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## And just who is it that says gas will hit \$4.00+ this summer anyway?

Ever since the first time we were held hostage to price gouging at the Fuel Pumps back in the early seventies, somehow the press always got a hold of predictions of how much gas was going to cost next season. Now, having been involved in this business for all of these years I can assure you that the news people are just not good enough to unearth these kinds of predictions by themselves. Nor are the government agencies such as the "Energy Department" that present these numbers for publishing! Without question, on my part at least, I submit to you that this is nothing more than a ploy by the people that stand to make huge profits to soften the blow to us unsuspecting citizens in the middle class that have to carry the brunt of the costs.

I also submit that per this morning's Times, and I quote: "In 1999, the price of oil hovered around \$16 a barrel. In the fall of 2007 it began to approach the \$100 a barrel mark." This represents far more than across the board inflation. Excuses range from China's needs to the war in the mid-east. I wonder where the truth really lies. We didn't design the cars that burn this petroleum based fuel; the government had oversight of the car companies and their efficiency goals. And who pays the mega dollars for government officials to become re-elected government officials? Only by proxy do we, the extended middle class, pay the big companies enough to enable them in turn to support the candidates of *their* choice.

Area prices for gas in the Waxhaw area as of Thursday 4/10/08:

Texaco: **\$3.26.9**

Pure: **\$3.25.9**

Little General: **\$3.24.9**

Shell:

**\$3.29.9**

Wax. In n Out:

**\$3.36.9**

Mineral Springs:

M. S. Grocery **\$3.25.9**

Texaco: **\$3.26.9**

BP

on New Town **\$3.23.9**

*I strongly recommend that we make sure to remember our pain this coming November.*

**Three Weeks Ago, I began tracking gas prices in our immediate area. In that time the price has risen 7 to 10 cents per gallon, in just 3 Weeks!**

*I encourage all of you to pass our link along to your Waxhaw friends and relatives so they too can enjoy our paper. Remember we will be publishing every Friday with updates as they come out. I continue the process of building out our e-mail list which I will use to send out as an announcement at time of publishing so if your not already on our list and wish to become a subscriber, please drop me a line with your request.*

### NEW!

See Page Two for the "Follow Up Column"

## This Week:

Events Updated: Queens Cup Steeplechase 13th Annual Running of Champions, 3rd Annual Union County Red Cross Charity Ball; Maximized Living Makeover; Rotary 3rd Annual 5K Race; Golden Leaf Calendar Plus SpringFest.

Arts Crafts & Homes: Golden Leaf, Contributing Writers add this months advice

Opinions: Sometimes they are all wet.

Humor: Politics Aside our video of the week will tear you up!

Advice: Somebody been digging for gold?

Welcome to this weeks edition of *The Waxhaw Gazette!* If you own a business and have any news worthy happenings planned or know of someone new coming in, send me a press release and I will be happy to include it. Contact me directly with comments or suggestions at: [jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com](mailto:jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com)

### From the Editor:

In my continuing coverage on development in the Waxhaw area, I will report on the new and proposed healthcare facilities and how they effect us. Now, however as I have a far more personal perspective, I will also be following up today's article as it

## Queens Cup Steeplechase The 13th Annual Running of Champions



In just over two weeks the Queens Cup Steeplechase will once again grace us with some of the best horse racing in the world. Having lived in the Waxhaw area for many years I can say with certainty a person knows when this event is getting ready to run. Direction signs go up. Advertising starts appearing in local papers and television. Chatter at all of the local restaurants includes at least some mention, especially if any of our numerous equestrian types are present. And all of this comes to a head on Saturday, April 26th when over 14,000 people are expected to show up for an entire days worth of events. Rain or Shine nothing is going to slow this happening down. I understand the "Tailgating" there makes anything seen at a Panthers game look downright amateurish? I will let you know in my wrap up article on May 2nd.



unfolded. The people at the hospital who took care of me and what I have been going through in my recovery. I believe this will give us all an opportunity to better judge how the continued growth can and will effect healthcare and us all.

## Just a Few Days.

*Part Four,*  
**Tired of the hospital rhythm,  
ready to go home .**

**T**he days blend into each other, I have seen little of the Doctors over the weekend and the Nurses couldnt have been nicer! Monday comes and goes, with word from the Doctors that they want to keep me just one more day... "to make sure" I wouldn't have an episode. I think they are still worried about blood clots. After too many hours of snoozing but not really sleeping, TV that is just a blur Tuesday finally arrives. I do get word that I will be sprung loose sometime today but were waiting for Doctors to sign off, paperwork to be compleated and it seems like I have one more lunch meal to endure.

