

Providence Progress

LIVE LEARN WORK SHOP PLAY

Playground to be Ready for First Days of Spring

During the chilly days of winter, spring seems to be months away. But it won't be long before spring is here, bringing with it warmer, longer days - and in The Village of Providence - a new amenity for

of expression, but as a key to the development of their minds, bodies and emerging social skills." They have a real understanding of what it takes to allow children to discover themselves, all while having fun.

"play...a key to the development of their minds, bodies and emerging social skills."

All Game Time equipment is certified through the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association and ATSM, for conformance to certain safety standards.

Playground Components:

- Four "Prime Time" belt seat swings

- A "Cyber" slide
- A "Tidal Wave" slide
- Suspension bridge
- "Loop" climber
- "Bubbles" climber
- "Trunk" climber
- Rung Panel
- Two Riders or "Saddle Mates" ■

our "smaller" residents.

Custom playground equipment from Game Time, Inc. is scheduled to be installed at the Meeting House in time to help tackle the first bouts of spring fever.

Game Time, the manufacturer of the swings, slides, and climbers you'll find in the playground, has been creating play equipment since 1929. According to their website, they understand that "play is important to children, not just as a method

Resident's Website Is Under Construction !

A Resident's website is now under construction and slated for completion by April. Villagers can sign up for password-protected access to the website on-line. A link will be on The Village of Providence website when the resident's area is ready. Just look for it next time you logon.

The site will be THE place to get information on the Neighborhood Association, upcoming events, latest news, etc. Also, we plan to have an on-line forum so you can chat about social activities, trade tips and tricks on everything from computers to french bread, trouble shoot home maintenance issues, or discuss your favorite plants.

We will also have the personal information form you received available on-line. You'll be able to edit your profile - or add your profile if you

haven't sent it in already. It will be secure and only employees of the Town Founders will have access to the information.

As we gain more residents, this website will be an invaluable community communication tool. Please support it! ■

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**Meeting House
Playground
Suspension Bridge**



Community News

2004 "Fete at the Fountain"

It was a cold night, but several residents braved the weather to listen to carolers, drink some hot chocolate and hot cider, and mix and mingle with fellow villagers. Luckily, the heaters and hot drinks helped knock off a bit of the chill!

Carolers in Victorian dress sang traditional Christmas carols as they strolled around the fountain square. Santa also showed up to read about his "Night Before Christmas escapades" - much to the delight of the little ones. ■



NEW! "Village Mingle"

On Tuesday, April 5, The Providence Neighborhood Association will begin a monthly community get-together for residents both existing and pending. Until the Meeting House is finished, we'll have these meetings in resident's homes. Thanks to Tim and Cindy Thornton for being the first Mingle hosts! The Mingle runs from 6:00 - 7:30 and the Thorntons will supply lemonade, soft drinks, and iced tea. All you need to bring is a hearty snack to share with the neighbors (and BYOB if you would like something "different" to drink). Please call Karen at 704-3333 for more information or if you would like to host the May Mingle. ■

Meeting House to offer Professional Selection of Fitness Equipment

The Meeting House Athletic Club will have all the equipment you need to get fit in 2005.

Seven stationary weight machines along with free weights will be available for building every part of your body. Plus, you can choose from two treadmills, an elliptical trainer, or recumbent bike for cardio training. There will also be mats available for yoga or stretching before and after your workout.

Check the resident's website (when activated) for forms, information on access to the exercise room, and usage policies.

Stationary Weights in the Athletic Club include: Horizontal leg press, seated leg extension, inner outer thigh, seated row with lat pull, shoulder press, ab/back, seated tricep/bicep. Free weights include a 300 lb. Olympic set, 5-50 lb. dumbbell set, and 55, 60, and 65 lb. dumbbells. ■

Meeting House Update

Construction of the Meeting House is moving along according to the Town Founders' schedule. Slyman Development hopes the Meeting House will be open for residents during the summer. Stay tuned for more info. ■

VOP-TV Coming Soon

The Village of Providence will soon have a television station! Broadcast over Comcast, the closed-network feed will feature community news and updates.

This will be a great resource for residents seeking information about what's going on or how to get involved in the community. In the future, it will also be a great way for residents to make general announcements. More info to come... ■

The Magnolias of Stockton Street

One of the species of trees on Stockton Street is the Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* L.).

The Southern Magnolia is an enduring icon of the South and is one of the region's premier evergreen landscape trees. Famous for its large, fragrant, tulip-shaped flowers that appear as early as March and last as late as August, the Magnolia can grow up to 100 feet tall. Its large, waxy leaves serve as shelter for small animals and birds year round, while its fruit (poisonous to humans) provides food during the winter months.

