

Jefferson Parish
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West Bank Council Address:
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P.O. Box 9
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Table with 2 columns: Category and Phone Number. Rows include Citizens Affairs (736-6100), General code violations (364-3500), Environmental affairs (736-6102), Weed control (364-3540), Jefferson Transit (364-3450), Abandoned vehicles (364-3543), Stray animals (349-5111), Garbage pickup (736-6102), Recycling (736-6104), Mosquito control (366-0084), Water (349-5088), Streets (349-5800), and Drainage (437-4939).

The PECA newsletter is published quarterly by the Association Board in an effort to keep all residents apprised of items of interest to our community. It is delivered to all residents of the subdivision without charge. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas.

Plantation Estates
Community Association Inc.

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Jack Owens, Chairman
348-7066

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DISTRICT 2
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DISTRICT 3
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340-1419

DISTRICT 4
JACK OWENS
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DISTRICT 5
MERLIN JACKSON
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DISTRICT 7
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PLANTATION ESTATES
NEWLETTER



September, 2009 • Volume No. 53

Plantation Estates Community Association • P. O. Box 683 • Marrero, LA 70073

Web Site: www.plantationestates.org

President's Report

President's Report

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored, volunteered or attended the Night Out Against Crime event this year. It was by far our best attendance with over 300 people. Thanks to your generosity, the Plantation Estates Community donated over \$10,000 to Crime-stoppers, an organization which has solved over 10,000 felony crimes and paid \$1.4 million in cash rewards. An inside article covers more details of the event.

The majority of my report in this issue will be dedicated to our PE Security Taxing District. For those who are new to the neighborhood or have moved here after 2000, our property tax bills currently include a fixed \$280 annual assessment that is used to cover the cost of additional police protection, which is currently 77 cents per day. With these security funds, Plantation Estates:

- maintains security patrols using JPSO officers
- installed license plate cameras at our entrances in partnership with JPSO
- provides decals upon request for any PE homeowner vehicles
- maintains time cards for accountability measures and payroll records
- provides door hangers for our security officers to advise homeowners of safety/security related issues
- hosts a very successful Night Out Against Crime annually
- coordinates an annual homeowner's meeting for input and provide updates
- responds immediately to all inquiries by phone, email or in person
- remains one of the most active civic associations in all of Jefferson Parish

During the years prior to 2000, the PECA Board had many meetings with the homeowners, spent quite some time to develop our security program and worked with our Jefferson Parish Council to place this on the ballot. The Plantation Estates Security Taxing District appeared on the ballot in October 2000 and PE voters approved and authorized it to remain in place for a period of ten years. Our current PECA Board recommends renewing our Security Taxing District by placing the assessment on the voting ballot in 2010.

Personally I feel the increased security presence within our neighborhood is peace of mind for all our families. I've lived in Marrero my entire life. I've always looked forward to one day living in Plantation Estates. As a child my parents even played tricks with friends who slept over by pulling in a driveway in Plantation Estates and joked about it being our house. I guess that's another reason I am so attached here.

Two main reasons Cheryl and I chose to move to Plantation Estates were the extra security patrols and the established restrictions. We moved into the neighborhood in 2003 and the security taxing district was already in force.

Thanks to so many of you for your hard work and effort to get this accomplished. I regularly meet at West Jefferson Medical Center with the 20 other Westbank civic association Presidents to share ideas. A number of them say they wish they could have daily patrols in the neighborhood for less than a \$1 a day. The legal fees to establish a taxing district is both expensive and time consuming. You also have no way to recoup the funds spent if the neighborhood chooses not to support it. This is why we are fortunate to have the ground work already done for us and only have to renew it. It has proven its value time and time again. Our statistics speak for themselves, however many surrounding neighborhoods are not as fortunate. All of the funds (100%) from our Security Taxing District are spent on safety and security in Plantation Estates.