Opps, now they decide they have to test me for just one more thing.... how my blood oxygen holds up while walking. Two very young Nurses Assistants show up to take me for a walk and after some awkwardness, we march off down the hall and back. The girls write down their findings and off they go. Now we wait for paperwork, which finally show up with pages and pages of instructions. More pills than Carter has and of course an acceptable diet for me to get used to. And at last I'm sprung and out the front door! Ahhh, to be going home at last! Seems like a dream, of sorts.

*by: John Tiley*

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## Coming Soon: Coffee and a Park Side Chat with the Mayor

Coming soon, your Editor will be sitting down with Mayor Gardner to have a weekly Park Side Chat. This will be the opportunity for the Mayor to voice her opinion on how things are proceeding in our town. Where there is headway being made and where roadblocks are preventing progress, why and perhaps even who/what is holding things up?



Mayor Gardner

We certainly have a lot to concern us here in Waxhaw, not just local "politics" but the realities of the changing economy and how it is going to effect us, we are in need of the type of focus the Mayor, with the help and support of the rest of the Town Officials and the citizens of Waxhaw, need to bring to the issues at hand. We all need vigilance to make sure that in the trying times ahead we don't succumb to unscrupulous businesspeople that would put profit above the character which this town has spent literally over a hundred years building.

I look forward to those conversations with Mayor Gardner and the opportunity it gives me to report her take on the issues.

*John Tiley*



### Following Up!

#### Wesley Chapel... This Just Doesn't Want To End!

Not only are the residents of StoneGate trying to run Dr Michael Land off of his target range? Now I understand he has recieved Death Threats? Wesley Chapel residents, SHAME ON YOU!

## The "Big Empty Lot" Gets 2nd Building

New Building to Replace Short Term Space, follows CVS across street.



In behind the CVS, yet a new building is just now breaking ground. And it seems a strange type of Deja vous is going on here. CES (City Electrical Supply Co. Ltd.) an electrical parts distributor I believe, that currently occupies the old CVS space is to be the new resident. I have no idea if this is just coincidence but it would seem there is a connection here of some sort? Regardless, it is good to see some progress finally happening in that "Big Empty Lot"! Let's hope this is just the start.

*John Tiley*

## Charlton Heston, Film Star and Hero to many of us, Dies at 84.

It seems like every time you look around someone who had an influence on us is passing away. Perhaps I am giving away my age, but my childhood was a much brighter place because of movies such as Ben Hur, the Ten Commandments, Omega Man and even the unforgettable Planet of the Apes. Charlton Heston was someone who seemed in all aspects of life to be a true mans man. I, along with many of my peers will certainly miss him, and remember him every time one of his movies plays again.

*John Tiley, longtime fan of the late Charelton Heston*



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## Waxhaw's Events Calander

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And They're Off!

### Queen's Cup Steeplechase; A Win-Win for Charlotte and the Region



Mineral Springs, NC.

On Saturday, April 26, 2008 the thirteenth running of the Queen's Cup Steeplechase will, once again, thrill its spectators with the thunder of hooves, flash of colorful silks, and dazzle of the winner's circle when some of the country's most magnificent horses race for fame and fortune. Over the challenging racecourse at Brooklandwood, the 280-acre Mineral Springs home of the annual event, horse and jockey will test their athleticism and grit.

Beginning at 10 AM on race day, guests at Brooklandwood will participate in the Charlotte Region's largest lawn party. The heritage of steeplechasing is one of fun, food, and festive attire. Green, rolling fields with daunting timber and brush fences are the backdrop for beautiful horses, people, and sporting dogs. From silver candelabras and champagne to barbeque and beer koozies, tailgate parties encircle the racecourse. Dotted across the landscape are scores of fanciful hats celebrating the historic pageantry of the sport.

As each field of horses breaks from the starter's flag drop, spectators rush to the rail to cheer their favorites to victory. Gates open at 10 AM and post time for the first race is 1:00 PM. There are five races with purses totaling \$100,000. The day's festivities also include a raffle, hat and tailgate contest, terrier races, children's activities area and a Hot Walk Party after the last race. Opening ceremonies will include the "Walking of the Hounds" by the Mecklenburg Hounds, the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band.

