

The Waxhaw Gazette

Serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina



Fifty ~ Fifth Edition

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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

Have You Remembered Everybody on Your List?



by John Tiley

As Christmas approaches you will hear about the unfortunate among us, people that have lost their jobs or are just having a hard time making ends meet, especially during these trying economic times. Many of the organizations trying to help are familiar, Toys for Tots, The Salvation Army, The Angle Tree..... but perhaps you haven't heard of one right here in our backyard that receives relatively little, if any, attention. It is the Christmas Bureau, part of the Union County Department of Social Services. I spoke with Gloria Haney, the Volunteer Services Coordinator and she told me about their efforts this year. At the writing of this article there are over 2100 people on their list to receive help getting through the holidays, most of them "are new to the system, casualties of the economic downturn" we are in. They rely on help from the major charities as well as local business' and individuals to donate time, food, toys and clothes. For instance they target two "new toys" along with two "lightly used toys" for each child. How many of us have children that have toys that have been played with for a short time then forgotten? ...clothes that the kids have outgrown long before they are worn out?

As time grows short, take time to look around your home and see what forgotten treasures could bring joy to a child and warmth to a deserving family.

If you are able to help, you can reach the Union County Christmas Bureau at 704-635-7704. Groups or individuals may sponsor families, gift trees or fill stockings for children. Monetary donations may also be made in person or mailed to the Christmas Bureau at 1416 Skyway Drive, Monroe, NC 28110. All donations are tax deductible.



Contact Information
Union County
Department of Social Services
Gloria Haney, CAVNC
Volunteer Services Coordinator
Telephone: (704) 296-4312

Email: ghaney@co.union.nc.us



Around Town:

~ ~ ~ ~

Christmas is soon to arrive!



And, as the Season is upon us we are all busy with preparing our homes for the Holidays with lights, trees and decorations of all types. While we are preoccupied with this time of year it is very important to take a few minutes to review safety tips to insure we have a incident free time. The Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department offers tips to make sure your holiday is a safe one!

See the Living Well Page for more information >

~ ~ ~

from:

"Past & Present"

by John Thomas Wilson



Christmas Did Not Always Mean Tons of Toys for Children

~ ~ ~

THIS SUNDAY

The Town of Waxhaw presents....



2008 Holiday Parade, Snack with Santa ... and Tree Lighting.

The day begins with the Holiday Traditions Parade at 3pm. featuring this year's Grand Marshall Rufus from the Charlotte Bobcats accompanied by the Lady Cats and emceed by Ken Conrad of OLDIES 106.1 WOLS. Children of all ages will delight in the Oasis Shriners Steel Drum Band, recording artists Laura Pettler and Sharelle Quick, Miss North Carolina-Amanda Watson, Marvin Ridge and Parkwood High School Marching Bands, beautiful horses and holiday floats.

The Waxhaw-Weddington Sunrise Rotary Club will once again host the VIP lounge. Located at Rippingtons Restaurant, town leaders and designated VIPS will be invited to enjoy a warm drink.

Following the parade, the Waxhaw Business Association invites the children to bring their Christmas wishes to Santa at the Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department located on Southeast Main Street. Children will enjoy an assortment of holiday goodies, make a craft, and have their picture taken with Santa courtesy of photoEdge photography.

TFinally, top off the holiday festivities with the Mayor's (Daune Gardner) Tree Lighting in front of Rippingtons Restaurant and Café Fino. Led by National recording artist Laura Pettler, also enjoy carolers, the Carolina Dance Company, and warm drinks provided by local merchants.

Enjoy a little holiday time with your family in our quaint downtown while enjoying the sights and sounds of this wonderful season. The Town of Waxhaw wishes you and yours a joyous and safe holiday. For more information about the holiday festivities in Waxhaw, visit us on the town web site www.waxhaw.com or call Cathy Murphy at 704-843-2195 ext 26. Applications to be in the parade will be accepted until December 5th, 2008.

