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Area prices for gas in the
Waxhaw area as of
Thursday 3/27/08:

Texaco: **\$3.18.9**
Pure: **\$3.20.9**
Little General: **\$3.24.9**
Shell: **\$3.24.9**
Wax. In n Out: **\$3.26.9**

Mineral Springs:
M. S. Grocery **\$3.18.9**
Texaco: **\$3.18.9**

BP
on New Town **\$3.18.9**

Queen City Classic comes to Monroe

Why Not An American Ark Equestrian Facility
to host National Competitions.



The Queen City Classic is a United States Equine Federation (USEF) "AA" rated Hunter/Jumper show. The "AA" rated shows are the top dog in the Hunter world. There are comparable shows that run in Madison Square Garden in New York City, in Washington, DC, Atlanta, Florida, and many more large venues in the United States. This is the only one in the Charlotte area. Competitors travel from many states in order to qualify for points for the National Championships. They also compete for prize money at the show. The total purse for this show is \$50,000.00. The purse is what draws the upper level riders that make the show successful.

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Story Continues on Page Two >>>

NEW!

See Page Two for
the "Follow Up
Column"

This Week:

Events Updated: Special
Red Cross Event; Rotary
3rd Annual 5K Race;
Golden Leaf Calendar
Plus SpringFest.

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

Humor: Ready for a Trip
Back to the Sixties?

Advice: Oh My, what will
Amber come up with this
week?

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

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
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

Waxhaw Resident involved in attempted Car Jacking on Will Plyler Road in Wesley Chapel.

Tonight at 7:00 PM, my wife was the victim of a failed carjacking attempt on Will Plyler Rd off of New Town Rd. This was in broad daylight, mind you. Let me give you some details so you can know what to look out for and how to warn others of this danger.

My wife, Sarah, and our two daughters were driving home after picking up some Chinese at Kami over next to Harris Teeter at the corner of 84 and Waxhaw-Indian Trail Rd. As she was driving down Will Plyler heading back toward Champion Forest, she noticed in her rear view mirror a white PT Cruiser coming up fast on her tail...



A white car similar to this was used in the attempt

The guy pulled over as if to pass her, but he never did. Instead, he pulled up beside her and stayed there. She slowed down to let him pass (this was a really curvy part of the road and if anyone had come around the blind corner he would have gotten crushed).

He slowed down too and stayed beside her. She looked over and saw that it was two asian guys, both waving frantically at her to stop. She slowed down some more and rolled down her window - they yelled, 'Stop - we have something for you. We need to talk to you.' Normally she would not have stopped, but...she had just been at the Chinese restaurant and these guys definitely looked Chinese and she thought that maybe she had left her credit card behind and these guys were trying to return it to her. Needless to say, she was a bit flustered. So she stopped. And they stopped, right next to her, on the wrong side of the road! Then another car came up behind her, this one was a maroon Chrysler minivan, and it pulled up very close to her bumper.

Suddenly, the two asian guys got out of the Cruiser and started walking toward her, and she knew something was very wrong. The guy who had been in the passenger seat looked toward Sarah's back seat and must have seen the kids - he hesitated, looked back at his buddy, and my oldest daughter screamed, 'Mom, go, go, go!!!' Sarah floored it. She looked in the rear view mirror and the maroon minivan floored it too, but they floored it in reverse - they did one of those high speed turn around's just like in the movies and sped off, with dust and smoke flying.

Story Continues on Page Two >>>

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.

As a follow up to the above story I am passing along another story I received yesterday. A normally good source, I have no reason to doubt it and besides I have heard of similar "initiations" elsewhere with gangs:

GANG IN UNION COUNTY UPDATE

This has been verified by the Union County Sheriffs Office

Just to let you know what is going around this morning. The cousin of a lady who works here, is a detective in SC and they had gotten information that one of the Mexican gangs is having initiation into their gang over the next couple of weeks. The initiation involves running someone off the road or involving them in a bump up and then when they get out of the car they are to shoot them. It is suppose to happen in Union, Lancaster or Chester counties. So, I guess we really have to watch every little detail. All of this is a little too close to home.