Each race is sponsored by local and national businesses that support the Charlotte Steeplechase Association and its charities. This year's race partners are Sonitrol Security Services, Inc., Visa, USA, GMC, Brigadoon Stable (Edgar Cato Foundation), WTVI, TruGreen - ChemLawn.

Additional course partners are American Airlines, Morrison Smith Jewelers, Donald Haack Diamonds, Charlotte Taste Magazine and Time Warner Cable.



Other companies partnering with the Queen's Cup are BAE Systems, Dr. Robert Widis, DDS, Carolina Site Concepts, Greer & Walker LLP, Stanford Group, Miller Brewing Co., McAlister's Deli, Iams, Harris Teeter, Windstream, The Westin, Hart & Hickman, PC, Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated and Presbyterian Hospital.

William J. Price, Chairman and co-founder of the Charlotte Steeplechase Association and his wife Carrington purchased Brooklandwood in 1997 and built the one and one sixteenth mile racecourse as the permanent home for the annual Queens Cup. Their family donated 201+ acres of Brooklandwood to Catawba Lands Conservancy in 2001 and 44 more in 2006, currently ensuring a beautiful setting for the Queen's Cup that will forever remain in its natural state.

The Queen's Cup winner's circle, where horses, riders, and owners receive their purses and applause, is always shared with another winner. This year's race will benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation®, Central & Western Carolina Chapter. Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Over the past twelve years, the Queen's Cup has donated over \$350,000 to area charities.

Corporate Hospitality Tents, Lawn Boxes and Reserved Tailgating spots are perfect for entertaining present and/or perspective clients, tour groups or as a special treat for key employees. Last year was a sell-out. To reserve a special location, visit our web site [www.queenscup.org](http://www.queenscup.org) or call our office today (704) 843-7070.

For More Information, Contact:

**Glenn K. Springer, Executive Director**  
704-843-7070

### Maximized Living Makeover Moves 20,000 people toward health!!!



The nation-wide launch of the new Maximized Living Makeover program will begin on April 26th, 2008 with an expected involvement of over 20,000 participants across the country - over 600 who live here in Charlotte, NC.

The Makeover programs begin in Charlotte with a powerful 3 hour kick-off session hosted by Dr. Marc Surprenant of Family Healing Chiropractic, a Maximized Living Health Center.

The program continues with a 30 day "challenge" to apply the essentials of Maximized Living in the daily lives of the participants.

emotionally and physically fit - you just have to know the rules and have the tools. We've devised a system that has made it easier, not harder, for people of all ages to be in the greatest shape in their lives - in mind and body. With the support of Maximized Living Health Center Doctors like Dr. Surprenant, we are helping thousands achieve what we call 'Maximized Living.'

Dr. Surprenant of Family Healing Chiropractic will be facilitating the Maximized Living Makeover in Charlotte, NC. "I have literally seen lives change in the program! Kids getting their dads back, husbands getting their wives back...you name it, people get their health, energy, and life back." As quoted by Dr. Surprenant about Maximized Living Makeover.

“The stress and pace of ‘modern living’,” says Dr. Ben Lerner, a former U.S. Olympic Team Doctor, “and adherence to ‘conventional wisdom’ has led us to the lowest point for health in U.S. history. We are currently ranked 30th in the world in our overall health- lower even than Lithuania. It’s not hard for you and you family to become

Call us at: **Family Healing Chiropractic**  
**704-540-0055 and we would be pleased to**  
**give you additional details.**

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## Waxhaw's Events Calander

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### Third Annual Union County Red Cross Charity Ball at Providence Country Club on April 12

Monroe, NC, March 31, 2008

Only a few seats remain for the Union County Chapter of the American Red Cross Rhapsody in Red Ball & Auction. The black-tie optional event, to be held Saturday, April 12, 6pm at the Providence Country Club, will feature a champagne reception, multi-course seated dinner, silent and live auction, and entertainment provided by the Right Turn Clyde band.

"Everyone is invited to this elegantly orchestrated benefit for our local American Red Cross," said Event Chairwoman Martha Fisichello. "However, if previous engagements keep you from attending, you can join us in spirit by simply clicking onto [www.unioncountyreducross.org](http://www.unioncountyreducross.org) for a preview of auction items donated by our generous community supporters. If one, or dozens of items catch your eye, call 704.283.7402 and place a bid."