*This event is scheduled rain or shine.
However, in the event of unsafe conditions, the event
will be rescheduled.*

~ ~ ~

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Christmas Did Not Always Mean Tons of Toys for Children

*Written by John Thomas Wilson,
 from his collection "Past and Present".*



With the turn of the 20th Century, the celebration of Christmas in Union County took a more vibrant, albeit commercial hue. Santa visited in the homes that could afford him. Dolls were brought for the little girls. Some of them remain in existence, now 100 years old and family heirlooms. Trains dominated the dreams of little boys. Later, bikes and Daisy air rifles were to be popular, as they remain into the year 2000.

Parents drew further away from the Victorian concepts that children were just little adults and paid more attention to them as children.

With that in mind, some parents made homemade toys consisting of "Whirligigs" and "Demiwhittles" for the boys and rag dolls, shuck dolls and chairs for girls. These items were especially present for those families where resources were limited, but where love and devotion were not. For many in Union County, Christmas was a time when clothing was given to children through Santa Claus.

Shoes were of particular importance, because they were relatively expensive and were outgrown in a short time. For many boys, that wasn't a problem. Their toes would be coming out of them before they were outgrown.

Christmas cards came into being in the "outer world" in 1880, and caught on quickly. By 1900, they had become a staple of Christmas in Union County. Religious motifs dominated, but scenes of snow, colonial America and "merry old England" were popular. Never mind these rarely depicted scenes of Union County, but some place else. It is ironic that Currier and Ives prints are more popular in the year 2000 on calendars, walls and Christmas cards than they were during the existence of their firm from 1835 to c. 1903. Perhaps they endear and endure because they depict a fantasy of a time and a place that never was.

By the turn of the 20th Century, the Christmas tree was a regular. In the German minority in Union County, that Christmas tree had been a symbol of everlasting life for some time. That was also true in some fraternal organizations. For Union Countians, a Christmas trees meant one kind, cedar. It was indigenous to the area and grew everywhere. The best ones grew on poor marginal land, because they grew slowly there.

Mention is made, once again, of the large families of Union County and the difficulties of providing much in the way of a "commercial Christmas". For those families with as many as a dozen children at home at any time, there was a visit to grandpa's where there would be good food, and plenty of it.

That would mean hitching the two-horse wagon to transport the entire crowd. It would mean after getting there, sleeping three and four to a bed, or on pallets on the floor.

For many in Union County, up to 1920, Christmas morning would see children getting two oranges, nuts and candy. No toys.

The goodies were nursed over several days, particularly the oranges. They were rare and would be eaten over a period of a couple of days. The peel was saved, dried and consumed at a later time.

In last week's column, it was written that John Osborn, in December of 1800, had his fill of brandy during the Christmas season. That was and remains one of the traditions of the non-serious drinker.

Especially young males of Union County who have been prone to indulge in a "wee drop of dram". The serious drinker needs no such excuse.

Religious observance in Union County suggests another irony. While always teaching keep "Christ in Christmas", it has been only in the last 60 years that churches have had special worship services for the entire congregation.

These were children's programs and there would be drives for the needy, but Holy Communion was not a part of the season.

In the year 2000, practically all churches present a cantata, or a musical program of the season. There are Crimson trees in the churches, and a meaningful worship service.

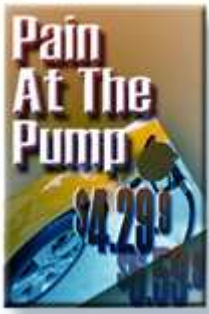
Maybe things aren't going to hell in a hand basket!

Popular Holiday Home Tour sets the mood for Holidays!

~ ~ ~

The Waxhaw Woman's Club' Holiday Tour of Historic Homes was held last weekend. This years' Tour included eight turn of the century historic homes and the recently renovated historic Belk building and was the largest Tour of Historic Homes since the Tours started over thirty years ago. Tour organizers were pleased with the number of homes on the Tour and the generosity of the homeowners who placed their homes for the Tour. All of the homes were beautifully decorated for the Holidays by the home owners. The Saturday evening candlelight Tour was a popular addition this year as visitors walked from home to home by candlelight. Tour organizers estimate that approximately 400 people toured the homes during the 2008 Tour of Historic Homes.