Bill Becknell with the Becknell Law Firm is assisting us to get our security taxing district renewal on the ballot again for next year. This process involves the Jefferson Parish Council and filing deadlines with the Louisiana Bond Commission and the Secretary of State. Bill Becknell currently handles the ballot items on behalf of Jefferson Parish and the City of Gretna. He is very experienced with the steps involved in this process. As many of you already know, Councilman Byron Lee lives in Plantation Estates and is committed to helping us with this.

Bill Becknell provided the following estimated election dates and deadlines obtained from the Secretary of State for 2010 below. The PECA Board will be working with him to select one of these dates and inform you along the way.

Table with 3 columns: Election Date, Deadlines for Propositions, JP Council Action(estimated). Rows include dates from March 27, 2010 to November 2, 2010.

As always, if you have specific questions or ideas regarding our security, please contact me or Col. Fortunato to address your concerns.

If you wish to be added on our email list, please email president@plantationestates.org. We send out many neighborhood and community news items as well as trying our best to keep you informed while away during an evacuation.

Your neighbor,

Charles Miller, III
Plantation Estates Community Association, President

Neighborhood News

Neighborhood News



Do you need a copy of the Plantation Estates Covenants & Restrictions?

We occasionally hear from new homeowners that they were not informed of restrictions either by their real estate agent or their home was purchased as a *For Sale by Owner*. If you need a copy, visit our website at <http://www.plantationestates.org>.

We are seeking a Secretary for the Plantation Estates Community Association

First, thanks to Judy Glancey for an excellent job over the years as our Secretary. Judy recently became one of our At-Large Rep's and also handling the Secretary position. If you are interesting in helping, please let us know.

The position is a one-year term and includes the responsibilities:

- Attend quarterly board meetings
- Take minutes of each meeting, including motions and votes
- Type final minutes and email to Board for review

Plantation Estates Homeowner's Meeting

We will be planning a Homeowner's Meeting sometime in September or October. Notices will be delivered to everyone and emails sent out to let you know the location and date when confirmed. As always, you never have to wait until the meeting to contact us, so please call or email if you have any questions or suggestions

Plantation Estates Pumpkin Painting Party

We are hosting our annual Pumpkin Painting party in October. Our residents will be notified by flyer for the location, date, and time.

LA 45 (Barataria Boulevard) widening project

Up to \$7 million was recently appropriated to complete the widening of LA 45 (Barataria Boulevard) from Lapalco Boulevard to Ames Boulevard). This project will include the construction of a northbound and southbound third lane in the existing median. Preliminary design work indicates that there will be three lanes southbound to the Ames Boulevard intersection and three lanes northbound with the third lane beginning at the LA 3134 intersection. The project will also include some drainage improvements in the southbound lanes between LA 3134 and Ames Boulevard along with the modifications to the existing traffic signals to accommodate the widening. It is expected that this work will begin in the next 12 to 18 months.

News about our neighbors

Stephanie Tomlinson Ricau, a Plantation Estates homeowner, joins Bowman & Howley Law Firm at 629 Lafayette Street, Gretna, LA 70053. Practice areas include General Civil, Corporate and Criminal Practice. She can be reached at (504) 367-4842.

Who put the 4th of July flags in front of everyone's mailboxes? You probably already know the answer - - John Combel donated the flags and personally put them out with several of his own employees. Thanks again to Big John for continuing to support Plantation Estates in every way.

Great job to Crystal Rathore, who lives in Plantation Estates. Crystal is a senior at Academy of Our Lady High School and has been awarded an Ochsner STAR internship that will allow her to work side by side with experienced researchers studying advances in health care and medicine. Crystal is one of only 12 students chosen for the honor this year. The Science Technology Academics and Research is sponsored by the Academics Division by the Ochsner Health System. Rathore, who plans to enter a career in medicine, was encouraged to apply for the program by Sister Susan Bagli, an instructor who moderates the Health Care Connections Club at AOL. She is the daughter of Harry and Pushpa Rathore of Marrero.

