

The Westporter

Westport Community Association
Volume 41 Issue 3 – March, 2010
E-mail: thewestporter@bellsouth.net



2010 WCA Board Members & Committees

President:	Andy Strand 704-483-8171	The Westporter Newsletter:	Carole Rowell 704-489-8657
Vice President:	Anne Michael 704-489-8154	Westport Directory	Cindy Roberge
Secretary:	Beverly Robinson	Advertising/Greeter Program:	Dolly Ocker & Maxine Ray
Treasurer:	Anke Van Eijk	Area Representatives:	Alice Caylor, Liz Finley, Faye Fogle
Community Watch	Lisa Gavel 704-483-9493		Heidi Hoyle, Bonnie Myers, Sue Nikodem, Margaret Reep, Crystal Regan, Tammy Stoneburg, Carol Worboys

MESSAGE FROM THE WCA BOARD PRESIDENT

Since this copy of The Westporter only goes to members, I want to begin by thanking you for your support! The Westport Community Association can only be effective by using the combined talents of its members. If membership is down, our potential effectiveness suffers accordingly. We are starting to attract the kind of numerical support that will allow us to best serve the needs of the Westport community. So, thank you again, for joining and maybe you could mention the WCA to one of your friends and/or neighbors who have not yet made the same commitment.

February was kind of a busy month. A couple of snow storms caused some hardships for residents and resulted in a number of phone calls from your Association representatives to the DOT office in Lincolnton. Mr. Garrison, Chief of Operations, listened to our concerns and told us of his mandated priorities. Basically, he has 18 people in charge of 830 miles of road. He must provide "bare pavement" coverage on Highways 16, 73, 321, 150 and I-40. Secondary roads receive attention only after these roads are plowed. He did say that equipment and supplies would be sent to the East Lincoln Fire Department site in order to be made available as soon as possible to Westport and other communities in East Lincoln County.

The first storm brought a wet, heavy type of snow that, when combined with the below freezing temperatures, made removal very difficult by the available equipment and personnel. The second storm had a different snow composition and DOT plows were seen working on Westport streets the afternoon following the storm.

We also experienced a wonderful 5K run that involved many of our residents as well as numerous area students. One of our residents, Mr. Melvin Morrison, also the East Lincoln High School Track Coach, was the race organizer. From all that I have heard, everyone had a great time. Congrats Melvin for a job well done!

February also brought comments from residents about problems with code enforcement regarding rental homes within our community; concerns, pro and con, regarding the use of Westport streets for the proposed Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan; and concerns, pro and con, regarding the use of "speed bumps" to slow traffic.

Your WCA also worked on a request to help secure a traffic study that would, hopefully, result in the creation of a "third lane", thus allowing Lakeshore Road residents to more easily turn south onto Highway 16; pursued the information provided by Commissioner Jim Klein regarding the Burton Creek foreclosure by Fifth Third Bank; listened to concerns from residents about how our communication process can be improved; worked on plans for the April meeting and the 4th of July Parade (which will be held on Saturday, July 3rd).

Finally, we also noted instances where provisions of the leash law are not being carefully observed. We have a number of people in our community that enjoy walking, with their children or by themselves. They shouldn't have to carry sticks with them to protect themselves from dogs that should be controlled by a leash. A little help here would go a long way!

Our Spring meeting is scheduled for April 24 starting about 6:00 PM at Saint-Peter-By-The-Lake. We expect to have a very short business meeting and then enjoy a barbeque social with friends and neighbors. A golf tournament is scheduled, a tennis tournament is possible and we hope that you will all circle the date and make plans to attend. Start thinking about what type of exceptional, super duper desert you want to bring!

As I look at March, I look forward to the additional light when daylight saving time begins, a happy St. Patrick's Day when everyone becomes Irish, the warmer temperatures the beginning of Spring will introduce, Palm Sunday and Passover. Another busy month and, for you, I hope it will be a good month.

The WCA's next meeting will be on Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 PM in St-Peter-By-The-Lake. All are welcome! Remember to take good care of each other.

