



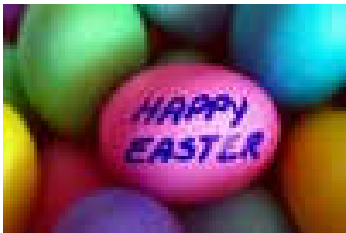
# The Crossings COMMUNIQUE

Winter/Spring 2007

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*Easter and Spring Celebration  
March 31, 2007  
1:00pm in the Afternoon  
The Crossings Community Pool*

## Community Update

### Community Survey

As promised, we are taking time to perform a community survey in order to determine how we can better serve you and explore opportunities to enrich our community. The community survey will address issues such as safety; the possibility of hiring private security to patrol the community during peak times when the community is at highest risk for crime; community upgrades to include building a community club house, basketball court and adding a bark park for pet owners; and community social events that fit the diverse culture of residents we serve. Once we capture your anonymous responses to the survey, we will share patterns revealed by compilation of all responses at our annual community meeting, which will be held some time this summer. Thanks an advance for participating in the community survey. Your voice makes all the difference!

### Update on Street Lights for Moss Road

The City of Charlotte recently submitted a request to Duke Energy on behalf The Crossings and several other communities along Moss Road, to develop a plan-denoting placement of streetlights on Moss Road between Rt. 49 and Erwin. Once the plan is complete, the City will review it for approval, after which Phase II of our petition will begin. Of the issues faced in attempting to get streetlights erected on Moss Road, there is a problem in gaining access to electrical connections. It is a complicated process, however we will keep you updated.

### Spring Curbside Appeal

Don't wait to put your home on the market to become concerned with its curbside appeal. Take steps now to keep your biggest asset in tip-top condition.

1. **Pressure wash driveways, decks and walkways.** The deep cleaning action of a pressure wash will remove ground-in dirt, mold and mildew without a lot of mess. You can rent a pressure washer for as little as \$50 - \$75 per day from most rental equipment dealers.

These inexpensive do-it-yourself projects will help boost your home's appearance this spring and maintain the inviting appeal of our community. Note: all property alterations must comply with the Covenants, page 16 Article 7.17 Architectural Request.

### Volunteer Opportunities

We are ALWAYS seeking volunteers to assist with various community projects and participate on our sub-committees. Teens and college students are especially welcome to participate and earn valuable community service hours needed for graduation and/or personal achievement. The Association is happy to provide letters of experience to volunteers for career and/or personal advancement. Make a difference in your community today by becoming a volunteer. Contact the Association through our website at: [www.TheCrossingsHOA.com](http://www.TheCrossingsHOA.com).

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*If you have a story idea or have an article you would like to submit for approval by the Board of Directors to be included in the upcoming issue of The Crossings Communique, please email Toni at [EdmondEmehelGroupe@msn.com](mailto:EdmondEmehelGroupe@msn.com) prior to April 15, 2007.*

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## New to the Board

*Featuring Toni E. Emehel and Carolyn Spellman*

The Crossings Board of Directors is happy to announce its newest board members, Toni E. Emehel and Carolyn Spellman.

Carolyn and husband, Keith Spellman moved into The Crossings over twelve years ago. Together, they have raised their daughter Kristle in this community in which they love. Both Carolyn and Keith are originally from Eastern North Carolina. They are avid University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill fans and alumni. They have lived in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Bath, Maine, Newport Rhode Island and Greenville, South Carolina. And of all the places they have lived, they really LOVE Charlotte. Together, Keith and Carolyn pastor a church near this community and they truly love serving the people. Carolyn is very excited about serving in this new capacity and looks forward to making a meaningful contribution to a community she loves.

Toni Emehel recently accepted a position on the Board of Directors as Director of Communications and Social Committee Liaison. Toni has set her sights on bringing a fresh sense of community and enthusiasm to The Crossings Board of Directors and community Association. This would not be possible without the support of her loving husband, Johneric Emehel and beautiful daughters: Tressica (20), Jessica (16) and Madison (15 months).

