

The Waxhaw Gazette

Serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

Fifty ~ Fourth Edition

Published, On-Line, Every Week on Friday

December 5 th , 2008

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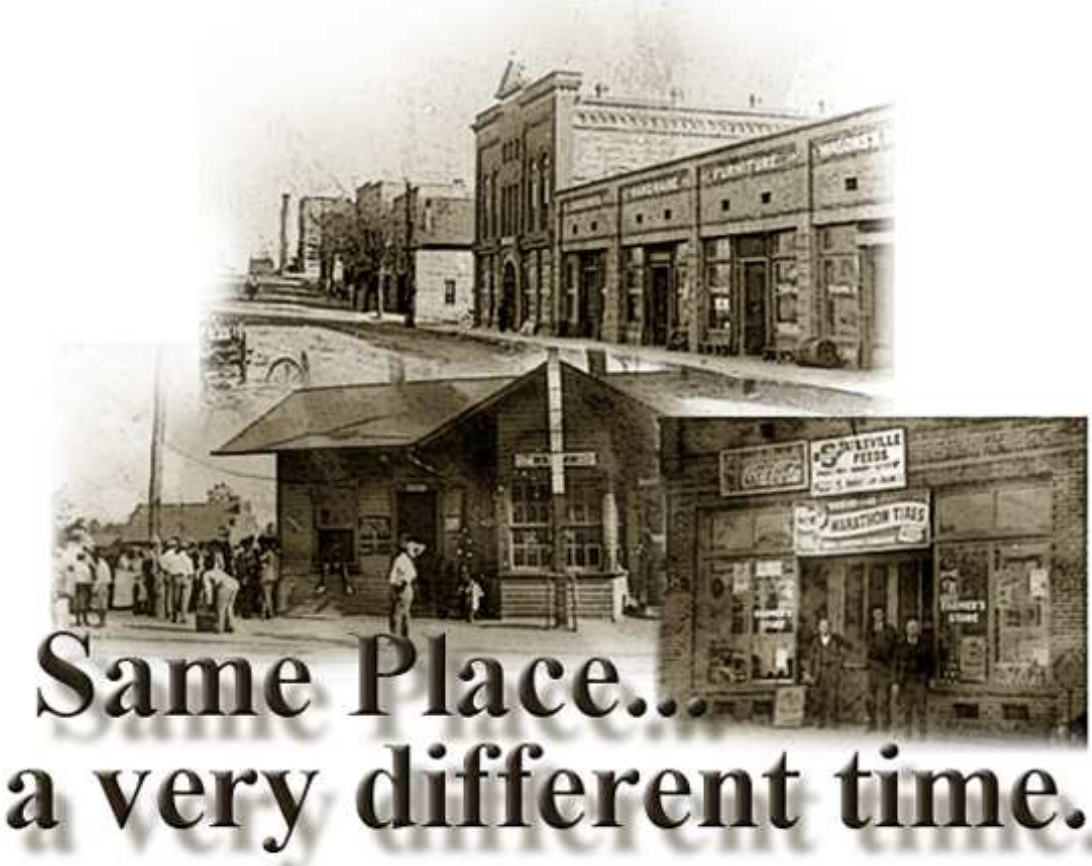
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Welcome to this weeks edition of The Waxhaw Gazette! If you own a business and have any news worthy happenings planned or know of someone new coming in, send me a press release and I will be happy to include it. Contact me directly with comments or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



by John Tiley

Not long ago I was in one of the Main Street restaurants and of course, right in the middle of a conversation, one of our infamous freight trains came rumbling through. As I patiently waited for it to pass I imagined what it must have been like in an earlier time. Looking out the very same oversized picture window but instead of cars, trucks and the horn of a diesel powered train, it was horses and wagons passing by and in the distance an approaching steam train blew its whistle announcing the arrival of passengers and mail from far away places. Merchandise and goods being brought to our fair, rural town from big cities, perhaps even from a different continent. Waxhaw has always held an appeal that centers on its age and history and in our everyday lives we pass by the old buildings and in some small way appreciate the ambiance they elicit. Perhaps it is the sense of permanence in a world that seems to be moving by too fast but the feeling of longevity does make us feel better. It is in the stores and restaurants where the old floors whose creaking is welcomed like an old friend and antique mirrors and pictures look as if they were first hung on the walls when the buildings were new.

Unfortunately most of us do not have the time to relax and absorb the ambiance in our race around lives, but this coming weekend you have the opportunity to do just that and see some of the old homes we can otherwise only drive past. This coming weekend you will have the option of taking the Holiday Tour of Homes, sponsored by the Waxhaw Women's Club. On the tour you will be able to walk through eight of the featured homes where generation after generation lived, as well as the newly renovated Belk Building. You will have the chance to walk through the homes and see where some of the original Waxhaw Residents lived and prospered, the halls and rooms that if walls could only talk, there are many a story to tell.