"This auction has something for everyone," adds Ms. Fisichello. "Catered meals, vacation getaways, original artwork, jewelry, and tickets to the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. For sports fans, we have 25+ memorabilia pieces, including two basketballs signed by the 2007-2008 Duke Blue Devils men's basketball team and a pair signed by the UNC Tarheels team."

Call-in bids will be accepted on all auction items through Friday, April 11. Additional auction standouts include a 7 night Royal Caribbean cruise, family beach vacation homes, Carolina Panther tickets, one year of dry cleaning, a gourmet wine tasting basket valued over \$500 and much more.

All proceeds will benefit the variety of services offered by the local Red Cross, including disaster relief, blood collections, service to Armed Forces, life saving and safety training. The American Red Cross would like to thank event sponsors including Greiner Bio-One, A3Technologies, and Beverage Sponsor Miller Brewing.

Tickets are \$100 per person and may be purchased at the Red Cross web address listed above, or by calling the chapter at 704.283.7402. Reserved seating is required.

- o Date: Friday Apr 25, 2008
- o Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM
- o Place: Historic Downtown Waxhaw
- o Phone: 707-618-8087
- o Contact: Larry Hook
- o Email: [events@waxhaw.com](mailto:events@waxhaw.com)

**5K Run  
Fitness Walk  
1/2 Mile Fun Run  
Baby Jogger Division**

**Friday, April 25th 2008  
Check-in begins at 5:30 pm**

**RACE begins at 7 pm  
In Historic Downtown Waxhaw**

**For registration and more information:  
[www.runwaxhaw.com](http://www.runwaxhaw.com)  
or [www.WWSROTARYCLUB.ORG](http://www.WWSROTARYCLUB.ORG)**

**In Concert: The Michael Davis Band!**

Thank you Sponsors:

- Farms & estate Realty, Inc.
- Citizens South
- Southern Collision
- Fitness Together
- Union Power Cooperative
- Donatos
- Farley's Pizza
- First Charter Bank
- First Citizens Bank
- Harris Teeter
- Foodman Hunter Karras PLLC
- Hook Tire and Services
- FedEx of Monroe
- JAARS, Inc
- Kohleen & Associates of Allen Tate
- Land Rover Charlotte
- Moe's Southwest Grill
- Waxhaw Family Physicians
- Weaver, Bennett and Bland, PA
- Clearly Carolina Water & Coffee

*Hosted by:*  
**The Waxhaw-Weddington Sunrise  
Rotary Club**

### Gardening Calendar of Events

#### Saturday, April 12th at 10 am Sprouts'

Get the kids out of the house and come down and celebrate Earth Day with us and make Bird Nest Kits. Your family will enjoy watching your feathered friends select items for their nest from the kits that your child put together.

2608 Doster Road, Monroe, North Carolina 28112  
Calendar of Events Courtesy of: 704.289.6644 | [www.goldenleafnursery.com](http://www.goldenleafnursery.com)

**The Town of Waxhaw Announces Sponsors for Annual Spring Event**  
*Come Play in Our Streets!*

Waxhaw, N.C. February 25, 2008—

**The Town of Waxhaw invites families to play in  
its historic downtown on Saturday, May 17 from**

Doggie Idol is sponsored by K-9Z To 5 Dog Training and The Furry Godmother benefiting animal rescue in Union County. Come early, registration begins at 9:00 a.m. the first 100 will receive a gift bag from Nutro Natural Pet Food.

***10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Sunday, May 18 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. to celebrate Spring Fest '08.***

This year's headline sponsors are The Waxhaw Exchange, The Waxhaw Business Association, K-9Z to 5 Dog Training, The Furry Godmother and The Community Works of Waxhaw

Both days will bring exciting opportunities for everyone in the family to enjoy. Pick up your copy of The Waxhaw Exchange at the festival to view the great collection of open market finds such as antiques, arts, crafts, wood art, collectables, food and exciting band stand entertainment. The Waxhaw Business Association returns with the 4th annual Kids Zone designed for kids of all ages!

Saturday features two returning events to jump start the weekend: the 3rd Annual Doggie Idol Competition and the 2nd Annual SK8 Competition. Bring your pooch to the Waxhaw Band Stand to compete for ribbons in categories such as shortest/longest tail, best dressed, most hair, and pure breed. The most talented dog will take home the Doggie Idol trophy.