As owner and broker-in-charge of Edmond Edmond Emehel Groupe, LLC, a local real estate brokerage firm, Toni recently left corporate America to focus on the nourishing development of her family and follow her passions. As a result, Toni expanded her business to include a division called Black Envelope Meeting and Event Solutions where she draws from an innate gifting to create experiences that make real the visions and dreams of others. From an intimate dinner to a wedding or large corporate event, Toni enjoys unveiling the imagination of her clients in the now...in exchange for timeless memories that last forever.

### The Crossings Board of Directors

Diane Krebs, President	704.588.3328
Jim Wilmoth, Vice President Pool Liaison	704.955.0401
Toni E. Emehel, Secretary Communications (Social Committee Liaison)	704.504.3757
Curtis Watson, Treasurer Landscape Liaison	704.622.8523
Carolyn Spellman Architectural Review	704.587.9399

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*“Carolyn is very excited about serving in this new capacity and making a meaningful contribution to a community she loves.”*

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*Carolyn Spellman, Director of Architectural Review with husband Keith and daughter Kristle*

## Someone you should know

*Written by The Crossings Resident Faith Schultze from page*

The Schultze family was like any other normal middle class suburban family. Faith worked at Time Warner Cable in their IT Department and Doug worked at Red Prairie in their IT Department. After being married for a little while, Faith was thrilled to find out that she was pregnant and in July, 2005, she gave birth to Skyler Mitchell Schultze. Unlike the stereotypical American family, the Schultze family decided to be a little different. Instead of putting Skyler in daycare or having Faith stay home to raise Skyler, Doug decided that he wanted to stay home and be a stay-at-home dad. So, Doug worked with his employer and went from working 40 hours a week including frequent travel to working 10 hours a week from home.

A few weeks into staying home, Doug realized that he would be bored just staying in the house all day with his newborn son. So, he started to get involved with a library group, a "Stay at Home Dad's playgroup" and also tried to get involved with some of the mom's playgroups. However, he found that a lot of the playgroups were for moms only. Doug really liked his "Stay at Home Dad's playgroup" but felt that a co-ed group would also be a lot of fun and would provide both mom's and dad's opportunities to bounce ideas and problems off of each other.

So, Doug started his very own co-ed playgroup called the "Steele Creek Coop". It started with just Doug and a few of the stay-at-home mom's that Doug and Faith met at their birthing class. However, Doug kept inviting people that he met at the library group and at his stay at home dad's group and soon, the group grew to 10 regular members.

The "Steele Creek Coop" is now going strong and has been meeting every Tuesday for over a year. The events vary from week to week and include indoor events like playgroups at people's houses, playtime at mall play areas such as the Galleria, Northlake Mall, or Carolina Place, and playtime at locations such as Razzamatazz, Discovery Place, and Charlotte at Play.

The events also include outdoor activities such as afternoons at various parks in the area, walks at greenways, afternoons at the pool, etc. Doug has even

organized several all-family playgroups so that spouses could attend including a summer party, a Halloween party, a Christmas party, and a Valentine's Day party.

Doug has really enjoyed organizing this playgroup for the past year and has made a lot of great friends through the process. Doug has also heard a lot of positive feedback from his playgroup members who enjoy the co-ed environment and the varied activities.

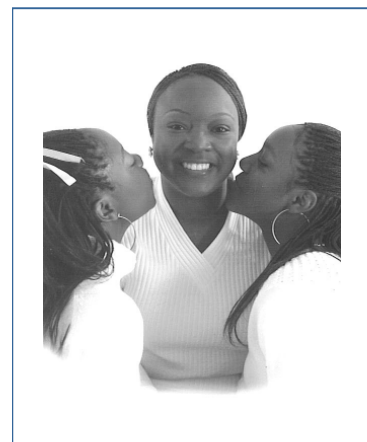
## Easter and Spring Community Celebration

Different people celebrate Easter for different reasons, some for religious reasons and others for non-religious reasons. Easter, originally called Eastre, was a time of celebration for ancient Saxon tribes, who celebrated the return of spring with a jovial festival to give reverence to their goddess of offspring, Eastre. The goddess Eastre was worshipped through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. During the second century, Christian missionaries cleverly converted these tribes to Christianity and allowed them to continue with these festive celebrations, only in a Christian manner.