Great job to Summer Suleiman, who also lives in Plantation Estates. She graduated from LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication on May 15 with a B.A. in Mass Communication with a concentration in journalism and a minor in English. She will be interning in New York city with NBC Weekend Nightly News this summer. She is the daughter of Mike and Karima Suleiman.

(If you have neighborhood news or similar information to share, please let us know)

2009 PECA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By: Wynona Witkovski

Plantation Estates Community Association membership for 2009 currently stands at 288, representing 66% of the households in our subdivision. While this has not yet broken last year's membership record of 306, the year is not over and there is still time to join or renew your membership and help us break last year's record. Remember, it's never too late to join or to renew your membership. First time members and new residents joining mid-year are charged a reduced fee of \$30.00. Many previous members have not renewed for this year. If you forgot to renew your membership, please send your dues in now. If you don't remember if you renewed for this year, contact me and I'll look it up in our records. A membership form is included in this newsletter.

The PECA board truly appreciates the support of its association members. It is your support that helps make possible many benefits we all enjoy as part of the Plantation Estates community and some benefits that are reserved for association members only, such as eligibility for the PECA Garden of the Month Award and the door prizes at the annual Night Out Against Crime event. Many of the benefits contribute to making Plantation Estates a beautiful, safe environment in which to live, help keep our property values up and give us the wonderful quality of life that we enjoy simply by choosing to live in Plantation Estates.

Your \$60 annual contribution helps to fund, among other things:

- ❖ Garden of the month awards
 - ❖ Representation in the West Jefferson Civic Coalition
 - ❖ Landscaping maintenance of two main entrances (Oak Alley and Parlange)
 - ❖ One annual homeowner/membership meeting
 - ❖ Quarterly neighborhood newsletters
 - ❖ Maintenance of the PECA website
 - ❖ Protection of our property values with oversight and enforcement of the restrictions and protective covenant documents for the neighborhood
-
- ❖ Four PECA sponsored neighborhood events per year
 - ❖ New seasonal banners

Association members are reminded that PE yard signs are available to identify you as a paid member, and PE auto decals are available to all residents for easy identification of Plantation Estates vehicles to our security patrols. The PECA board encourages all residences to display the PE decal on their vehicles. If you need PE yard signs or auto decals, please contact your district representative, PECA president Charlie Miller or me.

If you have any questions concerning your membership or would like membership information, please contact me at 606.9759 or by email at wynona@tulane.edu or contact your district representative. Contact information for district representatives is listed in the PECA newsletter and on the PECA website [www.plantationestates.org].

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Security

By: Colonel John Fortunato, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office



Hello again,

As your Vice-President of Security and the Commander of the Public Information Office for the JPSO, I agree with our PE president that this year's National Night Out Against Crime was a huge success, not only here in PE, but parish-wide. The turn-out was incredible. All too often, we saw extraordinary groups of our citizens gathering in their neighborhoods trying to do their part in making National Night Out the success it was.

For those in attendance you were able to witness the generous donation PE gave to Crimestoppers. As you well know, it is through private funding that Crimestoppers pays for tips that often lead to the arrest and conviction of individuals wanted for crimes that have occurred here in Jefferson Parish.

As we enter the third quarter of this year I am happy to report the noticeable decrease in incidents in PE being reported to the JPSO. The staggered detail patrol times have proven to be successful. Our neighborhood now has better coverage at peak potential crime times because of the patrol time changes. Occasionally, we might see a slight spike in certain categories, such as suspicious persons and vehicle complaints. These calls show our law enforcement officials that neighbors are looking out for each other. We would much rather send an officer to investigate a suspicious activity complaint called into our 911 center, than to have it go unreported and later find that someone's home or vehicle was broken into. Please continue to remain vigilant at all times. And remember, when you call 911, you don't have to give your name or address.

The following statistical information is a compilation of the total number of calls for service over the past 10+ years that the JPSO has received from PE residents.