Magnolia gives it's name to the family Magnoliaceae, and the name commemorates a French botanist, Pierre Magnol, Professor of Botany and Director of the Botanic Gardens,



Magnolia leaf and bloom image courtesy of Alabama Forestry Commission

Montpelier, during the latter part of the seventeenth and the early part of the eighteenth centuries (1638 - 1715).

Magnolia is an ancient genus. Having evolved before bees appeared, the flowers developed to encourage pollination by beetles. As a result, the carpels – or the female reproductive organs – of Magnolia flowers are tough to avoid damage. This historic southern tree is prehistoric as well. Fossilized specimens of *Magnolia acuminata* have been found dating to 20 million years ago. Plants identifiably belonging to the Magnoliaceae family have been found dating back to 95 million years ago. ■

This is the first in a series of features about the trees that line our streets here in the Village. If you have particular knowledge about tree species, please let us know. We'd enjoy featuring your article!



"The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found."

~ Calvin Trillin

Village Recipes

Send us your favorite recipes! Whether its a twist on an old classic, a family favorite, or your signature dish, please share it with us.

This issue's dish is "Chicken and 40 Cloves" - a simple, yet tasty all-in-one classic that has endless variations. You'll need a heavy French or Dutch oven with a lid for cooking this savory dish.

- 1 fryer, with skin, cut into pieces
- Olive oil
- Three- four heads of garlic, broken apart, but with skins on the cloves intact (if you're a stickler for counting out exactly 40, knock yourself out!)
- A "handful" of fresh thyme
- Bay leaf
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground pepper
- A splash of white wine to deglaze the pan

Rinse chicken pieces and pat dry. Salt and pepper and set aside. Heat French/Dutch oven over medium-high heat. When hot, add enough olive oil to coat the bottom of the pan, then add chicken, skin side down. Brown both sides. While brown-

ing, heat your oven to 350F. (You may also sip some wine or have a cocktail during this phase...All that heat will surely make you thirsty!)

Once the chicken is browned, splash the wine or vermouth on the chicken to deglaze the pan. Once most of the liquid has reduced, turn off the heat, throw in the garlic and herbs, cover, and put into the oven. Cook for 30 minutes.

Serve with a green salad and fresh, steamed veggies and toasted French or Cuban bread, smeared with the roasted garlic. Roasting the garlic takes away its "bite." It goes on like butter and is very sweet



Variations

Try throwing in some mushrooms, carrots, and/or leeks before you put the dish in the oven. You can also try different herbs - such as sage or rosemary - as well as different deglazing elixirs - such as brandy or vermouth. ■

Around the House

Summer Lawn Care

by Gary Braden

For a lush, green lawn this season, here are some tips to keep your lawn in tip-top shape and make your neighbors green with envy.

Have Auburn University analyze your soil and you'll get a report with lime and fertilizer recommendations. You can get a soil analysis kit from either your County Extension System office or Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory. Call (334) 844-3958 or log on to <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/dept/ay/soiltest.htm> for more information

Sharpen mower blades each time you mow. Cutting your lawn with a dull mower blade hurts the grass and creates an uneven cut which leaves grass more susceptible to disease.

DO NOT MULCH your grass. A beautiful lawn takes effort and part of that effort is bagging grass clippings each time you mow. This helps alleviate thatch and allows your lawn to breathe freely.

Feed your lawn. Your lawn is hungry and needs fertilizer about every 6-8 weeks. After determining your lawn fertilization requirements,

take the next step and apply the critical nutrients your lawn needs to be green and healthy.

Don't wait for rain. Grass loves a regular drink of H₂O and the quicker it gets water the quicker it will turn green.

Spend the money and effort for weed and insect control. Be sure to follow the instructions on any weed or insect control chemical closely.

Spray liquid soap on your lawn with a hose end sprayer about every 2-3 weeks during the summer. Soap helps to improve penetration of water in the dry soil; it removes airborne pollution from the grass blades so osmosis can take place. It makes a great nonpoisonous bug killer because it makes the bugs sick and helps alleviate lawn diseases. Apply about 2 cups of liquid soap (the cheap stuff) per 20 gallons of water. Try it. Your grass will love you for it.

In the fall, dethatch your lawn, set your mower blade lower than in the summer (bag the clippings!), fertilize, spread lime, and overseed. You'll be helping the grass to healthier for next spring.

