living in this wonderful neighborhood and look forward to seeing if we can breathe new life back into the HOA!

If you have any suggestions for the neighborhood or would like to participate in any HearthStone events please let us or any HOA board member know!

HearthStone is now on Facebook! Just visit the link below and that will take you directly to our Facebook site. Click on the box "like" and you are all set. This is a great way to see pictures from events and what's happening in your neighborhood! <https://www.facebook.com/HearthStoneHood>

Welcome to the neighborhood

HearthStone would like to say welcome to our new neighbors Kim Rodgers and her son Trey. They recently purchased the brick home on 2905 Carding Place. Kim is a learning consultant at Bank of America and works out of her home office. She has lived in Charlotte most of her life and is excited to be in a neighborhood with such charm.



Kim recently started to take on gardening as a new hobby and has been doing a ton of work in her new yard.

Both Kim and Trey are looking forward to settling in and enjoying the neighborhood. She is interesting in getting a Bunco game together with any neighborhood folks who would like to play so let her know! And lastly, thanks to Kim for graciously volunteering to take over the HOA Secretary position on the board.

The Crane family is also new to the neighborhood and has moved into 2905 Butter Churn Lane. It's the house with the metal roof! The new neighbors are Jeff, Suzi, and their son Jac who is 3. Jac attends Canfield Academy. Both work at Firebirds, Jeff as a chef and Suzi as a sales manager. Their hobbies are outdoor recreation involving boating and camping. We are so happy you have chosen HearthStone to call home!



Welcome to the world Layne Tilley daughter of Chad & Ashley of 2911 Butter Churn Lane and Jackson D'Apice son of Peter & Heather of 2901 Butter Churn Lane.



It's summer time and there are a lot more neighbors taking advantage of the streets in HearthStone. Please remember to slow down and look for people running and walking, especially with children. Parking in your driveway allows a good visual path for neighbors to walk without having to go into the center of the road. Keeping your car in your driveway will also help with car break-ins. So remember to lock your vehicle and never keep valuables in plain view inside your car. And as always, HearthStone bi-laws are bound by ALL neighbors. So please submit any work or exterior changes on your property to the HOA board.

This year the HearthStone Neighborhood Block Party was a big hit! It certainly made up for not having the event last year.

The turnout was awesome and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. The HOA would like to thank Anna Smith, Children's Social Chair, for her time and commitment in planning and leading such a fantastic event! Also, special thanks to all the people who helped with setting up and going shopping in order to make this party happen.



Neighborhood Block Party

We can't forget the men that did a great job on the grill and we really did appreciate their efforts in keeping everyone fed. Finally, thank you to Nancy & Ken Klug for so willingly allowing their yard to be the site of the water slide and kiddie pool and a BIG thanks to everyone who helped in cleaning up afterwards.



We all were impressed with the turnout and the enormous amount of fun the children of all ages seemed to have. If you couldn't make the party this year, mark your calendars for next year to get in on all the fun! To see more block party photos, log in and check out the HearthStone Site on Facebook.



It's so refreshing to see how many neighbors are taking the time and money to fix up their home. Not only does this help the property value to you and your neighbors, but it makes HearthStone look warm and more inviting to everyone that visits. This is also a great way to help those who are selling their home. With more people wanting to stay for the long run in the neighborhood, it's definitely making HearthStone a better place to call home!

-Malissa Day

HearthStone yearly events

The HOA of HearthStone is very excited to list the new and up-coming yearly events that will be happening in our neighborhood. We hope that you will be able to attend and meet your neighbors! Remember, these events can only happen with your paid HOA yearly dues!

February.....Chili/Cook Off Contest
 March.....Easter Egg Hunt
 April.....Pancake Breakfast
 May.....Play Date in the Park
 June.....Neighborhood Block Party
 September.....Adult Election Dinner
 October.....Halloween Party for the kids
 December.....Secret Santa for the kids
 Ladies Neighborhood Ornament Exchange

The Compost Corner

Composting involves mixing yard and household organic waste in a pile or bin

and providing conditions that encourage decomposition. The decomposition process is fueled by millions of microscopic organisms (bacteria, fungi) that take up residence inside your compost pile, continuously devouring and recycling it to produce a rich organic fertilizer and valuable soil amendment. Below are six basic rules to composting. And remember, look out for snakes!

1. *Don't throw away your kitchen scraps — add them to the compost pile. Kitchen scraps are typically high in nitrogen, which helps heat up the compost pile and speed up the composting process. Egg shells, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable peels and scraps are all outstanding materials to add. Bury these deep at no less than 18".*
2. *If you're composting with a compost pile, bigger is often better. Heat builds up with a big pile. You don't want to get much bigger than about 3 feet by 3 feet though.*
3. *Keep your compost aerated! If you are composting with a tumbling composter, make sure you turn it whenever you add new materials. If you are composting with a pile, or in a static (non-tumbling) compost bin, be sure to mix up the contents so that the pile gets oxygen and can break down effectively.*
4. *Don't let the compost completely dry out. A compost pile needs moisture to keep the composting process active.*
5. *Don't keep your compost too wet so that it gets soggy and starts to stink. Just as too dry is bad, too wet is also something that you should avoid.*
6. *Too much of any one material will slow down the composting process. If you have all leaves, all grass clippings or an overload of any other single type of material; it can throw off the balance of the pile. In general, it's good to keep a mix of green and brown material*



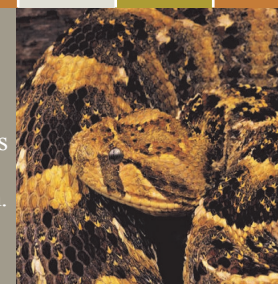
"When we decided to buy a Home in HearthStone we had no idea how wonderful the sense of community would be. Having events like the block party has certainly made us feel like we are in the best neighborhood for our family"
 ~Carla McLellan



Staying safe during the summer yard clean up

As beautiful as living in HearthStone may be, you probably have some un-welcome guests in and around your yard. The following tips were given as a safety precaution by Bryon May of Landcrafters Group.

First off, snakes are in your yard even though you may not see them. Most snakes will slither away first but never provoke them and stay away from any snake nest you may know of. The most common snakes that neighbors may see are black snakes, rat snakes, and copperhead snakes. Black snakes and rat snakes are actually good to have as they will eat insects and mice. Copperheads on the other hand can be extremely dangerous and sometimes lethal if bitten. Copperheads like water areas and spots where there is debris like stacked wood or branch piles. Before you pick up any piles of sticks or move any piles of wood, scatter the piles around first to scare off any snakes that may be inside the piles. Use a stick and stand a few feet back when you do so. Since copperheads love water, remember to keep pools of water dumped and keep an eye out if you have a stream in your back yard. And as always, NEVER pick up any snake. You may be able to identify a found snake but you can never be sure what kind of mood the snake may be in!



You may have noticed a few upgrades in the front entrance of the neighborhood recently. The front monument sign and oval sign have been newly painted. The message board by the stop sign also had a face lift. Make sure to check the board out for any upcoming or current notices. The front entrance will also be getting new lights to up-lite the front sign and surrounding trees. New flowers were also recently planted and pine needles are coming soon. Remember that there are sprinkler heads along the grass edge and street. So PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS. Tires run over the sprinkler heads and cause enough damage that they need replaced when this happens. Pull forward and park beyond the common grass area to avoid running over sprinkler heads you may not know are there. Thanks again to Bryon May and his crew for all their hard work in keeping the front entrance so beautiful!