Out of the E.R.

growth can and will effect
healthcare and us all.

Part Three,
Settling Into the hospital rhythm.



As the day wears on I am visited by the nurses, the dietician (what would you like off the salt free menu, ugh?). And surprisingly the ER Doctor stopped by just to make sure I was OK... when his shift was up last night I was looking like maybe like I might even go home??? Oh should I have been only that sick, needless to say things got worse after he left for the day. I was glad he stopped by, he is the kind of doctor you can come to become comfortable with. The day slides into a rhythm, it is Saturday after all and there isn't too much action. I can't say I blame the Doctors for that... if surgery and such can wait until Monday, by all means, so be it.

Along the line a Cardiologist came by to see me. We spoke about what happened, he talked in a lot of technical terms and overall we got along well. Changes were made to the drug regime and he left. I imagine I will be seeing him again in the future and believe it will work out well. The rest of the day is met with family stopping by to make sure I'm really OK. The rest of the day is TV accompanied by my sleeping a lot. I'm in no hurry, tomorrow is another day and boy am I tired..... Hard to believe.

by: John Tiley

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From Page One

Queen City Classic comes to Monroe

The Queen City Classic management group is expecting 300 horses and competitors for this event. It will be held at Why Not an American Ark Equestrian Park (WNAAA) in Monroe. WNAAA had been open since 1998 and has hosted many different shows including nationally ranked United Stated Equestrian Association three day events, Dressage shows, C rated and local Hunter/Jumper shows, numerous schooling shows, and clinics with natural horsemanship and Olympic riders.

The benefits from a show of this caliber for the surrounding are immense. People fill the local hotels, eat at the local restaurants, buy fuel at the local stations, and shop at our local stores. The economic impact is extraordinary. The show starts with check in and a few classes on April 9th, with the bulk of the show following for the next four days. That means four days of stays, meals and local shopping for the businesses here. With out this show those people would not be in the area.

We have many local horse owners that will be involved in the show. Many competitors live in the area and will travel in for the show each and every day. There is a large contingent of Hunter Jumpers in the Waxhaw, Marvin, Weddington, and surrounding areas that travel to these shows. This will be a chance to show off their hometown to a great many out of state competitors and show them what makes the Charlotte area a great place to live. For more info call 704.226.5406



Story written by Jeff Wylie

Advertisers

From Page One

Waxhaw Resident involved in an attempted Car Jacking in Wesley Chapel.



A white car similar to this was used in the attempt

When she got her wits about her, Sarah called the police. There was a detective over at the Citgo and he went to check out Will Plyler, but there was no sign of anything. These guys were long gone.

But here is some additional info my 10 year old saw that one of the asian guys was wearing all black and had an earring. She also said the other guy was wearing a white jacket and a dark brown and tan hat (not a baseball cap, but some kind of a stylish hat for lack of a better phrase). He also had a skull on his shirt. Sarah said that both guys were in their 20s or 30s and they were short, but stocky and strong looking. She can't remember if they had accents. She didn't see the people in the maroon van.

Folks, please be warned, especially women and teenage girl drivers. These guys are slick, they're fast, they're strong, and they are skilled. This was a total ambush: multiple cars, remote road, trying to act like they are helping when they were not. They were good. However I am still trying to figure out why they didn't pull in front of Sarah so they'd have her boxed in from behind and in front.

All I can think of is that when they pulled up beside her and got out, they were basically scouting the situation, seeing if she was a good candidate. And apparently there was some question about that, because the guy really seemed spooked when he saw the kids in the back seat. If Sarah had been alone, things would have been very different. Thank God she wasn't alone.

Just because we live in sleepy little Wesley Chapel doesn't mean there aren't creeps out there waiting to pounce on innocent people.

