

The Waxhaw Gazette

A CSgN Publication serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

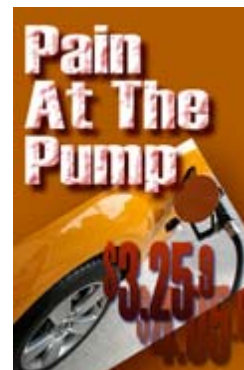
Edition Eighteen

Friday, March 28st, 2008

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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**



Key Updates This Week:

Opinions; What Happened to Traditional Papers

Events Updated; Ready for a Cruise In? Plus SpringFest.

Arts & Crafts; Welcome Golden Leaf to our Contributing Writers

Humor; an especially "American" Video

Advice; Garden Knoms Invade?

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

Real Estate in Our Area

Business Almost As Usual?

I have, like most, been closely following what is happening in the real estate business lately. Worried about the state of economy by listening to the media hype perhaps too much, I decided to talk to a number of people I know in the business and have found that, although things are just a bit different, business seems doing relatively well. On the commercial side I have been told that new projects already in progress or with start dates within a month or two are moving right ahead. There is some trepidation on projects with start dates a bit further out. Leasing has moved forward strongly and of course the healthcare industry hasn't even seen a hiccup in their plans.

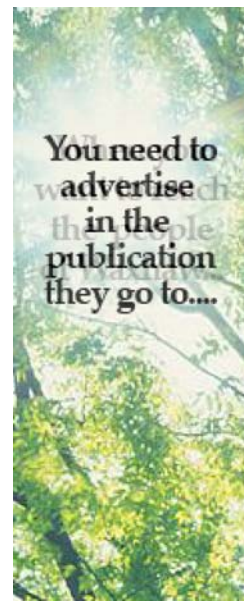
In the new home sector, starter homes have suffered mostly due to the tighter restrictions on mortgages and at the very high end there are many bargains to be had as builders are being forced to unload homes already completed or under construction. This seems to be holding true for the existing market as well and we will see how things hold up as spring evolves, schools are closer to letting out for the summer and the traditional moving season gets underway.

Of course for investors there are bargains galore. The foreclosures alone bring all types of product to the table now. The bottom line here is if you have money and/or credit you are in control of how much or better said... "little" a property will sell for.

We are, of course, in a better position than many areas of our country, but don't let that get you to thinking things are on the mend. I believe that the commercial market will continue to move forward based on companies and healthcare especially having money to invest. However, on the consumer front, things are going to continue to be difficult to say the least. A big part of this hinges on how many homes actually default as we move into summer and statistically a huge number of the mortgages written will re-set there interest rates and payments will skyrocket. If you have money, my advice is to sit on it until the end of summer while watching the foreclosures because there are going to be major bargains out there if you are the one who can walk in, money in hand and get the deal done.

New building? Well there always is the statement "location, location, location"..... If you have land on Lake Norman there will always be demand. Other than that, with money harder and harder to get from the banks, water and sewer issues continuing, I don't hold much hope for new construction in the Waxhaw area anytime in the near future, regardless of price point. With the exceptions of property that can support its own well and septic systems, I don't think we will be seeing many new construction signs going up for some time to come.

by: *John Tiley*



Out of the E.R.

Part Two,
Morning, March 8th,
in a hospital room.

I have been sleeping, off and on through the night and have moved back and forth from the bed to the chair (which is a wonderfully comfortable recliner of unknown origin). Movement is confined to the amount of "leash" afforded by the oxygen and other wiring I am tied to. The television is a noise and light diversion but if you were to ask I couldn't offer a guess as to what was on. I continue to be poked, prodded and bled through the night with added shots and pills added to the regime.



As the darkness of night gives way to morning light I take a tentative look out the window, wanting to be reassured that the world as I know it is still there and sure enough, trees, birds and a parking lot. I may not be home, but I have made it through the night and remained in this, the world of the living.

by: *John Tiley*

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

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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Waxhaw Fire Chief Glyn Hasty during this past weekend's Fill The Boot for American Red Cross Heroes.

Chief Hasty and the VFD will turn in over \$1,400 to the heroes campaign this week!



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Hal Riney

Ad legend passes away this week.

Just Recently I was saddened to hear that someone I admire had passed away. I didn't know the man personally but he certainly influenced all of us in the creative side over the years. You may have seen me mention my prior life as an "Advertising Guy". Well, having spent over thirty years in that profession, I saw Mr. Riney as a bit of a hero, certainly someone to aspire to.

He was blazing the path well before I came along and continued to do exceptional creative work well into his later years. He was what we in the business referred to as a visionary. His career spanned fifty years and he was responsible for many memorable campaigns, even influencing presidential campaigns.