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*"Toni has her sights set on bringing a fresh sense of community and enthusiasm to The Crossings Board of Directors and community Association."*

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*Toni Emehel, Director of Communications and daughters, Tressica and Jessica*

## Easter and Spring Community Celebration continued

As it happened, the festival of Easte occurred at the same time that Christians celebrated the Resurrection of Christ. In time, the festival of Easte was changed to the Christian celebration we now call Easter.

This year's Easter celebration at The Crossings promises to be a family celebration like none other that meets the needs of our diverse community residents who celebrate the Easter holiday for any number of reasons. The celebration will embrace both Christian and non-Christian aspects of this widely celebrated holiday. Activities will include an Easter egg hunt for children ages 0 - 7, a Treasure hunt for children ages 8-12, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny (remember to bring your cameras), an inflatable Fun House for all to enjoy, face painting, balloon characters, bubbles galore, cotton candy and more.

Special thanks to Blood of the Lamb Deliverance Church Children's Ministry for coordinating the Treasure Hunt, and to Richard and Amanda Hiner of AirCastle Inflatables for providing us with the entertainment for our celebration.

## The Real Value of Membership

If you ever want to start up a good argument bring up the topic of a homeowner associations in a group of homeowners. You are bound to find people who appreciate homeowner associations and others who despise them. Opponents to homeowner associations argue that fee increases cannot be declined, rules are far too restrictive and board members are overzealous in enforcing the rules. Those who support homeowner associations see associations as their only tool to protect the value of their home and the quality of the neighborhood in which they live.

Homeowner associations are designed to assist homeowners in sustaining property values by enforcing deed restrictions, maintaining common areas of a community by keeping them attractive, collecting maintenance fees required to operate the association and ensure that the overall quality of the community is maintained through cleanliness, uniformity and adherence. The Crossings registered its deed restrictions and covenants with the Mecklenburg County courts on March 15, 1993. Quiet as its kept, there has been only ONE change in the Declaration of Covenants Conditions and Restrictions For The Crossings since 1993. On August 23, 2000 an amendment to Article 7 Paragraph 7.07 of the original filing was made, noting changes on types of fencing allow in the community.

So, what's the real value of membership to a homeowner association? Simple: protection, value and quality.

### *The Crossings Residents Rick and Amanda Hiner*

Rick and Amanda Hiner moved to Charlotte from Phoenix, Arizona almost four years ago with their two sons, and quickly began to love Charlotte's beautiful weather, friendly people, and gorgeous topography. They loved their home in The Crossings, especially their wooded back yard (unheard of in Phoenix!). Rick was employed as a Senior Project Manager for PBS&J, a civil engineering firm, and Amanda taught part-time as an adjunct professor at Winthrop University. Once a third son had arrived, they realized that Amanda's part-time income would not cover their rising education costs for their boys, and they decided, with a lot of help and professional advice from a friend, to start a business renting inflatable moonwalks and party supplies.

They have owned AirCastles Inflatables since April of 2006, and have been busy expanding and running their home business in addition to their other jobs. They have loved the experience of business ownership, despite their now very-busy weekends! Amanda explains, "It's very rewarding to treat our customers the way we would treat our own family, and it's been wonderful to be able to give some of our business profits to charities we care about."

The Hiners offer special discounts to Crossings residents in addition to advertised discounts and specials. Visit their website at: [www.aircastlefun.com](http://www.aircastlefun.com).

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