

# The Ridgeline

Newsletter for the Amber Ridge Community

March 2009

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!!!

The Amber Ridge Homeowners Association Board invites you to get involved in your community! We are seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of activities throughout the community. By volunteering in Amber Ridge, you can help to assure the continued success of our Homeowners Association, and in turn keep our assessment fees lower.

As a volunteer, you will help to support and promote an appreciation of our neighborhood. Whether you can donate your time on a regular basis or only occasionally, we invite you to put your own interests, special skills and talents to work for the Amber Ridge Homeowners Association. There are a number of committees looking for help including the Social Committee, Welcoming Committee, Community Relations Committee, Common Area Committee, Neighborhood Watch, or tell us how you would like to help and maybe create a new committee.

And while being a volunteer has untold benefits for the community, being a volunteer can also be a huge benefit to you personally. Here are just a few reasons to volunteer:

**Be part of your community** No person is an island. We sometimes take for granted the community that we

live in. Volunteering is ultimately about helping others and having an impact on our neighborhood. What better way is there to connect with your community and give a little back?

### **Meet a diverse range of people**

Our neighborhood is full of a diverse range of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Great friendships are ready and waiting for you to discover right here in Amber Ridge. Not only can you develop relationships but it is also a great way to learn about people from all walks of life, different environments, and new industries.

**Learn or develop a new skill** Volunteering is the perfect vehicle to discover something you are really good at and develop a new skill. In addition, being a volunteer may help your professionally. In most instances employers look for people who volunteer. A survey among 200 leading businesses said 73% of employers would recruit a candidate



Without volunteers to help the Amber Ridge would not be able to host fun events such as the annual National Night Out Block Party (shown above).

with volunteering experience over one without and 94% of employees who volunteered to learn new skills had benefited either by getting their first job, improving their salary, or being promoted.

**Motivation and sense of achievement** Fundamentally, volunteering is about

Continued on next page...

### **Inside this issue...**

- ◆ Volunteers Wanted
- ◆ Assessment Update
- ◆ Homestead Exemption Program
- ◆ Free Tax Assistance Available

The community newsletter is produced every month by the communications committee.

Continued from front page...

giving your time, energy and skills freely. As a volunteer you have made a decision to help on your own accord, free from pressure to act from others. Volunteers predominantly express a sense of achievement and motivation, and this is ultimately generated from your desire and enthusiasm to help. Sometimes volunteers are regarded as do-gooders and those that hold that view also assume that one person can never make a difference. It may be true that no one person can solve all the world's problems, but what you can do is make that little corner of the world where you live just that little bit better.

#### **Your future in the community**

Maybe you interested in running for the Board during the next election in October? Well committees are training ground for future board members. Since committees are called on to often participate in board meetings to give reports, participation acquaints committee members with the Board process. Proven and effective committee members are candidates groomed for Board service.

Interested? There are a number of committees that volunteers would be appreciate your help. Please contact Wayne Wingate, Committee Chairman, to be added to the volunteer list. In addition, we will be having a community social in April with information on how exactly you can help and what projects the various committees will be working on in 2009. We appreciate all the volunteers that help maintain the value of our community and keep our homeowners' association fees so low. Together we can make our community the best it can be.

## **HOA ASSESSMENTS UPDATE**

We are just over halfway through our assessment collection for 2009 and so far we are having our most successful year ever with most of Amber Ridge homeowners sending in their payments. Remember that you assessment payment of \$56.25 is due the first day of the month for the months of January, February, March and April. It will be considered late and subject to fines if not received by the 30th of the month.

These assessments are used by the community to pay for landscaping, insurance, utilities, lights at the entrance, irrigation, maintenance, savings for capital improvements, enforcement of the regulations, and keeping our property values up.

In addition, with assessments we are able to host a variety of fun events for the community such as National Night Out, community barbecues, holiday decorating contests and other events designed to make our community a better place to live.

If you have any problems with your payments, contact Cedar Management at 704-644-8808 or toll free at 1-877-252-3327 and they can assist you by finding a payment option for you that will work with your budget. Do not wait until the payments and late fees begin piling up. The sooner that you contact Cedar, the sooner a solution can be found to is satisfactory to everyone.



## **AMBER RIDGE DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING**

**MARCH 12TH 7 PM  
1556 ARBORGATE DRIVE**

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 25TH 6:30 PM**

**ROSEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **OPEN BOARD MEETING MARCH 25TH 7 PM**

**ROSEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

# Community Message Board

## New Baby

Simon and Rosa Garcia of 1540 Arborgate Dr. welcomed Gabriel Garcia on 02-02-2009. He weighed 7lb 3 oz.