1999 - 424	2002 - 486	2005 - 451	2008 - 471
2000 - 412	2003 - 457	2006 - 373	2009 - 258 (through July)
2001 - 447	2004 - 432	2007 - 371	

Our PE President, Charlie Miller, dedicated his message to us on the subject of our PE Security Taxing District renewal. If you are pleased with the added protection our JPSO off-duty security patrols provide, please join me and many others who support these patrols by convincing other residents here in PE of how important this tax is. Without it, we would not have the luxury of the added patrols and additional funding for neighborhood security projects, such as additional security cameras. If you or someone you know would like to discuss this matter further, please let us know in order for us to meet and discuss your concerns, perhaps at our next PE general membership meeting.

Restriction Committee

By: Candy Jensen

Plantation Estates Restriction Committee wishes to thank homeowners and their children for making an effort not to park extra vehicles on the street this summer. Overnight street parking is still a problem and concern; please do the right thing.

We wish a good school year to all. Please note your driving speeds in the neighborhood and the radio volume in your vehicles. Stop at stop signs. We have received many calls regarding the STOP sign on the corner of Parlange and Gainswood. Not coming to a complete stop is one thing, but several cars don't even slow down. We certainly do not want an accident or injury situation resulting from such carelessness.

Letters and home visits from the committee have proved to be successful with correction of infractions.....Thank you to all.

REMINDER most concerns are:

- *Vehicles parked on street
- *Boats and Motor homes visible in driveway
- *Poor up keep of yard and needed house repairs

The summer has been extreme with high temperatures and lack of rain, but basic yard care is definitely an issue with some homes.

CAUTION



MEANS 20!

WALKERS—Always walk against (Facing) Traffic. Stay on the extreme left side of the road, especially around curves in the road.

BIKERS—Always ride with traffic. Stay on the right side of the road.

**To Report Traffic Related Complaints
Call the JPSO Traffic Division
465-1480**

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RESERVATIONS - 504.391.7229



2330 Lapalco Blvd.
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210 Old Hammond Hwy.
Metairie, LA 70005
(504) 828-2220

208 Lee Lane
Covington, LA 70433
(985) 875-0432

MARK AND LETTY BERGERON, Proprietors

CHILD CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE

The following residents of Plantation Estates are available to provide baby sitting services:

Cassie Graziano - 341-3284
Tiffany Mosel - 340-9281
Danielle Boudreaux - 340-4789
Allyson Graziano - 341-3284

If you are under 21 and would like your name listed for this or any other service within Plantation Estates please contact Pat Ketcham at **340-8100**.



Garden of the Month

By Debbie Blanchard

May 2009

M/M Massimo Amenta	10 Darby Ct	District 4
M/M John Zamanek	26 Seven Oaks	District 5
M/M Gregory C. Guthrie	37 Oakley	District 5
Mr. Earl Washington	20 Tara Ct	District 6
M/M Craig Cassagne	8 Rienzi	District 3
M/M Archie K. Pounds	4931 Oak Alley	District 1

June 2009

M/M Joey Culotta	38 Melrose	District 5
M/M Dwight Montz	35 Madewood	District 7
M/M Gary Mire	124 Belle Grove	District 3
M/M Wilfred Edwards	50 Asphodel	District 3
M/M Joseph Relf	76 Dunleith	District 1
Mr. Nick Christiana	14 Tara Ct	District 6

July 2009

M/M Mark Dufriend	67 Anchorage	District 1
M/M Ray Landry	65 Oak Alley	District 4
M/M Russell Todaro	18 Darby Ct	District 5
M/M Bernard L. Gould	29 Madewood	District 7
M/M Phuc H Lam	38 Gainswood East	District 7
M/M Bill Tiffi	33 Seven Oaks	District 5

August 2009

M/M Brian Leboeuf	28 Seven Oaks	District 5
M/M Craig de Baroncelli	54 Oak Alley	District 4
M/M Herbert Lewis	32 Gainswood East	District 7
M/M Charles Corona	37 Gainswood East	District 7

The Gardens of the Month are featured with photos under the "Members Only" section of the website.