The Waxhaw Woman's Club was founded in 1911 and is a non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the community through service, fellowship, the preservation of historical heritage, and a confident look toward a bright future. The Waxhaw Woman's Club is located at the historic Belk Building in downtown Waxhaw, NC. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.



**Prices
for gas in the
Waxhaw area...**

	3/20/08	12/11/08
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	\$1.67.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	\$1.67.9
Little General:	\$3.24.9	\$176.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	\$1.69.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	\$1.82.9
Mineral Springs:		
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	\$1.69.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	\$1.67.9
BP on New Town	\$3.21.9	\$1.67.9



Editors Note: Usually I personally check the prices posted for the above companies. However, occasionally when time is short I call the stations on the phone to check for current prices. If no pricing is offered the above reflects the last visually confirmed pricing.

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Rep. Myrick Votes No on Automotive Industry Bailout.....

December 10, 2008

(Washington, DC) – US Representative Sue Myrick (NC-09) voted no today on the proposed financial bailout for the automotive industry. The bill, H.R. 7321, provides up to \$14 billion in loans to US automakers. It passed by a vote of 237-170.

“There is no guarantee this bailout will be the last for the auto industry,” said Rep. Myrick. “I opposed this bill because it would create a government ‘car czar’ to oversee the domestic auto industry without the authority to ensure the Big Three address their underlying structural problems. Unless the domestic car makers make substantial changes to fundamentally change the way they do business, the reality is they’ll need additional taxpayer assistance in the very near future.”

Rep. Myrick instead supports an alternative plan set forth by Republican House leaders. The plan requires that the automotive industry restructure - the way they do in business - by setting firm goals. Rather than using taxpayer money to provide loans to the auto company, the Republican alternative would use government-backed insurance to attract private investment. Additionally, unlike H.R. 7321, the Republican plan would set firm goals to address the legacy costs of union-negotiated wages, and health and retirement benefits that impede domestic automaker competitiveness.

To accomplish these restructuring goals, companies are urged to use a structured bankruptcy to bring all of the stakeholders to the table to determine the best way forward.

“This isn’t an easy situation, but compromises must be made. People have to work together, and this problem has to be solved without the government taking control of the industry,” said Rep. Myrick

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

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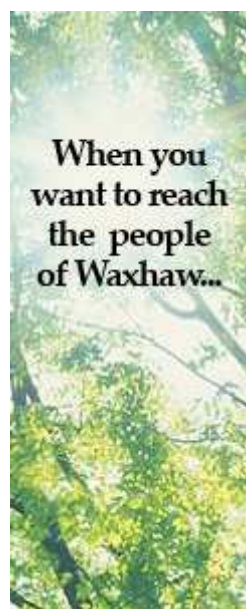
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Is Your Tree House Getting A Little Too Small?



Let the experts at
MultiCraft Ren-
ovations show you
how to branch out
with a home ren-
ovation or addition.



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Urges families to practice “Holiday Fire Safety Tips”

The Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department offers the following safety tips for the holiday season:

Lights

Christmas tree lights and other decorations set the theme for Christmas holidays. Here are some very important points to remember when using them:

- Use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the UL Label from Underwriters Laboratories.
- Check each set of lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections. Discard any equipment that you deem unsafe.
- Check labels of lights to be used outdoors to see that they are suitable for outdoor use. Never use indoor lights outside. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls, or other firm support to protect them from wind damage.
- Do not overload circuits. Use no more than three sets of lights per single extension. Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully and do not use more than the recommended number of lights in one circuit.
- Always turn off lights on trees and other decorations when you leave your home or go to bed. A short circuit in any of this equipment could cause a fire.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Damaged insulation in lighting on a metallic tree could cause the entire tree to be charged with electricity. To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a metal tree, never fastened to it.
- Keep children away from light sets and electrical decorations. All lights present the problem of shock and casualty hazard for curious kids.

Candles

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.
- Always use non-flammable holders.
- Keep away from other decorations and wrapping paper.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.



Trees

A holiday Christmas tree is a source of joy; but if you're not careful, it can also lead to a fire. Remember:

Decorations

Trimming your Christmas tree is a very important part of your holiday festivities. Keep the safety of your family in mind when selecting trimmings and decorating your tree.