## Calling All Cooks!

Do you have an amazing recipe that guests request again and again? If so, then we want to hear from you. The Ridgeline will be publishing a special edition featuring Amber Ridge resident's favorite recipes. Please submit your recipe to Melissa Nypaver (see below). Along with your recipe, please be sure to include all ingredients and steps plus and any story that you would like to share about your dish. If possible, please submit a photo of the finished product. And don't forget to supply your contact information so we can give you credit for recipe.

Do you have an announcement that you would like to see in the Community Message Board? Contact Melissa Nypaver to let her know to include your important news in the newsletter. 803-412-0934, email: [Ulissys@Comporium.net](mailto:Ulissys@Comporium.net) or put in her mailbox at 1559 Tuckers Glenn Drive.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By HOA President  
Alice Brite

### HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Are you over 65 or permanently disabled? You can save on York County property taxes!

York County participates in a state-funded program called the Homestead Exemption Program. This program exempts homeowners who are 65 or older or who are permanently disabled from property taxes on the first \$50,000 of property value on their primary residence. In addition, you must have been a legal resident of South Carolina as of December 31, preceding the tax year of the exemp-

tion to qualify. In addition, if you are the surviving spouse of a person who was qualified, you may also be qualified to receive the benefit.

If you qualify, you may apply at the Tax Assessor's Office on Heckle Blvd, next to the Motor Vehicle License Bldg. You need to bring proof of age (driver's license would be sufficient) or proof of disability (disability award letter). If you are unable to come in, you may authorize someone to come and apply for you.

The refund, or recalculated tax bill, will be sent within a few weeks after the application is submitted.

If your deed is in your name and your spouse's name, you will receive the full \$50,000 exemption as long as one of you meets the eligibility requirements. If your deed is

in your name and someone other than your spouse's name, you will only get a portion of the exemption equal to the amount of interest you have in the property as listed on your deed.

This program is sometimes confused with the Application for Special Assessment as a Legal Residence. Anyone who lives in the home they own (vs. renting out their home to others), may have their tax rate changed from 6% to 4%. Homeowners may apply for this discount at the tax assessor's office as well. The reduction is not automatic. You must contact the York County Tax Assessor's Office in order to receive the reduction. Be sure to do this as soon as possible if you have not already or you could be paying much more than necessary for your property taxes on your home.



## FREE TAX PREPARATION AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ROCK HILL CITIZENS

The City of Rock Hill wants to let residents know that there are resources available to assist families that are struggling financially in these challenging economic times. The federal government is offering assistance in the form of two tax benefits for those who qualify and the IRS sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, offering free tax help to low and moderate income people.

This free tax assistance is available at Rock Hill City Hall, 155 Johnston Street in the Wellness Center on the first floor (basement) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from now until April 15, 2009

The tax credits, called Earned Income Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) could provide much needed help in paying household bills or even preventing more critical financial situations. This

year eligible families can get as much as \$4,824 from the EIC, and more if they qualify for the CTC. Individuals could be eligible if they worked in 2008, have children living with them and earned less than about \$39,000 or did not have children living with them and earned less than about \$13,000. Millions of individuals are eligible for these credits but do not file for the credits and end up forgoing millions of dollars. The City of Rock Hill encourages people to not allow these vital benefits to go unclaimed.

In order to ensure free tax assistance is available, the City of Rock Hill participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program by providing space to serve as a VITA site. Free of charge, IRS certified Department of Revenue trained volunteers will electronically file (e-file) federal and state income tax returns—it is fast, accurate, secure, and simple. The estimated turnaround time for a direct-deposited refund

is 7 days. Volunteers can prepare the following forms 1040EZ, 1040A with Schedule 1, 2, 3, & EIC, 1040 with Schedule A, B, EIC, & R, 1040-V, 1040-ES, 2441 Child & Dependent Care Credit, 8863 Education Credits, 8812 Additional Child Tax Credit, and SC & NC State Income Tax Returns

Individuals should come with all necessary paperwork to avoid processing delays. All information received is strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to unauthorized individuals. Important items to bring include: current year's tax package and/or label, all forms—W-2 and 1099's, information regarding other income, information for all deductions/credits, a copy of last year's tax return, proof of account for direct deposit of refund, Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification cards for you, your spouse, and/or dependents, and proof of identification (driver's license or photo ID) for yourself and/or spouse.

## DOG POLICY REMINDER

By Alice Brite

According to our Amber Ridge rules and regulations, dogs are not to be tied out in the yard. We have overlooked dogs tied out in the back yards, since not everyone can afford a fence, but we have been enforcing the rule that dogs NOT be tied out in the front yard. If you have been staking out your dog in the front yard, please stop doing this.

Dogs that are staked out often bark incessantly, intimidating passers-by and disturbing neighbors, up to several houses away. No dog should be left outside when the owner is not home. Even if your dog is in a fenced yard, please be considerate, and bring him in before his barking becomes an annoyance.

Most of our Amber Ridge dog owners are very considerate. We thank you! For those few who are not following the rules, this is your warning. The Amber Ridge board has authority to take action.