COMMUNITY WATCH IN WESTPORT

With Spring here, many of us will start taking an early morning or late evening walk or jog. Once again to serve as a reminder, here are a few personal tips for you and your family.

Jogging/ walking safety tips:

- Use areas that are well traveled and well lit at dusk or dawn. Use reflective equipment or carry a flashlight.
- Avoid short cuts and secluded areas.
- Avoid walking / jogging near overgrown bushes/ landscape that can provide concealment.
- If followed, go to the nearest public place or residence or group of people. **Call the Sheriff immediately by dialing 911!!**

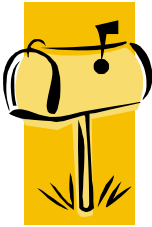


If you have an issue of concern, let us know so we can address it. Contact Lisa Gavel at 704-483-9493 or e-mail the Westporter.

Show your support for our Community Watch Program and purchase a sign for \$10.00 to display in your yard. Checks made payable to WCA.

And remember -- Your job is to report crime. The responsibility for apprehending criminals belongs to the Sheriff.

Lisa Gavel 704-483-9493



Community Watch yard/mailbox signs are available, while supplies last.
The cost is \$10 for each sign. Checks can be made out to WCA.
Call Carole Rowell at 704-489-8657 or email thewestporter@bellsouth.net.



IF YOU ARE A NEW RESIDENT AND HAVE NOT BEEN VISITED BY A GREETER, PLEASE CONTACT DOLLY OCKER (704-483-4145) OR MAXINE RAY (704-483-6430)

RELAY FOR LIFE.... APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2010



- March 4, 2010 – East Lincoln Relay Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at Denver United Methodist Church. All committee members, and Individuals interested in volunteering are encouraged to attend. East Lincoln Relay TEAM CAPTAIN'S MEETING to follow planning meeting, scheduled for 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Required attendance for 2010 Team Captains, and those interested in starting a team.
- March 11, 2010 – Relay Survivor Committee meeting to be held at 6:30 at Lakeshore Restaurant in Denver.
- March 20, 2010 – Safari Miles Restaurant located at 390 Hwy 16 in Denver will host a "Casino Nite" style benefit for the American Cancer Society in conjunction with the Fishing for a Cure Relay for Life Team from E. Lincoln. The event will run from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. with a portion of the food and beverage sales going to the American Cancer Society.



WESTPORT GARDEN CLUB

Our February meeting was opened with a Crepe Myrtle pruning demonstration by Kevin Starr from the Lincoln County office. He taught us how to properly prune our myrtles and not commit "crepe murder". He also told us that the Denver Farmer's Market will open mid April and reminded us that there is still time to order blueberry bushes from the county office.

Gardening tips for March:

- Late March and early April are good times to transplant shrubs and trees.
- Prune Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora and Floribunda roses.
- Fertilize perennial beds and early blooming shrubs.
- Dig, divide and replant vigorous chrysanthemums.
- Apply pre-emergence herbicides before dogwoods bloom.



REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS.....March 13th SPRING FORWARD

COMMUNITY EVENTS



BUNCO NIGHT - The next game night is Friday, March 26th at 7:00 PM at The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake. Bring a covered dish and beverage of choice. For info and reservations, contact Barbara Heesch 704-489-2437 or Fran Stewart 704-483-9840.

FLORENCE SHANKLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY - Weekly Story Time for Preschooler Children Ages 3 through 5 - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM. E. Lincoln Library Book Club meets at 10 AM on Thurs., 3/4, to review "The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaeffer & Annie Barrows

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - **Salute to Girl Scouting:** A group of local dedicated, long term volunteers (25 years or more) that formed an informal alumnae group known as the "Pioneers" back in 1984 holding meetings three times a year. The name of the local Girl Scout Council was Pioneer Council until 10/01/09 when the council merged with other councils in Western North Carolina to form a new, larger council with a new name. In order to preserve history for posterity the Pioneers were asked to make a scrap/memory book for the council resource center. The project was undertaken by Sylvia Holmes of Denver assisted by Susan Goforth and Jane Talbert of Kings Mountain. The project grew exponentially as research into the council archives progressed and the Pioneers decided that the memory book should expand into a publication for many to enjoy. So after much hard work, editing, proof reading and photo selection a soft-cover 8"x10" book entitled PIONEER PATHWAYS came off the presses in Gastonia last August. The program will include anecdotes from the publishing venture as well as high points of the council's history. Books (\$20 including tax) will be available for purchase & signing. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.



LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOLS - No school March 29th.

WESTPORT GARDEN CLUB - On Tue., March 2nd, there will be a Field Trip to Metrolina Greenhouse leaving at 8:30 AM for a "behind the scenes" tour of their operation. On Wed., April 7th at 10:00 AM Jane Lifsey will share her Habit for Humanity experience in Thailand. Call Andrea at 704-483-5270 for more information.



WAYNE'S 2nd FRIDAY SENIOR FEAST -After 15 ½ years, this Senior luncheon has had to cancel all future lunches due to circumstances beyond their control. Many thanks are owed to Westporters, Paul & Celia Deese.



DENVER BRIDGE CLUB - Meets every Thursday at 1:00 at the East Lincoln Community Center on Optimist Club Road. This is open to any and all Bridge players, regardless of skill level, male or female, couples or singles. No requirement to join, simply come on the Thursdays you can. If any questions, contact Betty Megard, 704.483-5414, or Judy Lance, 704.483-5838.

FLORENCE SHANKLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY GARDENS - Work days are on the first and third Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to Noon. If it's raining on Tuesdays, the work will be done on Thursday of that week. Watch for the yellow signs the week of the work day.

LINCOLN COUNTY FARMERS MARKET - will resume in mid-April.

LUNCH & LAPS at Denver UMC - Come to the Family Life Center at Denver UMC at 3910 Hwy 16 N on Thurs., March. 4th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Eat in or take out. Baked Spaghetti or Chicken Pie, green beans, slaw, hot biscuit, and a drink for \$6.00. Also available: Hot dogs with all the trimmings and homemade desserts including banana pudding. Advance orders are taken for whole spaghetti or chicken pies for \$10 each! (Call 704-483-1601).

E. L. COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB - Tuesday, March 16th there will be a field trip to Carter & Holmes in Newberry, SC. Carter and Holmes will give us an one hour presentation about orchids and their care, followed by a guided tour. After the tour we will have lunch in the little town of Newberry and do some shopping. For more info on the Orchids and shopping, please call 704-489-2911. For more information regarding ELCGC and membership, please call 704-827-2520. We always welcome new people to come to our meetings. New members dues are \$20.00 for the first year and returning members dues are \$15.00 per year.

LINCOLN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION - East Lincoln Community Center - for information on the below items, call 704-483-8980

East Lincoln Women's Softball League Co-Ed Indoor Kickball League Registration a co-ed kickball league for adults 21 years of age and older. All completed registration forms and fees must be turned in at the Team Captain's meeting on March 31st at 6:30pm at ELCC. The league will begin on April 18th and run for 6 weeks. Teams require a minimum of 11 and maximum of 15 players per team and cost is \$5 per person. Teams are required to purchase their own uniform shirt with numbers on the back. Games will be played on Sundays.

Women's Basketball League Registration for a women's basketball league for women 25 years of age and older. All completed registration forms and fees must be turned in at the Team Captain's meeting on March 31st at 7:30pm at ELCC. The league will begin on April 13th and run for 6 weeks. Teams require a minimum of 7 and maximum of 10 players per team and cost is \$20 per person. Teams are required to purchase their own uniform shirt with numbers on the back. Games will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Co-Ed Indoor Kickball League Registration for a co-ed kickball league for adults 21 years of age and older. All completed registration forms and fees must be turned in at the Team Captain's meeting on March 31st at 6:30pm at ELCC. The league will begin on April 18th and run for 6 weeks. Teams require a minimum of 11 and maximum of 15 players per team and cost is \$5 per person. Teams are required to purchase their own uniform shirt with numbers on the back. Games will be played on Sundays.