One good thing is this: I don't know about you, but it's not every day that you see a couple of Asian guys driving around the Waxhaw area in a white PT Cruiser. So they shouldn't be hard to spot. If you see anyone fitting this description, call 911.

Again, please be careful. Lock your doors, stay on main roads as much as possible, and don't pull over for people no matter how insistent they are. My wife is the most trusting person I know and she almost paid a dear price for it.

From your Editor: The author of the above article is the husband, and because the perpetrators are still on the loose, the true names have been withheld to protect them from possible reprisals.

Stories in the works:

In upcoming issues you can look forward to the continuation of many of the story lines I have started here. They will include continued reporting on the development along Route 16 and other areas in the immediate region. An increasing presence in the Town Hall matters to bring you more information on issues as diverse as zoning for the incoming development to covering our Police and Fire Departments to stories such as Liquor by the Drink.

And of course, whenever I hear of breaking news I will follow up on that too, so please continue to let me know when you see or hear about something you think we should be reporting on.

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

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In Your Opinion

Locals having something to say, and want you to know...

What has been happening to our papers?

I am in my mid fifties, have lived in the area for almost twenty years and have been an avid reader of the newspaper since I was a child and my older brother had a paper route that I helped with. In the many places I have lived, although underlying tone of a paper reflected the management position, I could always count on a reasonably unbiased accounting of local and regional news and even a resident take on national and international news. No matter where I went, I could count on picking up the paper and finding the headline news on the front cover with follow up on the inside cover, followed by national news with tastefully done ads from major companies such as department stores, banks and the like. Sections always broke down into Local, Business, Sports, The Women's Section (or Life Style as it is now called), and at the end, entertainment, all pretty much in that order.

In recent times I have watched our paper shrink in size, slowly reduce reporting to an almost non-existent level and rely almost solely on "the wire" for anything national and international in scope. It has gotten to the point that there are only one or two writers I look forward to reading and they seem to be publishing less and less as time goes by.

And what in the world has happened to the organization? Since when is celebrity news worthy of inside front cover? The entire paper comes off as a disorganized hodgepodge. I personally cancelled my subscription a few weeks ago opting for online media such as The Times, and am grateful for a publication such as your Waxhaw Gazette for local news!

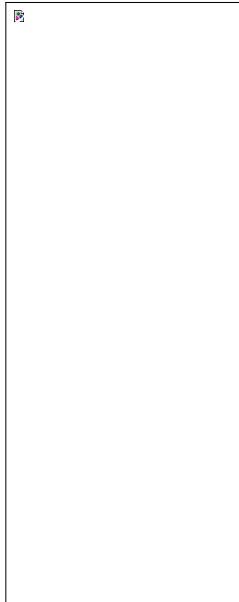
Is the day of the old-fashioned newspaper gone? I certainly hope they will see the light and find a way to restore their place in the information highway. Many of us still would prefer a real "paper" paper.

Mrs. Paula S.
Waxhaw, NC

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The Waxhaw Gazette welcomes your letters and opinions. Please include your name, address and a point of contact where we can reach you. We only alter your letters for grammatical and spelling issues and will, as long as they are written in good taste and are relevant, publish all letters sent.

*Thank You,
The Management*

Waxhaw's Events Calander



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.unioncountyredcross.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

**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
or 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 5th at 10 am Complimentary Seminar

The Benefits of Amending Clay Soil with PermaTill®
 Come and learn the best ways to garden and conserve water at the same time with proper attention to soil with our guest speaker Debbie Stringer, Horticulturist with Stalite PermaTill®. She will teach you how to decompact soils around roots without excavating the plant to promote healthy root development. Debbie will also teach you how to effectively prevent vole damage without the use of chemicals or poisons through the use of PermaTill®.

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
 704.289.6644 | www.goldenleafnursery.com

Calendar of Events Courtesy of:

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 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.

