



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

www.berkeleyneighbors.org

January 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

— Laura Ezell —

HAPPY NEW YEAR BERKELEY NEIGHBORS!! My name is Laura Ezell and I am the new president of your HOA for 2012. I am grateful for the leadership of the 2011 board and want to extend my sincere thanks for their service to our community! I am excited to be able to work with other neighbors who want to give of their time to make Berkeley a beautiful, friendly place to live.

Please mark your calendar for the **BERKELEY HOA GENERAL MEETING at TOTAL WINE on TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 at 7PM.** George Lee, Chief Zoning Officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg will attend our meeting and will provide current information on the Ballantyne Commons lot owned by Rick McCorkle of Lightway Properties. This ongoing issue is one of great importance to Berkeley and affects all neighbors especially those on Winsland Lane and other streets close to that Berkeley entrance. **WE NEED YOUR ATTENDANCE TO SHOW GEORGE LEE OUR COMMITMENT TO BERKELEY.** Please know that while this is a sensitive topic, we will maintain a level of civility in our conversation with Mr. Lee. We appreciate his attendance and intend on keeping our communication and relationship a positive one.

We have had such a fun time at our neighborhood events in the past few months!! The Halloween party saw a large turn-out with lots of great costumes and pizza provided by Gaylene Price! A big "thank you" to Angie Langhart, Gaylene Price and all the people who helped coordinate this event -- we even had neighborhood kids judge the costume contest! So much fun!

Your block captains met in November for a planning meeting. They were given black spray paint, so watch for them to tidy up stop sign posts on your street. In December, the block captains met again to sort and organize hundreds of candles and bags for Luminary night. They then delivered the luminary kits delivered to you. Thanks block captains for your help!

Our Luminary night was lovely as we saw the soft glow of candle-lit streets and the Festival of Lights was a big success with Santa Claus, delicious sweet treats and hot chocolate! Two Santa trains rode around the neighborhood and was the highlight of the evening for our little ones! Thanks goes to the Gustos who offered their home as our location for this annual event once again, to our special friend and neighbor, Bruce Mayer, and to those who brought our cookies, brownies and other treats for our guests! What a great time to visit with our neighbors and friends during the holidays!

As our attention turns to 2012, your HOA board is already discussing what we can be doing to improve on what is already being done and getting input from you on new ideas and interests. Last year, we realized how outdated our Berkeley directory was and as a result, we will start fresh this year. We will be gathering new information from you to make our directory accurate and useful again. Your new directory information form will be delivered at the same time we deliver dues notices, so be watching for it. We will also be scrubbing our current email address list and your name will be added to the new list as we receive your dues payment. We are also going to be asking for your input on what neighborhood activities you would be interested in participating in. What do you want from your Berkeley?

Your dues payment allows neighborhood activities to continue, prints the directory, cares for landscaping, keeps the entrance lights on, makes repairs or replacements to items as needed (i.e. irrigation system, damaged signage, etc.), adds an extra layer of protection to your home with our security officer and much more. Keep in mind that in putting forth ideas for things we would like to have in Berkeley, we need to be willing to help put those plans into action. We want your help and input on committees like social, civic, architectural review and beautification. No experience necessary! All that is required is a willing heart, strong work ethic and a commitment to making Berkeley even better! Contact a board member if you are interested.

Berkeley Calendar of Events

January

Jan. 24. BHI General Meeting, 7:00 PM at TOTAL WINE in the Promanade at Providence Shopping Center. George Lee, Chief Zoning Officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg attending with current information on Rick McCorkle Property on Ballantyne Commons

February

Feb. 15. BHI \$135 annual dues deadline

April

April 14. Golf Outing at Stonebridge Golf Links. Tee Time 1:30pm. Details Inside

May

May 5. Berkeley Neighborhood Yard Sale

IMPORTANT TO DO THIS WEEK: Attend BHI General Meeting, Tuesday, Jan 24, 7:00 pm at Total Wine. Pay BHI \$135. Dues. Remit, made out to BHI, c/o Lynn Helton 5431 Winsland Lane Complete Berkeley Directory Update and Interest Survey, turn in with BHI Dues