Post your pets on the Plantation Estates website located at:

www.plantationestates.org at no charge to all active Association members. This service is offered in an effort to help locate the owner of a lost pet(s) immediately and contact you as soon as possible. Email a picture of your pet(s) and contact information to be posted online to info@plantationestates.org

Please complete the following form and return it to your district representative or mail to:

PECA, P.O. Box 683, Marrero, LA 70073-5084

(Please include your check to cover the yearly dues of \$60/year)

PLANTATION ESTATES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HOMEOWNER INFORMATION*

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE NO.: _____

BUSINESS PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DISTRICT NO.: _____ LOT NO.: _____ SQUARE NO.: _____

(If you don't know the District, Lot and Square #, leave it blank)

* **NOTE:** This information will remain confidential at all times and will not be sold or released to anyone outside of the Plantation Estates Community Association.

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PARKING AND VEHICULAR CODE VIOLATIONS:

LOUISIANA STATUTES

RS 32:144 Improper parking (vehicles parked against the flow of traffic)

RS 32:143 Posted parking (no parking)

JEFFERSON PARISH ORDINANCES

36:4 No parking on a sidewalk

36:5 No parking on servitude

36:88 No parking of a vehicle on a street for more than 48 hours

36:92 No parking on a neutral ground

36:93 No parking within 30 feet of an intersection

36:94 Blocking a driveway (parked directly across from or 3 feet of either side)

36:95 No parking within 20 feet of a fire hydrant

36:129 Abandon, junk or wrecked vehicles

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Featured Article

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to professional articles contributed by OUR OWN homeowners.
Call or email us if you might be interested in writing an article for the next newsletter.

Contributed by Dr. Sue Olivier Acadiana West Animal Clinic

HURRICANE EVACUATIONS WITH YOUR PETS

Here’s hoping this article is filled with lots of information you will never need or use. Just in case though, read on. Hurricane season is upon us and it’s time for everyone to have their family plan in order. Who knew “family planning” would come to this?! Take a few minutes to consider some of the following suggestions.

Be sure your pet is up to date on any vaccinations required. Different states vaccinate differently and have a variety of requirements so be sure to have your pet and yourself protected. Bring along your Rabies certificate and a copy of your pet’s shot record as well as any pertinent information regarding allergies, special diets or chronic conditions/treatments. If you need to get medical attention this is very helpful to the veterinarian trying to help you.

It is very important to pack all medications along with your records, especially heartworm prevention. At our practice we are just now seeing the aftermath of Katrina with regard to heartworm disease as so many dogs left behind went without their pills or even those who evacuated with their family didn’t get their pills. Again, having a copy of your records will show that your pet is up to date on heartworm testing and prevention.

Because many people go to campgrounds in their travel trailers it is a good idea to bring along flea and tick prevention. Even if you stay in a hotel/motel the rooms can be infested as well from past guests. As we learned from Hurricane Katrina, people and pets die, but roaches, mice fleas and ticks party on. Be a step ahead. You will improve your odds of being accommodated at a hotel if your pet is in a carrier or crate.

God forbid, but if you get stranded on the road heat can be a huge issue. Bring a bowl and lots of water to give your pet or even to pour on it if heat stress becomes an issue. If possible bring along a misting fan to refresh your dog periodically especially if it rides in the back of the truck. If your family is like mine, don’t let the kids use up all the water in the fan spraying each other and even Grandma for fun.

Please do not ask your veterinarian to board your dog or cat or bird while you evacuate. If you do ask, accept “no” for an answer as we don’t like the idea of returning to the horror of a dead animal any more than you do. Do not confine an animal either since they need to be able to escape rising water or hide from flying debris. If they are truly a part of the family they should be included in your evacuation. Honestly, who is more loyal than your dog?

Last but not least, whether you choose to bring your pet or leave it home, consider micro-chipping as a means of permanent identification. It dramatically increases your odds of a happy reunion should you become separated. This can be done quickly and easily by your veterinarian.