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.

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

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

Arts, Crafts & Home: Now In The Garden

Articles courtesy of: Marilyn Eudy, the Golden Leaf Nursery

On April 2nd, we will celebrate our one year anniversary. Over the past year we have been afforded the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people. Many of you have a common love of plants and gardening as we do. You have shared in the sweat equity with us of red clay soil and drought. The one thing that has stood out most of all in our past year has been the diversity of our customers. We can probably count on our fingers and toes the Union County "natives". With this said, we thought that informing fellow plant-lovers of the great local gardens would be a great way to share in all that our surroundings have to offer. We hope you will visit some of these places and enjoy them as much as we do.

Inspiration can be drawn from many places when planning a garden. Gardens such as the ones mentioned below are a great way to see how plants "work with one another" in the landscape. Take some time to visit some of these places. Take pictures, write down plant names, visit at different times of the year to see how the garden unveils itself with each new season. You'll be sure to discover plant material that you must have and those that will simply inspire your own creativity.

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden

Located just west of Charlotte on the North Carolina/South Carolina border in elmont, NC, the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden has been named one of the nation's top 20 flower gardens by HGTV. Perched on 380 acres along the banks of Lake Wylie, the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden offers 10 acres of themed gardens for every homeowner to solicit ideas from the cottage garden, the conifer garden, or the four seasons garden. In addition to gardens, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is a great place for photography or bird watching. Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is open 7 days a week from 9 to 5. For more information log onto their web site at www.dsbg.org or call 704-829-1252 to arrange a guided tour.

Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary

Built as a residence in 1927, not far from uptown Charlotte, Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary is located on 3 acres of land and serves as a habitat for songbirds and wildlife. Individuals associated with this garden describe it as "an escape for our busy, urban life". The brick-lined pathways give you numerous varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers that work well in our region. Emphasis is placed on planting for bird attraction with food, nesting sites, and providing cover. Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary is open Tuesdays from 3 to 5, Wednesdays from 10 to noon and Saturdays from 10 to 5. For more information log onto their web site at www.winghavengardens.com or call 704-331-0664 to arrange a guided tour.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Botanical Gardens

Founded in the mid 1960's, the Botanical Gardens at UNCC offers a wide variety of landscapes. From the woodland garden of the Van Landingham Glen with one of the most diverse rhododendron gardens in the Southeast, to the Susie Harwood Garden with hardy ornamental landscape plants on 3 acres of land, to the McMillan Greenhouse with a large orchid collection, a rainforest conservatory, desert succulents, and many plants from the world's tropical habitats, plant lovers will be sure to find something here. The UNCC Botanical Gardens are open 7 days a week during daylight hours. For more information log onto their web site at www.gardens.uncc.edu or call 704-687-2870 to arrange a guided tour.

Golden Seeds of Wisdom

Good Tools for the Garden

Pruners are as indispensable for the gardener as a sharp knife for the chef. But finding the perfect pair of snippers for pruning, trimming, and cutting back in the garden can be complex. Yes, we want comfort. But what about precision? We must have sharp blades. But what about safety? Felco is the professional's choice for garden pruners. The sharp bypass blades make cleaner cuts for more rapid healing of the wood. The shape of the no slip handles reduces hand fatigue, and the safety latch keeps the pruners closed when stored or in the pocket. Holsters for Felco pruners are also available to attach to the belt for even better storage when out in the garden. We recommend the Felco #2 as a basic pruner and the #9 for the left-handed gardener. Although more expensive than the other brands offered at the "big box" stores, the Felco will outlast the others and out cut them all.

Plant of the Month:



Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry
Prunus serrulata x subhirtella
'Snofozam'

Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry

With cascading white blooms each spring, the Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry is a sight to behold. April blooms give way to dark green leaves that turn gold and orange in the fall. With a mature height of only 12 to 15 feet, and a spread of 6 to 8 feet, this tree makes a beautiful specimen plant for any garden. This deciduous tree prefers full sun and well drained soil and is extremely disease and insect resistant. The Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry requires little maintenance, is a slow to moderate grower, making it a great choice for any gardener. Come and see ours in bloom now.