SECURITY

Officer Howard Setzer

Media outlets have been busy covering recent tragedies involving vehicles and pedestrians. These events are not accidents, they are preventable crashes. We all need to drive at or below the speed limit and stop at all stop signs. We need to be especially careful in the mornings and afternoons when children are going to and returning from school. Remember to stop for school buses that are picking up or discharging passengers. Pedestrians walking or running in the street are required to face vehicular traffic and step out of the street as vehicles approach. All users of the road should have a defensive mindset. *Always assume the other person will make a mistake and have a plan to overcome that mistake.*

I received a complaint regarding pine needle solicitors going door to door. The complainant stated that the peddlers knocking on doors are separated from the truck hauling the needles. Residents may believe those individuals to be suspicious persons or unwanted solicitors. While BHOA has always welcomed pine needle sales in Berkeley, I will encourage pine needle peddlers be in close proximity to their truck when approaching homes to minimize security concerns.

Parking remains a challenge in Berkeley. Please park in your driveway to avoid parking in the street whenever possible. The law requires that vehicles parked on two way streets be parked passenger side to curb. Be careful not to block driveways or impede residents from safely entering and leaving their driveways. Restrict parking to one side of the street to allow passage of emergency vehicles.

If you need immediate Police assistance please call 911. BHI members may reach me on the **BERKELEY SECURITY HOTLINE (704 348-1714)**. If you call 911, please notify me of the situation via the hotline. Thanks again for your continued support as we work together to keep Berkeley safe.

BERKELEY ALERT!

Please email Laura Ezell at Lauraezell@gmail.com

In order to have your email address added to the Berkeley Alert email distribution list to receive any important safety and security issues via email. Must be a dues paying member to receive this service.

TREASURER

Lynn Helton

The dues remain at \$135.00 per household for 2012

Each homeowner paying dues is vital to the upkeep of our neighborhood

Please remit your payment made out to **BHI**
c/o Lynn Helton 5431 Winsland Lane

Update the directory with your dues!

Please take the time to fill out the information form as well as the Berkeley Interest Survey with the dues payment (see newsletter flyer insert)

Your email address is essential if you wish to receive emails blasts!

(emails are only sent to MEMBERS of the HOA)

www.BerkeleyNeighbors.Org

Lisa Ball

Let's keep our website current! If you have any recent Berkeley .jpg photos, just email them to me and I would be happy to add them to the website. The "News from Neighbors" page is for you to post positive Business and Personal referrals. Check out the calendar page for neighborhood event details. And, don't forget to check out the Homeowner's Dues page, which is updated regularly as dues are paid:

<http://www.berkeleyneighbors.org/dues.htm>.

Send emails and .jpps to:

webmaster@berkeleyneighbors.org.

Also, just email me when you would like to remove a listing so that I can keep this page up to date.

Webmaster@berkeleyneighbors.org

Happy New Year Berkeley!

2012 Dues of \$135.00 are due February 15, 2012

Please make checks payable to **Berkeley Homeowners Inc.**
See **reverse side** of this page for Dues Statement, Directory Update and Interest Survey

Mail or drop off your dues to **Lynn Helton, BHI Treasurer, 5431 Winsland Lane**

We live in a great neighborhood, and one of the best things about our neighborhood is each neighbors' commitment to keeping it great through our homeowners association. For as little as **\$135 per homeowner (only \$11.25 per month!)**, our homeowners association (and your dues) pays for the following things where we ALL benefit:

Property Value

Maintenance, landscaping and irrigation at Berkeley entrances, which showcase neighborhood curb appeal

Lighting throughout Berkeley

Insurance in the case of accidents or property damage to common areas

Dedicated Board position to voice Berkeley's interest in the surrounding community (i.e. Ballantyne Commons property, etc.) keeping up our property values

Neighborhood Safety

Private Security provided by Officer Howard Setzer, including patrolling the neighborhood and following up on incidents.

Extra security when neighbors are away from home (ability to call Officer Setzer to let him know you are out of town)

Custom neighborhood signs posted at entrances focused on "no solicitation". These signs will be enhanced in 2012 to include "officer on duty."

Email blasts to let all BHI members know of safety concerns

Building our Community

Neighborhood events such as the Halloween Party and Festival of Lights/Luminary Night

Neighborhood Directory to allow for arranging get-togethers, play dates, babysitting, pet sitting, yard work, etc.

BHI Newsletter and website (www.berkeleyneighbors.org) announcing neighborhood events and activities as well as useful Berkeley information

Email blasts to let BHI Members know of neighborhood events

None of these things would be possible without EACH neighbors' commitment to OUR neighborhood!