Few people outside of the business would know Hal, but I am sure you would recognize his advertising work; The Bartles & Jaymes "guys on the porch" campaign; Saturn's "Spring Hill" and of course Ronald Regans' Morning in America.

Ad Legend Hal Riney, passed away at 75, will not be forgotten. His trademark scratchy voiceovers will live on in the memories of all of us in the business.

by: John Tiley

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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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

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Arts & Crafts: Now In The Garden

Articles courtesy of: Marilyn Eudy, the Golden Leaf Nursery

March is the month to begin preparation for the growing season in the garden. Spring comes suddenly, sometimes, in the Piedmont. With that, one must be cautious. Warm and bright days invite us to make our trips to the nursery to make our spring selections, and they coax us to put our hands in the soil to plant. Our area's average last frost is April 15, so we have seen many annuals turned to "mush" with a late freeze. (Remember Easter 2007!) So use the warm and beautiful days of March to prepare for the flowers that you intend to plant in April.



1. Clean out the beds. Finish removing dead annuals and the dieback of perennials and dispose of properly. Many of these can be additions to the compost bin, but the remains of diseased plants should go in the trash. Rake out dead leaves and pull weeds.
2. Make notes of areas to plant. Taking measurements of flowerbeds, taking photos of potential planting spaces, and making rough drawings to scale will help the service staff at the nursery better assist you in your purchases. Imagine bringing home the right number of petunias the first time!
3. Prepare your containers. Clear out the debris from the pots and planters on the porch, patio, and deck. Check the condition of each container and dispose of the broken, cracked, or damaged ones. Scrub each with a mixture of 1 part bleach and 9 parts water to eliminate any residue of pests or diseases. Rinse thoroughly with clear water.
4. Organize the list. List plants that you enjoyed from last year and flowers you have seen other places that were impressive. Think about colors you love and those that work well together and are pleasing to your eye. Remember to list the herbs you have always wanted to try, and leave space on the list to add new plants that you find irresistible when you get to the nursery. Count the number of hanging baskets you want for the porch.
5. Don't forget the supplies. A second list should be made for the other garden necessities like potting soil, gloves to replace the worn pair, a trowel or hand cultivator to make weeding and planting easier, fertilizer, new planters for the pool deck, a hat for UV protection, sunscreen, an excellent pair of pruners, water hose repair kit, etc. It is always frustrating to begin a planting project and remember an essential left behind.
6. Do that bed preparation you have always wanted. This should be the year you finally amend the soil in your flowerbeds so you get the results you deserve. Spending the time now and making the investment in soil amendments is the best thing you can do for the flowers you intend to plant. Amending clay soil with compost and Permatill® will result in soil that will be easy to dig and a perfect medium for the roots of your new plants. This process also improves drainage and moisture retention.
7. Visit the nursery. Come on out and start talking with us about your yard. We are as excited about spring as you are, and we are always ready to talk about plants....even if it is too early to plant.

Plant of the Month:



Forsythia x intermedia

Forsythia, often called Golden Bell, is one of the Forsythia most recognized plants in the south. With a growth habit of 8 - 10 feet in height, and 10 - 12 feet in width, this deciduous shrub can be shaped into a hedge, but is most beautiful when it is allowed to grow naturally into a weeping, and somewhat unkempt, shape. Tolerant of full sun and most soils, this plant blooms on old wood and flowers will typically appear in March prior to any leaf emergence. Forsythia needs plenty of room to spread and is best used as a specimen or a border grouping. So come down to the Nursery and pick up a little bit of southern charm for your landscape.



2608 Doster Road
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www.goldenleafnursery.com

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Golden Seeds of Wisdom

Warmer days and brisk evenings have put the whisper of spring in the air. With recent rain, landscapes are beginning to perk up and reach for the warmth of the sun and drink up all that the promise of spring has to offer. Annual and perennial plugs have arrived at the Nursery and are being carefully nurtured in the warmth of our greenhouse for your spring planting needs. Shrubs and trees are beginning to wake up and remind us that spring is in the air. Come out and visit and enjoy all that nature is sharing right now. Our spring hours begin Monday, March 17th.

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

11) "We can't move off because some idiot has their hand stuck in the door."

12) "To the gentleman wearing the long grey coat trying to get on the second carriage - what part of 'stand clear of the doors' don't you understand?"

13) "Please move all baggage away from the doors."
(Pause..) "Please move ALL belongings away from the doors." (Pause...) "This is a personal message to the man in the brown suit wearing glasses at the rear of the train: Put the pie down, and move your golf clubs away from the door before I come down there and shove them up your sideways!"

14) "May I remind all passengers that there is strictly no smoking allowed on any part of the Underground. However, if you are smoking a joint, it's only fair that you pass it round the rest of the carriage."

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