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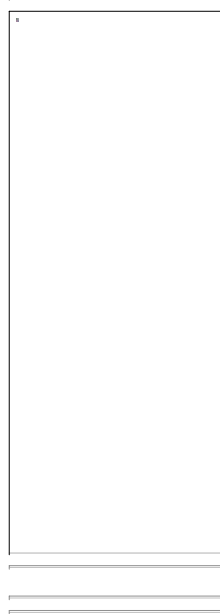
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## Infrastructure! Water, Sewer... Power?



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**W**elcome 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)

### Atlantis:



The shuttle and its seven astronauts landed at 9:07 a.m. Wednesday at NASA's spaceport, where their families and top space program managers eagerly awaited their arrival.

STS-122 is the 121st shuttle mission and the 24th mission to visit the space station. The next mission, STS-123, is slated to launch in March.

For updated info go to: [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/shuttle/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html)

by: John Tiley

The sewers are over capacity and the state steps in with moratorium on permits. Water is in short supply. The drought brings restrictions on use, lawns are dying everywhere and a clean car is a rare sight. Commissioners accused of wrongdoing with development permitting. Legal actions are taken. .... The headlines have been full of these topics since last summer. All of these woes are a result of unbridled development in Union County. Simply put, the infrastructure can't keep up with the rate of building. Both residential and commercial and who is to blame? I don't know that anyone is to blame but people certainly have been taking advantage of the desirable growth in our area. New residents and business are coming from everywhere. Charlotte and surrounding areas, even out of state; Union County has become the place to move to. That is the simple truth.



Construction underway on the landscaping berm and plantings being installed in front of the power station.

The problem is how do we, the pre-existing inhabitants of the area, deal with the growth? We try and do our best but the growth quickly outpaces us and of course, there are the ones who try and take unfair advantage of this growth. But they are not who I am addressing in this article. I am responding to a complaint that came out of the blue. From a new resident who recently moved into one of the new developments in the Wesley Chapel area comes a complaint about a power sub station being installed right in the middle of a field, sticking out like a sore thumb.

This was the first I had heard about it so I took a ride out Newtown Road and sure enough, right across from the old Farm & Tractor Garage sat a brand new shiny sub station complete with plenty of construction underway and high tension wires. At the time I was working on other topics for the Gazette and realizing this was going to take some research, I put this one in the "future story file".



Then, in the meantime, I took notice that just about everywhere I went, if you looked, there were substations in every community, just well established and well disguised behind landscaping, other buildings and such.

The new power sub station in question belongs to Union Power and was needed to supply the needs of the approximately 7,000 to 10,000 residents and business that are moving in between Route 16 and Potter Road. Issues with this location began with what was considered a better proposed location originally specified on a larger plot of land that would have been more centrally located. A location that held the potential of being better hidden from sight than the location now occupied.

### History 101:

Some 50 or 75 years ago, when companies including Duke Power were staking out territories for their business, Duke in particular claimed towns and cities as areas they would service. The rest of the areas, mostly rural were serviced by what became Union Power Cooperative, a member owned energy provider. Now many of these territories have become developed such as the Wesley Chapel area but the service provider remains Union Power. Now you know why, depending on where you live, you might get your power from Union Power or Duke.

*Continued on page two*

### In local happenings:

I understand that on Tuesday we had yet another bomb scare at Parkwood High School. That is two in two weeks! I am of the understanding that this is yet another hoax perpetrated by an unhappy student who more than likely didn't study for a test scheduled for that day? Anybody from Parkwood care to comment?

**Let's "Keep Waxhaw Alive" folks  
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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.

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*(continued from page one)*

This was within Wesley Chapel and was voted down by the town, necessitating moving it to the current site location. Also, in this instance, had development not gotten so far ahead of infrastructure, perhaps the power station might have been in place before development was as far along. Developers do understand the necessity of these types of facilities and had timing been better, it would have been a "done deal" long before one new resident moved in. As a result, residents, new and old are being confronted with issues they never dreamed of; new schools, inadequate roads and not enough power to go around if these sub stations are not in place.



In researching this story I had the opportunity to not only contact Union Power for information, but meet directly with representatives and talk about the issues. I was impressed with their willingness to address the issue and their interest in maintaining good customer relations. They assures me that they would not rest until camouflage landscaping was in place and only asked that everyone be patient while the landscaping has a chance to take hold what with the drought we are experiencing.

As a result I took a ride past the site yesterday for the first time since I first heard about the station and sure enough the berms are in place, crews were out there working on installing trees and bushes and I am sure with a little help from the weather, the site will soon be well on the way to looking very finished indeed. And we can all look forward to enjoying all of those electronics that have become such a part of our lives.