81% of homeowners paid dues in 2011, doing their part to keep our neighborhood friendly, safe and beautiful.

Please check out www.berkeleyneighbors.org to see which neighbors are (and aren't) supporting our neighborhood!

Thank you to those homeowners who paid dues in 2011!

On the reverse side you will find the Dues Statement and Directory Update Form. Please fill out this information to ensure your information is correctly stated in the 2012 Berkeley Directory.

If you would like to be included on the 2012 BHI email distribution list, please include your email address.

The BHI email distribution list will be deleted on February 15th and going forward only *current* BHI members will receive BHI email blasts.

Let's make 2012 a great year! Help keep Berkeley great by supporting BHI today!

MEMBERSHIP

Peggy Conerly

Welcome New Berkeley Residents!

Berkeley welcomed these families during 2011. If you haven't already, please stop by to welcome them to Berkeley!

Niles Rains and Lisa Sworowski, 6023 Alexa Road
Domingos and Catherine Henriques, Jr., 5509 Kincross Lane
Nate and Mindy Zimmerman, 5525 Alexa Road
Glenn and Theresa Terrell, Jr., 10925 Oak Pond Circle
Lucian and Jennifer Sbarra, 5823 Alexa Road
Daniel and Candace Roane, 5531 Alexa Road
David and Beth Delaney, 10207 Rattersly Court
Darren and Andrea Hirsch, 5925 Summerston Place
Daniel and Jeanne Boeck, 6016 Derry Hill Place
Warren and Amy Overman, 6007 Derry Hill Place
Demian and Sonia Betz, 10105 Berkeley Forest Lane
Robert and Cherie Page, 10211 Rattersly Court
George and Elizabeth Thomas, 5735 Summerston Place
Eugene Liu and Jin Jing, 5602 Wrenfield Court
David and Julie Clarkson, 10501 Oak Pond Circle
Joseph and Therese Coffey, 10338 Hollybrook Drive
Richard and Tori Gill, 10610 Annalexa Lane

If you are a new Berkeley resident and have not received a welcome packet, please let me know so I can get one to you!

Block Captains and new residents, please contact me if you are in need of new neighbor packets at 5920 Alexa Road, 704-814-9135 or peggy_conerly@yahoo.com

2012 Berkeley Directories

You have received information about BHI dues and our annual Berkeley Directory. Please be sure to fill out this form and submit it with your dues to ensure your information in the 2012 Berkeley Directory is accurate. Also included on the form is a quick interest survey. We would love to hear what events you would like to have in 2012. Let us know!! Directory/Interest Survey forms and BHI dues should be submitted by **February 15th** to Lynn Helton, 5431 Winsland Lane. If you did not receive this information, please check the Berkeley website, www.berkeleyneighbors.org.

Do you know of a business that would like to advertise in the Berkeley Directory? The directory is accepting large and small advertisements at nominal charges. The rate for a small advertisement (1/2 page) is \$25.00 and for a large advertisement (full page) is \$50.00. Please contact Peggy Conerly at 704-814-9135 or peggy_conerly@yahoo.com for more information.

2012 BERKELEY BLOCK CAPTAINS

Thank you to the following Berkeley neighbors who have agreed to serve as block captains for the year.

Block Captains have many responsibilities and we appreciate their time and commitment to Berkeley!

Alexa Rd
Candace Roane
Chris Ecler
Barb Hyson
Annalexa Rd
Lori Benton
Berkeley Forest
Stacey Koval
Crosshill Ct.
Beth Mohr
Nicole Rizzieri

Derry Hill
Chris Carlsten
Hollybrook Dr. &
Selsey Pl.
Mary Beth Heidt
vacant
Kincross Ln.
Laura Ezell
Oak Pond Circle
Donna Marlowe
Carole Rice
Terri Joffee

Rattersly Ct.
Barb Hyson
Rockhill Ln.
Stacey Koval
Scott Gate Ct.
Suzanne Jewett
Selsey Place
Stacey Shuler
Summerston Place
Margaret Carter

Waterbrook Lane
Carla Brodowicz
Maria Vari
Winsland Lane
Lynn Helton
Berkeley Village
Oak Pond
Lauren Springs
Summerston Place
Brenda Levin
Kelly Gardner

SOCIAL

Berkeley Golf Outing

James Rice is heading up the popular Berkeley Golf Outing scheduled for Saturday April 14 at Stonebridge Golf Links.