The SK8 Competition, hosted by Community Works of Waxhaw, invites all Skateboarders, In-line Skaters and BMX Bikers to the Waxhaw Church Street Park at 1 pm. to compete for trophies and ribbons. Registration begins at noon. Participants must bring and wear helmets and knee pads to compete.

The weekend continues with exciting events at the bandstand and throughout the festival. For up-to-date information please go to the Town of Waxhaw web site at [www.waxhaw.com](http://www.waxhaw.com)

*Spring Fest '08 is a rain or shine event*

**CONTACT:** Town Events Coordinator: Caroline Hasty  
Waxhaw Town Hall, PO Box 6, Waxhaw, NC 28173  
704-843-2195 or [events@waxhaw.com](mailto:events@waxhaw.com)

## Arts, Crafts & Home: Now In The Garden

Articles courtesy of: Marilyn Eudy, the Golden Leaf Nursery

### "Watering-In" New Plant Material

*Spring here! Let the planting commence! Along with planting, comes our obligation to water when Mother Nature is not as consistent as we would like her to be. By following the simple instructions below, you will be well on your way to a well-adjusted and well-established plant.*

#### How Much Should I Water?

#### How Often Should I Water My New Tree or Shrub?

*Water daily for the first two weeks (and longer • if the weather is excessively hot or dry).*

- Then water every other day for the next two months.
- Then water weekly until established, usually through the first year.

*This schedule should be adjusted for drought conditions, heavy periods of rain, irrigation, and excessive heat.*

#### How Do I Know IF I Am Watering Enough?

*Following the above schedule should provide the optimum amount of water for your new plant to become established in your landscape. You should also check with a hand trowel for moisture content at the site of the planting to confirm that the soil is not too dry or too wet. For trees, Clemson University's department of horticulture recommends 2 gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. So for a smaller sized tree, say with a 1 1/2 inch diameter trunk, you should apply 3 gallons of water each time you water.*

*For shrubs, apply 1 gallon of water for every 2 feet of height. If your new shrub is 3 feet tall, apply 1 1/2 gallons of water every time you water.*

*The easiest way to determine if you are watering the correct amount is to use a gallon container to measure. Count how many seconds it takes for your water hose to fill the gallon container. Then you can use that information to calculate how many seconds you should let the water run onto the plant for each watering period.*

The second Saturday of each month is dedicated to our littlest green thumbs. While the adults enjoy some "quiet" time or a cup of coffee at our coffee shop, the kids will have a blast creating and learning at our arbor as well as feeding the fish at our pond. We have projects that allow each child to express themselves through plants, crafts, and nature as well as learn something in the process.

So bring the kids out to come play in the dirt with us while you take advantage of some free shopping time. Sprout's Club is open to all children ages 4 to 10. No reservations or fee required. Come and join us at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 12th, as we celebrate Earth Day and put together Bird Nest Kits to help our feathered friends prepare their nest for spring.

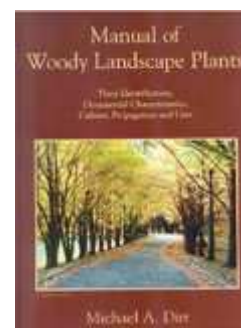
### Boxwood Leafminer

The boxwood leafminer (*Monarthropalpus buxi*) is the bane of every boxwood lover in the south. A beautiful row of boxwoods (*Buxus sempervirens*) can suddenly turn yellowish in color and decline in health and appearance with its leaves taking on a deformed shape. The culprit has an adult form as a bright orange fly that measures a mere 1/10 of an inch and appears swarming around the shrubs in early May. The pupae form is a destructive yellowish white maggot measuring 1/8 of an inch in length.

The telltale signs of infestation are oval, water-soaked swellings on the underneath sides of the leaves where the maggots do their damage. Breaking open one of these blistered leaves will produce the leafminer hiding inside. Control of the leafminer begins with control of the adult midges. In May, spray the boxwood leaves with appropriate insecticides. Most long-time gardeners have found success with Diazinon, Cygon, or Sevin, but newer varieties of insecticides like imidacloprid (Merit®) have been shown to be most effective on the boxwood leafminer. Timing is very important in treating for leafminers. Apply the pesticides in mid to late April when the flies first appear. Remember that broad-spectrum pesticides can be detrimental to the balance of insects in the garden. These chemicals tend to destroy the beneficial insects like praying mantises and lady beetles along with the pests. Use these insecticides with caution and always according to package directions.