So take time this weekend to see how our early Waxhaw residents lived all within walking distance of each other and the business that supported the town in those early days. It is a trip back in time you will not soon forget.

Waxhaw Woman's Club

PRESENTS

THE 2008 HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

Saturday, December 6 10:00 am- 8:00 pm
Sunday, December 7 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Tickets: \$15.00 Adults
\$7.50 Children Ages 2 - 12

THIS YEAR'S TOUR IS A WALKING TOUR THROUGH WAXHAW'S HISTORIC DISTRICT, FEATURING EIGHT WONDERFUL HOMES & OUR NEWLY RENOVATED WAXHAW WOMAN'S CLUB BUILDING, ALSO KNOWN AS THE HISTORIC BELK BUILDING OF WAXHAW.

Waxhaw
43°F
AccuWeather.com
Weather Forecast

Around Town:



The Holidays are upon us now. Read all about the planned festivities [on page two](#)>.

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](#) >

The Waxhaw Board of Commissioners will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 6:30pm at the Museum of the Waxhaws.

Click here to view the agenda at the www.waxhaw.com website. If you have trouble finding or viewing the agenda, call Town Hall at 704-843-2195. I will be available at the following times

and places over the weekend with the agenda packet for those who would like to look over that information or would just like to chat:~
Friday, December 5, 7-9 @ Main Street Grill (201 W South Main St)
~ Saturday, December 6, 8:30-10am @ Crossroads Coffeehouse
~ Sunday, December 7, 2-3:30pm @ Café Fino~ Monday, September 8, 5-7pm @ Marino's
Please stop by and visit with me if you can! And don't forget to come out for the Waxhaw Woman's Club Holiday Tour of Homes this weekend, a walking tour of several historic homes in downtown Waxhaw. [Click here for more information.](#)

Daune Gardner

Mayor of Waxhaw



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International Picture of the Year

Here are two very touching photos honored this year

Cindy French

First Place



Todd Heisler The Rocky Mountain News

When 2nd Lt James Cathey's body arrived at the Reno Airport, Marines climbed into the cargo hold of the plane and draped the flag over his casket as passengers watched the family gather on the tarmac.

During the arrival of another Marine's casket last year at Denver International Airport, Major Steve Beck described the scene as so powerful: 'See the people in the windows? They sat right there in the plane, watching those Marines. You gotta wonder what's going through their minds, knowing that they're on the plane that brought him home,' he said 'They will remember being on that plane for the rest of their lives. They're going to remember bringing that Marine home. And they should.'

Second Place



Todd Heisler The Rocky Mountain News

The night before the burial of her husband's body, Katherine Cathey refused to leave the casket, asking to sleep next to his body for the last time.

The Marines made a bed for her, tucking in the sheets below the flag. Before she fell asleep, she opened her laptop computer and played songs that reminded her of 'Cat,' and one of the Marines asked if she wanted them to continue standing watch as she slept. 'I think it would be kind of nice if you kept doing it,' she said. 'I think that's what he would have wanted.'



Corrections: Post liquor-by-the-drink referendum!

Currently, the Board has not provided any direction on when it will debate the issue or make a decision on the ballot.

The Town of Waxhaw presents....



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

Celebrate the arrival of the most magical time of the year in historic downtown Waxhaw, Sunday, December 14th, 2008. This day is proudly sponsored by The County Edge, The Waxhaw Business Association, Oldies 106.1, The Waxhaw-Weddington Sunrise Rotary Club, Summerfield Auto Service and The Medical Group of Waxhaw.

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.

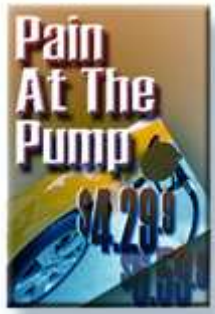
Following the parade, the Waxhaw Business Association invites the children to bring their Christmas wishes to Santa at the Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department located on Southeast Main Street. Children will enjoy an assortment of holiday goodies, make a craft, and have their picture taken with Santa courtesy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

Finally, 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.

	3/20/08	12/05/08
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	\$1.75.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	\$1.75.9



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

Little General:	\$3.24.9	\$1.81.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	\$1.75.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	\$1.82.9
Mineral Springs:		
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	\$1.75.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	\$1.75.9
BP on New Town	\$3.21.9	\$1.75.9

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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Waxhaw's Events Calendar

The Town of Waxhaw presents...



The Town of Waxhaw is now accepting applications for the annual Christmas parade in historic downtown Waxhaw, N.C. The parade will take place on December 14th (Sunday) at 3pm. The deadline for applicants is December 5th. Holiday festivities (snack/photo with Santa, crafts, Christmas carols and the Mayor's tree lighting) will follow the parade. Applications for entrants are available at www.waxhaw.com or through Cathy Murphy at 704-843-2195 ext 26 or events@waxhaw.com. You are encouraged to represent your neighborhood, business or group in this old fashioned and traditional Christmas parade.