Tee Time: 1:30pm

Format: Scramble (meaning each player tees off on each hole. The best of the tee shots is selected and all players play their second shots from that spot. The best of the second shots is determined, then all play their third shots from that spot, and then so on). So, you don't need to be a good golfer.

Cost per person: \$55.

Cost Includes: 18 holes of golf, Cart, Range Balls, Food (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, chips, potato salad), Beverage (Iced Tea and Fountain Drinks) although other beverages are available for purchase on the course.

Contact: James Rice, jamesrice1231@yahoo.com, to sign up to play, volunteer to help, or if you have questions.

ITS BAAAACKThe 14th Annual Berkeley Yard Sale!

Save the Date: Saturday, May 5, 7:00am - 12:00 Noon

Gaylene Price is again sponsoring and underwriting the cost of signs, maps, balloons and newspaper advertising for the yard sale. So start your spring cleaning now and you'll be ready! Ask your friends and family to join in - the more the merrier!

Details to follow in next newsletter. Please call or email Gaylene with any questions at 704-614-5902, Gaylene.Price@allentate.com

Berkeley Festival of Lights and Luminaries

Christmas magic was in the air when Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit with all the Berkeley children and their families! He even arrived in one of the two trains that went throughout the neighborhood that evening. Berkeley has never looked more lovely in the glow of the luminaries, thanks to the block captains who assembled and delivered the luminaries, Kristy Rankin who hosted the "sip and "sort" and all the Berkeley residents who participated. Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening so special! Again, Marc and Kimberly Gusto were the gracious host and hostess, Butch Mayer was great again and Lisa Ball organized the event once more. So many took time out of their busy holiday schedules to help set up Santa's cottage, contributed tables and supplies, brought delicious cookies, manned the cookie tables and train stop, kept the hot chocolate flowing and at the end, helped clean up. Thank you Chris Carlsten, Donna Marlowe, Terri Joffe, Lynn Helton, Nicole Rizzieri, Laura Ezell, Stacy Koval, Peggy Conerly, Catherine Henriques, Lisa Ball, Gaylene Price, Gordon Price, Kristi Buttles, Nicette Patrick and all the others that helped out that I didn't get their names or inadvertently left off the list - you were very much appreciated and one of the biggest reasons we have such a great neighborhood! Happy New Year to Everyone!

HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Halloween Party was a huge success and would not have been possible without the hospitality of the residents on Scott Gate Court. A huge thank you goes to Angie Langhart for organizing this great event, and to the following families who contributed their time, talent, and/or treats:

Betz, Bonheimer, Bonney, Datta, Clarkson, Ecker, Fischer, Hammond, Harrison, Helton, Kaszbyinski, Moody, Morgan, Rice, Scheiding, Springs, Pons, Ussery, Wyatt

Thank you to the following Berkeley youth for doing such a superb job entertaining our younger party goers. All your efforts were greatly appreciated!

Tayah Bonney, Kate Clarkson, Harrison Jewett, Catherine and Will Langhart, Jacob Levinson, Madeleine Page, Sophie Springs, Garret Sauls, Timmy Schieding, Callie and Caswell Wyatt

Congratulations to following Halloween Costume Contest Winners!

Dean Clarkson, Jordan Rice, Garrett Rice, Drew Levin, Brooke Wolkofsky, Jessica Wolkofsky, Chloe Kaszubinski, John Robert Ezell

A special note of thanks goes out to Gaylene Price for providing ALL the PIZZAS for the party!

	2012 Budget
Income	
Dues - 80%	37,260.00
Interest Income - checking	20.00
Other Income	-
Total Income	37,280.00
Expenses	
Duke Power - Electric	1,900.00
City Of Charlotte - Water	1,150.00
Insurance	1,900.00
Landscaping	9,100.00
Security	19,920.00
use of security vehicle	
phone (security hotline #)	160.00
Board Operating Expenses	
Taxes	100.00
Newsletter/Website/Copies	-
Directories	300.00
Membership Packets /New Residents	750.00
Postage	50.00
Meetings at PSE	25.00
	148.00
Social	
*****Block Party	
*****Luminaries	0.00
*****Luminary Night	1,000.00
*****Halloween Party	700.00
	0.00
Total Expenses	
Total income less expenses	37,203.00
	77.00

2012
APPROVED
BERKELEY BUDGET

BEAUTIFICATION

Happy New Year! As you have probably noticed, two entrance lights are missing at the Ballantyne entrance. This was due to a hit and run at the end of Novemeber. Duke Power was immediately notified and a work order was put in place. Look for the lights to be replaced in the next few weeks.