## Neighborhood Watch

There will be a Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Thursday March 12th at committee chairman, Del Regier's house, 1556 Arbogate Drive.

Policewoman Sarah Blair will be on hand to report any crimes that have occurred in our neighborhood and lead a discussion on ways to avoid future incidents. The best defense a neighborhood can have is active residents who are committed to the safety of those around them. By learning what dangers exist, you can help to eliminate them from happening again.

In addition, we will be discussing some possibilities for future safety programs for the community. Plus we invite you to bring any safety concerns that you may have to the meeting to discuss.

# JOIN UP!

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. —Henry Ford

Homeowner Relations Committee  
Melissa and Joshua Nypaver  
1559 Tuckers Glenn Drive  
[ulissys@comporium.net](mailto:ulissys@comporium.net)

Social Committee  
Carol Tester 1575 Andora Drive  
[moviecat6783@yahoo.com](mailto:moviecat6783@yahoo.com)  
Connie Howard 1551 Andora Drive  
[cchoward@comporium.net](mailto:cchoward@comporium.net)

Common Area Committee  
Terrence Tyler  
2330 Grace Street  
[wirelessman1010@gmail.com](mailto:wirelessman1010@gmail.com)

Latino Assistance Committee  
Simon Garcia  
1540 Arbogate Drive  
[simongarcia30@yahoo.com](mailto:simongarcia30@yahoo.com)

Neighborhood Watch Committee  
Del Regier  
1556 Arbogate Drive  
[del@caringforhearts.com](mailto:del@caringforhearts.com)

Welcoming Committee  
Roslyn Tyler 2330 Grace Street  
[Roslyn.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:Roslyn.tyler@gmail.com)

Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods  
Representative  
Roslyn and Terrence Tyler  
2330 Grace Street  
[Roslyn.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:Roslyn.tyler@gmail.com)

## Just for fun

### HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. St. Patrick was not really Irish at all?
2. St. Patrick changed Ireland's national color to green.
3. Ireland was the first country in Europe to grow potatoes on a large scale.
4. In St. Patrick's time, poets were as high ranking as kings.
5. Shamrocks and clover are the same thing.

*Answers: 1. True. His father was Italian, his mother was Scottish. He was born in Scotland. 2. False. During St. Patrick's time the national color was blue. Green became more popular during the 19th century. 3. True. 4. True. He often got the best meat and the best price for his entertainment. 5. True. Depends on who you ask. Shamrocks grow in Ireland, clover in the United States. Botanists claim it is the same plant, although the leaves and flowers may vary.*

## FEEDBACK

We want your feedback. This is a community news-letter and we want news from all over the community. We are also looking for items to add to the community bulletin board. If you have news for us, or if you want to help put together The Ridgeline, please call Melissa Nypaver at (803) 412-0934 or you can email her at : [ulissys@comporium.net](mailto:ulissys@comporium.net)



## CONTACT THE BOARD

Alice Brite, President,  
2441 Marett Boulevard, 329-8858  
[abrite@comporium.net](mailto:abrite@comporium.net)

Roslyn Tyler, Vice President,  
2330 Grace Street  
[roslyn.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:roslyn.tyler@gmail.com)

Tom Honig, Treasurer,  
1547 Andora Drive 980-6253  
[THonig@transcat.com](mailto:THonig@transcat.com)

Melissa Nypaver, Secretary,  
1559 Tuckers Glenn Drive, 412-0934  
[ulissys@comporium.net](mailto:ulissys@comporium.net)

Wayne Whiteside Committee Coordinator  
1562 Andora Drive, 803-371-4327  
[wayne.xpert@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.xpert@gmail.com)

# MARCH 2009

| SUNDAY                                                                              | MONDAY     | TUESDAY                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                              | THURSDAY                                                | FRIDAY                    | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1<br>Assessment Due                                                                 | 2          | 3                                         | 4                                                                      | 5                                                       | 6                         | 7        |
| 8<br>Daylight Savings<br>Begins - Turn Clocks<br>Forward                            | 9<br>Purim | 10                                        | 11                                                                     | 12<br>Neighborhood Watch<br>7pm<br>1556 Arbongate Drive | 13                        | 14       |
| 15                                                                                  | 16         | 17<br>St. Patrick's Day                   | 18                                                                     | 19                                                      | 20<br>First Day of Spring | 21       |
| 22                                                                                  | 23         | 24                                        | 25<br>Social Committee and<br>Open Board Meeting<br>7pm Rosewood Elem. | 26                                                      | 27                        | 28       |
| 29                                                                                  | 30         | 31<br>March Assessment<br>Considered Late |                                                                        |                                                         |                           |          |
| Don't forget! Your first 2009 Homeowner<br>Assessment payment of \$56.25 March 1st. |            |                                           |                                                                        |                                                         |                           |          |