2608 Doster Road  
 Monroe, North Carolina 28112  
 704.289.6644  
[www.goldenleafnursery.com](http://www.goldenleafnursery.com)

### Books for Gardeners: A Review



The Golden Leaf Nursery staff regularly refers to the *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses* by Michael A. Dirr. Dirr is a retired professor from the University of Georgia and is known around the world for his horticultural research, education, and advancement of the plant industry. The *Manual* is considered the "bible" in the horticulture industry and is the definitive word on the thousands of varieties and cultivars of nearly every tree and shrub in the world. His descriptions of woody plants range from the highly technical to the supremely humorous. Dr. Dirr has literally traveled the world to compile these 1200+ pages of horticultural information. The reader will certainly not read this encyclopedia from cover to cover, but will be thrilled to find the answers to questions of culture, habit, form, and even propagation tips for every favorite woody garden plant. The only thing it lacks is photographs. Even so, the *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* is a reference must for the devoted gardener.

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## And now, directly from the Internet.....

bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous? So Enjoy!

### Video Links

## TOYS



If you have had a child, and most of us have, you certainly will appreciate this home video. This is definatly one of the top ten Good Memory videos!

Go here for **TOYS** .....and enjoy!

### It don't offend nobody, dood it?



MoBama, McCurly and HiLL-Larry

### The Republican Fisherman

A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost. She lowered her altitude and spotted a man in a boat below. She shouted to him, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man consulted his portable GPS and replied, "You're in a hot air balloon, approximately 30 feet above a ground elevation of 2346 feet above sea level. You are at 31 degrees, 14.97 minutes north latitude and 100 degrees, 49.09 minutes west longitude."

She rolled her eyes and said, "You must be a Republican."

"I am," replied the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to do with your information, and I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help to me."

The man smiled and responded, "You must be a Democrat."

"I am," replied the balloonist. "How did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You've risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise that you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. You're in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but, somehow, now it's my fault."

*Let's "Keep Waxhaw Alive" folks by supporting our local merchants!*

### Advertisers

#### THE CANNIBAL MENU

A cannibal was walking through the jungle and came upon a restaurant operated by a fellow cannibal.

Feeling somewhat hungry, he sat down and looked over the menu..

- \* Tourist: \$5
- \* Broiled Missionary: \$10.00
- \* Fried Explorer: \$15.00
- \* Baked Democrat or Grilled Republican: \$100.00

The cannibal called the waiter over and asked, "Why such a price difference for the Politician?"

The cook replied, "Have you ever tried to clean one? They're so full of s\_\_t, it takes all morning!"



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## Welcome to Waxhaw's Very Own Advice Column. "Ask Amber"

Dear Amber,

This may be a somewhat indelicate topic, but I've often wondered...

Why do so many people pick their nose in public? The worst part is that they think that if they are not looking at you, you must not be able to see them, either! I have a 2 year old daughter that I'm trying to deter from that nasty habit. Yet, everywhere we go, there are adults indulging! Help?

*Picky Mama*

Dear Picky,

You are to be commended for trying to teach her the difference between acceptable public behavior and actions that should only allowed in private. Your two year old daughter does not know any better yet but with your guidance she will grow into a well mannered young lady.

However, what about those adults? They should know better but apparently many do not. So, I'll try to increase awareness and hopefully this will help some people recognize the error of their ways. In our let-it-all-hang-out society many people are convinced that anything they do when they are not directly interacting with another person is private behavior and should therefore not be subject to criticism. The key term here is "directly interacting". There is the presumption that only when they are directly interacting should they use manners. These people seem to forget that they are in public and there is no invisible shield that protects them from the view of others with whom they are sharing a public space. For the record – anything that brings fingers into contact with a face, mouth, body and clothes falls within the realm of personal grooming and should be done in private. This includes combing hair and yes, even applying lipstick. Anything that would normally be done to make one more attractive and presentable should be done behind closed doors so that nobody can see that we are anything less than perfect.

Continue to set a good example as you gently discourage her from indulging in this nasty habit.

*Amber*

Send your relationship questions to: [ambermaxwell@thewaxhawgazette.com](mailto:ambermaxwell@thewaxhawgazette.com)

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