Now, if we could only be so successful with getting the roads and sewers taken care of.

Statistical and site information courtesy of Union Power Cooperative.



## 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.

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# Waxhaw's Very Own Events Calander

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## **From the Mayors' Desk:**

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Dear Friends,

I will be at Cafe Fino (downtown Waxhaw, next to Rippingtons) Friday afternoon, 4-6, and at Crossroads Coffee House on Saturday morning, 8-10, if you would like to stop by and look over the agenda packet.

Also, anyone interested in serving on the steering committee for our Comprehensive Plan, please contact myself or Town Hall (704-843-2195) right away as the Board may well appoint members to that committee at Tuesday's meeting.

Best,  
 Daune Gardner  
 Mayor of Waxhaw  
 PO Box 6  
 Waxhaw, NC 28173  
 704-843-2195  
 mayor@waxhaw.com  
 Website: [www.waxhaw.com](http://www.waxhaw.com)

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

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**Dear Amber,**

I have a situation that involves my husband's sister Lucy and her family. Every time there is a family celebration that calls for gifts Lucy, my sister-in-law, gives really cheap gifts. If gifts are supposed to be an expression of your feelings about the recipient - then it's very clear that Lucy doesn't think well about anyone except herself. For example, when our daughter Jennifer got married last year she had a big formal church wedding with over fourteen people in the bridal party. It was a very beautiful and special day and we spend a small fortune on making sure that everything was perfect for her special day. Lucy and her husband Charles arrived to the wedding late and their gift was a set of drinking glasses. I saw the same set in a discount department store for \$14! The set doesn't match anything in Jennifer's home so she has never opened the box. My feelings were hurt that this was the gift she thought was appropriate for our daughter. Lucy and Charles have lots of money - they both drive luxury foreign cars and their last vacation was to Fiji. My question is this - Lucy's daughter is getting married next month and it will be a big expensive country club wedding. I'm tempted to give her the set of drinking glasses back just to show her what it feels like. My husband thinks I'm making a mountain out of a molehill and that I'll be starting a family war that may make future family functions unpleasant.

**Short Gifted**

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**Dear Short,**

This sounds like a family feud! But it's a one-sided one that was started by your sister-in-law Lucy. You're right about gifts being an expression of your feelings for the recipient. In this case Lucy has let you know loud and clear what she thinks of you and your family. Rather than perpetuate this ugliness you should try to rise above it and give her daughter a gift on the level that you think your daughter should have received from Lucy and her family.

After the wedding when things have calmed down you may want to discuss your feelings with Lucy and get to the bottom of this. It may get you nowhere but you'll feel better for having let her know how you feel and giving her the opportunity to see how others view her stingy tendency.

**Amber**

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

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**Video Links**

This is the best Video/Story I have come across in quite a while.

**Disabled Vegas Teen Is The Wheel Deal**

*Aaron Fotheringham Turned His Wheelchair Into A Super Skateboard And, Voila, A New Sport Was Born ....*

It used to be that only skateboarders and snowboarders knew the feeling of doing a complete backflip, but 14-year-old wheelchair athlete Aaron Fotheringham -- nickname "Wheels" -- has broken that barrier and created his own sport with its own extreme tricks. (ABC News)

**For the story go to ESPN/ABC**

**For the Action Video, go here. Enjoy!**

*(turn up your volume.)*

**A woman was flying...**

...from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sacramento. The flight attendant said there would be a short delay and if the passengers would like to get off the plane they could re-board in 50 minutes. Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. A man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her Seeing Eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her. He could also tell she had flown this flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, "Kathy, we are in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe Buddy would."

**Picture this :**

All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw their pilot walk off the plane with a Seeing Eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!



True story... Have a great day and remember...

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR.  
 A DAY WITHOUT LAUGHTER IS A DAY WASTED!!!

**Advertisers****Old Eddie**

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts....and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, "Thank you. Thank you."

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave.

He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place. Invariably, one of the gulls lands on his sea-bleached, weather-beaten hat - an old military hat he's been wearing for years.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like "a funny old duck," as my dad used to say. Or, "a guy that's a sandwich shy of a picnic," as my kids might say. To onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant ....maybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero back in World War II. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were.

They needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft.

Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal - a very slight meal for eight men - of it. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait.....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued. (after 24 days at sea...)

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first lifesaving seagull. And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

*(Max Lucado, In The Eye of the Storm, pp.221, 225-226)*

*PS: Eddie was also an Ace in WW I and started Eastern Airlines .*

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