- When choosing the finishing touches for the tree, purchase tinsel or artificial icicles of a non-leaded material. Leaded materials may be hazardous if eaten by children or pets.
- If youngsters are a part of your family, take special care to:
 - Avoid any decorations that tend to break easily, or have sharp edges.
 - Keep tree trimmings that are small, or have removable parts, out of reach of your child. These pieces may be swallowed.
 - Don't purchase ornaments that resemble candy or foods. A small child may try to eat them.

Wrappings

Opening Christmas presents is always a special time during the holidays. Take special precautions when disposing of the wrappings:

- Always dispose of wrappings immediately after opening.
- Place trash in a metal container. DON'T burn wrappings in the fireplace. They may ignite suddenly and cause a flash fire.

Winter Fire Safety Tips

Each season presents its own unique home fire safety concerns. In winter, you depend heavily on your heating appliances. Remember:

- Keep your **furnace** clean and check that the pilot light is working.
- If you use a **space heater**, keep it at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials.
- Make sure your wiring is sound.
- Have all alternative heating sources such as a wood stove examined by an expert to make sure they are functioning properly.
- Do not use the oven for heating.
- Clean and check fireplaces and chimneys regularly.

Plan Ahead

An emergency could strike your home at any time. Here are a few simple rules to follow to help your family through a crisis.

- Keep fire department, police, ambulance, doctor, and other emergency service numbers posted on or near your telephone.
- Keep a UL listed multi-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen when preparing holiday meals - and know how to use it.

Is Your Tree House Getting A Little Too Small?



Let the experts at MultiCraft Renovations show you how to branch out with a home renovation or addition.



- Buy a tree with needles that haven't dried out.
- Make a fresh cut at the bottom of the tree immediately before placing it in water
- Never let the water dry out or a seal will form on the cut preventing the water from reaching the needles.
- Place the tree away from any heat source such as a space heater or fireplace.
- Keep the tree away from exits.
- Discard the tree as soon as the holidays are over, and even sooner if it starts to dry out.

Please visit our web site at: <http://www.waxhawvfd.org> or call the Waxhaw Fire Department at 704-843-4001 if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about holiday/winter fire safety



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*"Always do right -
This will gratify
some people and
astonish the rest."
--Mark Twain*

And now, Our Weekly Dose of Humor 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!

Need a gift idea for your Wife or Girlfriend???

And you want to stay out of the doghouse? Then don't get her a vacuum cleaner as a gift. Other no-no's include: Don't tell her that her mom looks hot in a bathing suit. And never say that staying home with the kids is a lot easier than having to work for a living.

[Click Here for Video>](#)



Getting Older...

A little old lady was sitting on a park bench in The Villages, an adult community. A man walked over and sits down on the other end of the bench. After a few moments, the woman asks, 'Are you a stranger here?'

He replies, 'I lived here years ago.'

'So, where were you all these years?'

'In prison,' he says.

'Why did they put you in prison?'

He looked at her, and very quietly said, 'I killed my wife.'

'Oh !' said the woman. 'So you're single...?!'

Two elderly people living in Ft. Myers , he was a widower and she a widow, had known each other for a number of years. One evening there was a community supper in the big arena in the Clubhouse.

The two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he took a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered the courage to ask her, 'Will you marry me?'

After about six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered 'Yes. Yes, I will!'

The meal ended and, with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective places. Next morning, he was troubled. 'Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'?'

He couldn't remember. Try as he might, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her.

First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he inquired, 'When I asked if you would marry me, did you say ' Yes' or did you say 'No'?'

He was delighted to hear her say, 'Why, I said, 'Yes, yes I will' and I meant it with all my heart.' Then she continued, 'And I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me.'

A man was telling his neighbor in Miami , 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is it?'



'Twelve thirty.'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor in Estero to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

'Just doing what you said, Doc : 'Get a hot mamma' and 'be cheerful.',Morris replied.

To which the doctor said, 'I didn't say that, Morris. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur, be careful!'

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