Waxhaw Woman's Club presents the 2008 Holiday Tour of Historic Homes

The Waxhaw Woman's Club presents the Holiday Tour of Historic Homes on Saturday, December 6th from 10 am to 8 pm and on Sunday, the 7th from 1- 5 pm. The Holiday Home walking tour features eight homes in Waxhaw's Historic District. Ticket prices are \$15 per adult and \$7.50 for each child ages 2 - 12. Presale tickets to groups of 4 or more are \$12.00 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at select Waxhaw merchants and at the Waxhaw Woman's Club located at 200 East South Main Street on the day of the Home Tour. For more information contact Paula Kovack at (704) 243-4049.

Contact: Paula Kovack
 Email: KovackP@carolina.rr.com | Ph: (704) 243-4049

**Is Your
Tree House
Getting A
Little Too
Small?**



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Did You Know.....

by Daune Gardner

"Democracy works best when the citizens are actively engaged in their government." I was listening to a discussion on the radio the other day when I heard this and it caused me to reflect on Waxhaw and the many challenges that we are facing today.

Waxhaw has a history of a strongly engaged citizenry. Did you know that the Waxhaw Woman's Club was formed initially to address the issue of bootleg liquor being sold to minors on the streets of town? That's right. And when that issue was effectively resolved, that group of ladies decided to turn their attention to other issues facing the town, working to bring a better quality of life to everyone in our community. In addition to encouraging young women to excel through scholarships, the Woman's Club strives to enhance Waxhaw's cultural landscape through events such as the Holiday Tour of Homes happening this weekend showcasing a number of historic homes in our lovely downtown.

Did you know that the Waxhaw library was a town library first, before the County system was even in place? Community leaders recognized that our citizens needed access to library services within our community where anyone who chose to could improve their minds and lives. We built that library and I hope that we'll have the fortitude to provide expanded library services if the county is unable to do so.

Did you know that the reason Waxhaw has, even today, a reputation for being an antique shopping destination is because the downtown merchants, many of whom were also downtown residents, were concerned about the blight in the downtown area and decided to work together to do something about it? They formed the Waxhaw Antique Village Association, dressed up their storefronts, pooled their money and began an aggressive marketing campaign that eventually brought the name of Waxhaw to the entire eastern seaboard. According to past members, visitors during that period of time came from all over the US, some from Europe and even one from New Zealand.

In our town, we've built our own schools, hotels, and transportation infrastructure (we used to have a bus station downtown). We've formed partnerships and associations to help us work together for the betterment of ourselves and our community.

It is time for us to again take up the work of building our future. We already have got a number of developments approved and in the works that will bring our population to somewhere north of 23,000 and over a million square feet of commercial space yet to go on the ground. What we need to do now is to fill in the gaps. Everyone loves Waxhaw for the quaint small town that we have historically been. That nucleus served us well at a population of around 3,000 but as we increase that by an order of magnitude, we've got a lot of work to do to maintain that small-town atmosphere and the accompanying quality of life that we all value so much.

I was greatly encouraged to welcome a standing-room only crowd to view the draft of our Comprehensive Plan a few weeks ago and I hope that those who were not able to be there will take the time to review the plan which is available at Town Hall as well as on the Town's website (www.waxhaw.com) and share with myself and the Town Commissioners your thoughts, questions and concerns. The Plan will be reviewed by the Planning Board before coming to the Commissioners for adoption. But this is merely the beginning of the planning process. The Comprehensive Plan is a vision in broad strokes. Next, we need to roll up our sleeves and begin or continue work of a number of efforts to begin to bring that vision into focus and make it a reality. Additional plans that will need to be developed are those that address historic preservation, economic development, parks and recreation, arts and culture and a capital infrastructure plan for projects that could include a new Town Hall and more serviceable space for the Public Services and Police departments. All of these efforts are going to require volunteers and community input.

This is where Waxhaw's history of citizen engagement makes this an exciting time in our community. There is a lot of work to do and it can seem overwhelming at times but we are a community that pulls together once we put our minds to it and get focused on the road ahead. Whether you are a life-long resident or have just relocated from other parts of the country, I hope that you will each reflect on what you can contribute to these efforts and then find a way to get involved. We're all in this together. What will you do to help build a better Waxhaw?

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

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When you
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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 Renova-
tions show you
how to branch out
with a home re-
novation 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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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 Validation??

A little hoaky in places... but what a sweet story Shows the power of positive reinforcement [Click Here for Video>](#)



"Teachers laugh for the day"

My five-year old students are learning to read.

Yesterday one of them pointed at a picture in a zoo book and said, 'Look at this! It's a frickin' elephant!'

I took a deep breath, then asked...'What did you call it?'

'It's a frickin' elephant! It says so on the picture!'

And so it does...



'African Elephant'

Hooked on phonics! Ain't it wonderful?

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You ...have a Great Day!

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