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Video Links

The Sixties



This is the best presentation of the sixties that I have ever seen online. It is very well done. Just click on the link and sit back and enjoy the memories.

Go here for [the Sixties](#)and enjoy!



Computer problems & customer service...

Employee --"Rich Hall Computer Assistance, may I help you?"

Customer--"Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect".

Employee --"What sort of trouble?"

Customer-- "Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away."

Employee -- "Went away?"

Customer --" They disappeared."

Employee --"Hmmm. So what does your screen look like now?"

Customer--"Nothing."

Employee --"Nothing?"

Customer--" It's a blank; it won't accept anything when I type."

Employee --"Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?"

Customer--" How do I tell?"

Employee --"Can you see the 'C' prompt on the screen?"

Customer--" What is a sea prompt?"

Employee--"Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?"

Customer --"There isn't any cursor; I told you, it won't accept anything I type."

Employee --"Does your monitor have a power indicator?"

Customer--" What's a monitor?"

Employee --"It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have little light that tells you when it's on?"

Customer--" I don't know."

Employee --"Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?"

Customer--" Yes, I think so."

Employee --"Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall."

Customer --" Yes, it is."

Employee --"When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?"

Customer-- "No"

Employee --"Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable."

Customer --" Okay, here it is."

Employee --"Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer."

Customer--" I can't reach."

Employee --"Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is?"

Customer--" No"

Employee --"Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over?"

Customer--" Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle. It's because it's dark."

Employee --"Dark?"

Customer --" Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window."

Employee --"Well, turn on the office light then."

Customer --" I can't."

Employee --"No? Why not?"

Customer --" Because there's a power failure."

Employee --"A power.....a power failure?... Aha, Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in?"

Customer--"Well, yes, I keep them in the closet."

Employee --"Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from."

Advertisers

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

Customer-- " Really? Is it that bad?"

Employee --"Yes, I'm afraid it is."

Customer--" "Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?"

Employee --"Tell them you're not smart enough to own a computer!"

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

Dear Amber,

I live in a multi-unit dwelling. Now that spring has arrived, my downstairs neighbor has begun her annual ritual of junking up my view with her lawn ornaments. Not all of us appreciate having a life size ceramic Bassett hound and plastic twirling flowers (to name just a few) in our shared garden. If it were just one or two, it would be tolerable, but it gets worse every year. Last year, there were over 20!

My neighbor is a crotchety old lady who could make your life miserable if she didn't like you. Up until now, I've kept quiet about the junk in our garden to keep the peace. But, it's my garden, too. What do you recommend?

Junkyard Woman

Dear Junkyard Woman,

Many of us suffer with the same type of neighbor. You would think that with the plethora of home décor shows and magazines out there that everyone would know better than to decorate their yard with Bassett hounds, gnomes and twirling flowers. Most of us resign ourselves to hoping the offending ornaments will get run over by a wayward lawn mower or blown away in a strong April breeze. However, since you live in a multi-unit dwelling you probably have a Homeowners' Association. These Associations are legendary for having rules on just about every subject – down to the color of the window coverings on windows that face the street! I would suggest that you check your Homeowners' Association rules to see if this type of décor is allowed – if the ornaments are not allowed then you should go through the proper channels to ensure that one person does not monopolize an area that is meant to be enjoyed by all the residents. If there is no mention of outside ornaments then you'll have to address this on your own or with some of the other residents of the multi-unit dwelling (there is safety in numbers). Maybe you can suggest that all of the residents should have a say in how the shared areas should be decorated, maybe organize a work party to decorate the shared space so that everyone has a say in how the area looks.

Amber

Send your relationship questions to: ambermaxwell@thewaxhawgazette.com

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