2012 HOA dues notices have been distributed. Your dues help cover the cost of insuring the five brick monuments, power to light the entrances, as well as irrigation and landscaping costs. As residents, we all need to take ownership of these expenses! Thanks to everyone for helping to keep Berkeley beautiful.

The Position of Beautification Chairperson for the Berkeley Board remains unfilled. Please call Laura Ezell at 704-846-2777 if you are interested in joining the BHI Board.

CIVICS

James Rice

I would like to encourage you to attend the Berkeley General Meeting at Total Wine on Tuesday, January 24 at 7PM. What better way to start the New Year, than supporting your neighborhood and becoming involved in issues that affect each of us.

George Lee, Chief Zoning Officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg will attend our meeting and will provide current information on the Ballantyne Commons lot owned by Rick McCorkle of Lightway Properties. This ongoing issue is one of great importance to Berkeley and affects all neighbors, especially those on Winsland Lane and other streets close to that Berkeley entrance. **WE NEED YOUR ATTENDANCE TO SHOW GEORGE LEE OUR COMMITMENT TO BERKELEY.**

Looking forward to seeing you Tuesday! There are several positions on the BHI Board still needing chairpersons. Your interest in volunteering to fill those chairs, or to participate in any way is very much welcomed. Please feel free to speak with any BHI Board member if you have any questions.

Happy New Year Berkeley!

Berkeley

2012 BHI BOARD

OFFICERS

President.....Laura Ezell
Vice President.....Matt Jamison
Secretary.....Mary Gregory
Treasurer.....Lynn Helton

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architectural Review.....**Open**
Civic.....James Rice
Communications.....Gaylene Price
Golf Outing.....James Rice
Beautification.....**Open**
Membership/Block Capt....PeggyConerly.
Website Manager.....Lisa Ball
Security.....Howard Setzer
Family Night Dinners.....Open
Social Co-Chairs
Easter Egg Hunt.....Open
4th of July Parade.....Open
Halloween.....Open
Luminary/Festival of Lights....Open

Attention Berkeley Clubs and Organizations and paid-up members of BHI
We'd love to get the word out for any of your upcoming events! Simply email Gaylene Price with your information at gaylene.price@allentate.com by the 24th of each month

- **The Berkeley Book Club** will meet this Wednesday night (the 25th) at 7:30, at Barb Sanders house (5444 Kinross). This month's book is **The Namesake** by Jhumpa Lahiri. Upcoming books: February—**State of Wonder** hosted by Carol and Jo; March—**Fair and Tender Ladies** hosted by Sharon and Sandra. New members welcome! If you are interested in joining, please call or email Sharon Starks for information at 704-846-6672, sharon@carolina.rr.com
- **Gardeners**, I would like to have a garden party wherein we can exchange cuttings and thinnings from our gardens. If you think you would be interested, send me an email, carowhitz@aol.com and I will create a group file so we can share information (deer proof planting ideas, sales...). If we note the plants in our gardens that will need thinning during the year, then we can be ready to share them in the early fall next year. Carol Horowitz
- **Woman's Group Forming in Berkeley!** Are you interested in being part of a social group of women who live in Berkeley? If so, please email Elizabeth Campbell at berkeleywomensgroup@gmail.com. Send me your name and your ideas for the group (if you have any). Because we don't have an existing group, this is an exciting opportunity with several options. We could have speakers, wine tastings, outings, or just gather to socialize and support each other. If you are interested in helping me with this endeavor, please contact me at the email address above or call me at 704-321-1478.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Please remember that any exterior changes to your property require prior approval by the architectural committee. That includes fences, decks, sheds, etc. Our covenants are not very restrictive, but they are binding and we all agreed to them when we bought a home here. The application is an easy, one page form and is available by request or on the Berkeley Neighborhood website, berkeleyneighbors.org. Currently the position of Architectural Review position is open. Anyone interested in filling this position and helping your neighborhood with an important position, please contact Laura Ezell at 704-846-2777 or lauraezell@gmail.com.