With a little effort you can have a great looking lawn year after year. ■



Gentle Reminder - Exterior Modifications



Remember - Any modifications to the exterior of your home (including, but not limited to fencing, landscaping, satellite dishes, etc.) must be approved by the Providence Architectural Review Board. Please contact us at 704-3333 for more information and to receive the proper paperwork. ■

Cleaning Exterior Painted Surfaces

With all the construction going on in The Village, it may be necessary to clean some of your exterior painted surfaces. All you need to use is luke warm water, a mild nonabrasive cleaner, and a soft cloth or soft bristle brush to remove most dirt and grime. Power washers and strong chemical cleaners may cause permanent damage or even remove paint. If you plan to use a cleaner stronger than water and a mild cleanser, you should read the instructions for the solution very carefully. ■



"You have succeeded in life when all you really want is only what you really need."

~Vernon Howard

Odds & Ends

Interesting Internet Sites

America On the Move

<http://www.americaonthemove.org/>

Everything you need to begin making simple changes for better health is online at America On the Move.

Clem Labine's Period Homes

<http://www.period-homes.com/>

If you're looking for traditional touches to your home in The Village of Providence, check out Clem's "Suppliers Pages." Period-Homes.com has hundreds of pages devoted to historical products and services from the leading suppliers to the building trade.

How Walkable is Your Community?

<http://www.nsc.org/walk/wkcheck.htm>

Take a quiz to see how if your community is "walkable." ■

Go Fly a Kite! Kite Safety Tips

Spring is perfect for kite flying. Flying is great fun, but it can, at best, become a nuisance to the unconverted, so please be considerate of others and remember that buzzing over peoples' heads may look like fun but can be extremely dangerous. So if you want to show off your skills, don't do it at the expense of others. Play hard, but play safe - nothing stops the fun faster than an injury!

Keep in mind these common safety precautions:

Don't fly near people, especially young children.

Don't fly close to roads. Landing a kite in a road could cause a serious accident.

Keep clear of electric power lines, electrical signs, and TV and radio aerials.

Don't fly near airports.

Don't fly your kite in winds stronger than recommended.

Never fly in stormy weather. Wet lines are conductive!

Don't underestimate the power of the wind. Always wear gloves when flying a hard-pulling kite.

Although it's unusual for dogs to attack kites while still in the air, always make sure there are no dogs around when you land your kite. They are known to run away when a kite lands, but in some instances, they've been known to grab the kite and run away with it.

Don't let a young child fly a kite that needs more than a 30-pound flying line. Always accompany them on their first flights.

Watch out for rocks and holes while running with your kite.

Abandon a kite before risking your life to rescue it from trees or telephone poles. In the long run, you'll be better off buying a new kite.

For more safety tips, visit <http://www.westbendmutual.com/tips/aspdocuments/KiteSafety01.asp>

Please Contribute to Our Newsletter

As The Village Of Providence grows, so will The Providence Progress newsletter. Ideally, it will become a monthly publication serving as one of several communication vehicles by which information - both informative and fun - is disseminated to residents.

However, its important that we hear from you in order to increase the content and drive the direction of this publication. If you would like to write an article or make any suggestions for future newsletters, please feel free to drop us an email:

comments@villageofprovidence.com.



Development News



Progress on Main Street: Slyman Development Breaks Ground on "Building 3"

Construction has started on "Building 3" - the second of four buildings that will line the Providence Main Street block between Town Center Drive and Biltmore Drive.

"Building 3" will house restaurants and retail space on the ground level. The second and third floors will be home to various offices.

Pre-leasing will start soon, so if you are interested in moving your business to The Village of Providence, please call 704-3090 for more information. ■

Principle Selected for New Providence School

Brenda Wingate has been selected as the new Principle of Providence's K-8 school. Ms. Wingate is currently the principal of Ridgecrest Elementary School, but will resign that post as of March 14 to begin preparing for the opening of Providence in Fall 2005.

According to a report in The Huntsville Times, Wingate holds an administrative certificate from the University of North Alabama, a master's degree in biology from the University of Alabama and an undergraduate degree from Athens State and is strong on science. "I'm going to be looking at a strong science program," says Wingate. She's also looking for parents to play a very strong role in their children's education experience: "I think a school is only successful when parents get involved."