Well I certainly hope I’ve wasted my time and your, but if not, reread this article before packing up. Punt on the extra case of soda and leave room for the pets! I leave with 3 dogs, 2 cats, 2 turtles, 1 rabbit (the fish stay) and 2 kids as my National Guard husband waves good bye. If I can do it, you can do it.

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Call today to reserve a space for yourself and a guest at this free seminar.

Dinner will be served.

Date: 10/13/2009
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Location: Restaurant Des Familles, 7163 Barataria, Crown Point
RSVP: Terry Powell 504-341-9854 by Oct. 9th 2009



James W Hines
Financial Advisor
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ADDITIONALLY

The Family Doctors Welcomes New Physicians!

Jimmie G. Holmes, M.D.
Family Medicine

Dr. Holmes is board eligible in Family Medicine. He received his medical degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. He completed his medical residency through the Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program in Louisiana. Dr. Holmes joined the Medical Staff at West Jefferson Medical Center in August, 2009 and practices at The Family Doctors located at 2845 Manhattan Blvd. in Harvey. Dr. Holmes’ interests include volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, playing golf and racquetball and spending time with his family.

Lisa Holaday, M.D.
Internal Medicine

Dr. Holaday is board eligible in Internal Medicine. She received her medical degree from UTHSC-San Antonio School of Medicine in Texas. She completed her medical residency at UTHSC-San Antonio School of Medicine in Texas. Dr. Holaday joined the Medical Staff at West Jefferson Medical Center in August, 2009 and practices at The Family Doctors located at 1101 Medical Center Blvd., Suite S-850 in Marrero.



I know your neighborhood & the market, and have the expertise to sell your property, too. If you are interested in buying or selling, please call me now.



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PECA Residents Celebrate the 26th Annual Night Out

The Plantation Estates Community Association participated in the 26th Annual National Night Out Against Crime held nationally on Tuesday, August 4, 2009. With over 300 attendees, everyone enjoyed lots of great food, mingled with neighbors, enjoyed the music, visited with elected officials and special guests, and also met police officers, fire department personnel and the West Jefferson Medical Center family.

This year Plantation Estates homeowners donated \$10,000 for Crimestoppers. Thanks to everyone who donated to the good cause. If you wish to still donate, please let us know. We raffled off over 60 door prizes that included many gift certificates, paintings, LSU tickets and much more. We also made 200 goodie bags that included free food certificates, coupons for local businesses and other items.

Councilman Byron Lee (PE homeowner) gave out Certificate of Merit awards for outstanding service to the Jefferson Parish Police Department, Marrero/Estelle Fire Department and West Jefferson Medical Center. Other special guests that attended the event include: Actor Steven Seagal, JP Sheriff Newell Normand, Col. John Fortunato (PE homeowner) and Chief Craig Taffero with the Sheriff's Office, Council-at-Large John Young, Council-at-Large Tom Capella, Nancy Cassagne (PE homeowner) and Jennifer Steel with West Jefferson Medical Center, Terry Talamo (PE homeowner) who is the JP Crime and Quality of Life Enforcement Coordinator, Chief Perry LeBlanc with Marrero Estelle Fire Dept. and many other elected officials and businesses.

There were many attractions such as the Jefferson Parish Police Command Center Bus, police cars, a police helicopter flew over for awhile, several fire trucks and a WJMC ambulance. The entire WJMC family setup a tent to provide information on services they offer our community. We also had a spacewalk, several New Orleans Hornet Horneybees cheerleaders and music by Tom Verret with the Louisiana Kids.

Thanks to all of the individuals and businesses who contributed door prizes, food or sponsored the event. We greatly appreciate the Mediamolle's and Kenyon's for the use of their electricity again this year. Thanks to John Combel for helping George Simpson cut the grass and donating the music, fans, signs, drinks and more. Special thanks to the entire Plantation Estates Board for hosting this event and many other homeowners who volunteered their time to make this event possible. If you were not able to make it, we hope to see you next year. Photos are posted on our website at www.plantationestates.org.