Providence School will feature an environmental science theme for its 800 students. Students will come from The Village of Providence and from city students from west of Wynn Drive and north of I-565. School administrators project the school will be full when it opens in August. The neighborhoods had been zoned for Highlands Elementary, Westlawn Middle, Ed White Middle and Williams School. ■



**Want more info?
Visit us on the web at
www.villageofprovidence.com**

The Benefits of New Urbanism

Traditional Neighborhood Design is part of a greater movement called "New Urbanism." New Urbanism is an international movement to reform the design of the built environment, and is about raising our quality of life and standard of living by creating better places to live. New Urbanism is the revival of our lost art of place-making, and is essentially a reordering of the built environment into the form of complete cities, towns, villages, and neighborhoods - the way communities have been built for centuries around the world. New Urbanism involves fixing and infilling cities, as well as the creation of compact new towns and villages.

How Residents Benefit

Higher quality of life; Better places to live, work, & play; Higher, more stable property values; Less traffic congestion & less driving; Healthier lifestyle with more walking, and less stress; Close proximity to main street retail & services; Close proximity to bike trails, parks, and nature; Pedestrian friendly communities offer more opportunities to get to know others in the neighborhood and town, resulting in meaningful relationships with more people, and a friendlier town; More freedom and independence to children, elderly, and the poor in being able to get to jobs, recreation, and services without the need for a car or someone to drive them; Great savings to residents and school boards in reduced busing costs from children being able to walk or bicycle to neighborhood schools; More diversity and smaller, unique shops and services with local owners who are involved in community; Big savings by driving less, and owning less cars; Less ugly, congested sprawl to deal with daily; Better sense of place and community identity with more unique architecture; More open space to enjoy that will remain open space; More efficient use of tax money with less spent on spread out utilities and roads.



“Only when humans are again permitted to build authentic urbanism — those cities, towns, and villages that nurture us by their comforts and delights — will we cease the despoiling of Nature by escaping to sprawl”
~Andres Duany

How Businesses Benefit

Increased sales due to more foot traffic & people spending less on cars and gas; More profits due to spending less on advertising and large signs; Better lifestyle by living above shop in live-work units - saves the stressful & costly commute; Economies of scale in marketing due to close proximity and cooperation with other local businesses; Smaller spaces promote small local business incubation; Lower rents due to smaller spaces & smaller parking lots; Healthier lifestyle due to more walking and being near healthier restaurants; More community involvement from being part of community and knowing residents.

(adapted from <http://newurbanism.org/pages/416429/index.htm>) ■

The Village of Providence Post Charrette
Look for it in *The Huntsville Times!*



Wayne's Environmental

Comprehensive Treatment and Maintenance Plan

EXCLUSIVE LAWN PROGRAM FOR THE VILLAGE OF PROVIDENCE

FIRST MONTHLY LAWN SERVICE FREE with one year agreement!

Monthly Investment Fee: \$80

Wayne's EnviroLawn Program for the Village of Providence includes:

Lawn Maintenance Services – provided through Village LawnCare

- Cutting of all turf grass every week or as needed
- Steel Trim Edging of sidewalk and bed areas
- Lawn/weed trimming for all areas inaccessible for cutting
- Hand pulling and/or treating of all flower bed weeds
- Clean air sweeping of all areas

Lawn Treatment and Fertilization Services

Winter Application (February) - Pre-emergent and post-emergent weed control with Potassium to proactively prevent weed germination and growth

Early Spring Application (March) - Pre-emergent and post-emergent weed control with Iron to proactively prevent weed germination and growth while enhancing turf color

Pre-Summer Application (Mid-April) - Granular Fertilization of all turf areas to promote growth and lush appearance and spot spraying to target broadleaf and grassy weeds

Mid-Summer Application (July) - Granular Fertilization of all turf areas to promote growth and lush appearance and spot spraying to target broadleaf and grassy weeds

Fall Application (Mid-September) - Pre-emergent and post-emergent weed control with Potassium to proactively prevent weed germination and growth

Tree and Shrub Fertilization and Weed Control Services

Winter Application (February) – Insecticide application to provide protection to your trees and shrub against insects

Early Spring Application (March) – Granular fertilization to promote healthy growth and insecticide spot spraying as needed to protect trees and shrubs against insects

Pre-Summer Application (Mid-April) – Insecticide and Fungicide application to provide protection to your trees and shrubs against insects and disease

Summer Application (July) - Insecticide and Fungicide application to provide protection to your trees and shrubs against insects and disease

TURF AERATION AND OVERSEEDING ALSO AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

CALL YOUR WAYNE'S CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALIST TODAY AT 461-7863

Service Center Leader – Garrett Wilkey

Hours of Operation: 7:30AM-5:30PM