NEWS FROM THE LAKE NORMAN COVEKEEPERS

The Lake Norman Covekeepers will meet at 7:00 p.m. on March 25 at our **NEW LOCATION**. Our guest speaker will be Mitch Woodward, Area Specialized Agent--Watersheds and Water Quality at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, N.C. State University, and the N.C. Cooperative Extension. A recognized expert on backyard rain gardens, Mitch has 25 years of experience in Extension/environmental education program planning, implementation, and evaluation from county to federal levels, with emphasis on watershed and natural resources protection. His topic, "Who'll Stop the Rain," will address the importance of capturing stormwater runoff which can carry pollutants such as fertilizer, pesticides, sediment, motor oil, litter, and pet and yard waste into Lake Norman and the streams that feed it. Backyard rain gardens are a fun and inexpensive way to improve water quality and enhance the beauty of your home or business. Come enjoy this highly informative presentation and learn about the principles of rain garden location, design, construction, and maintenance at our **NEW LOCATION**. Mark your calendar now for March 25, 7:00 p.m., at the East Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department, South Pilot Knob Road, Denver. For more information, contact Ben Benoit (704-489-6249).

ATTENTION ALL LADY GOLFERS



The Westport Ladies' Golf Association will have its kickoff meeting on **Saturday, March 6, 2010**. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am and a Captain's Choice golf game will follow. The group's play days are Tuesdays and Saturdays, March-October. Membership fees are \$20 for Westport Golf Club members and \$45 for non-members. The association welcomes all lady golfers of all ability levels. For additional information and membership forms, contact the clubhouse at 704.489.8088 or visit the website at www.WestportGC.com.

"Friends of Westport Golf Club" membership. This is an annual membership which includes 15 rounds of golf, to be used by You, or given to your family, friends, or business associates throughout the year. As a "Friend of Westport Golf Club", you can support your "Home" course and either treat yourself or someone you know to 15 rounds of golf during the year and understand why our long standing members comment that the course is in the best shape it has ever been in. These memberships may be paid annually (\$500), quarterly (\$125), or monthly (\$42). Please contact the Pro Shop in order to become a "Friend of Westport Golf Club"

WMGA AND WLGA Don't forget that Westport Golf Club has both a Men's Golf Association and a Women's Golf Association. These two associations are open to members and non-members. We are members of the Carolina's Golf Association offering a place to enter a CGA handicap. Lessons are available upon request and please take advantage of the putting facility for practicing chipping, pitching, and putting.

For any information about the course, tee-times, scheduling events, or upcoming events go to our website www.westportgc.com or call the clubhouse @ (704) 489-8088.

Thank you again Westport for your support! We look forward to seeing you on the golf course.

THE WESTPORT YELLOW PAGES

Banks	Fishing Guides
<p>PEOPLES BANK Wendy Moran 142 South Highway 16 (PO Box 594) Denver 28037 704-483-7727 wmoran@peoplesbanknc.com</p>	<p>Fish On! Lake Norman Guide Service Captain Craig Price 704-996-0946 www.fishonlakenorman.com</p>
Heating/Cooling	Gift Shop
<p>T & R Heating • Cooling Appliance Repair, Inc. 3898 Fox Run, Denver NC 28037 704-489-2611 Mobile 980-721-1460</p>	<p>WILD-BIRD MART & GIFT SHOP Backyard Birding Supplies and more 1211 North Hwy 16, Denver NC 28037 704-489-8468 ~ www.wild-birdmart.com</p>
Engine Repair & Service	Framing
<p>PURR PERFORMANCE, LLC Personal Watercraft/ATV Sales, Repair and Service 1347 N. Hwy. 16, Denver, NC 704-489-6999 sales@purrperformance.com www.purrperformance.com Offering 10% off for Westport residents on repair/service</p>	<p>FINE FRAMING Custom Framing, Wood & Metal, Gilding, Posters & Prints 120 South Hwy 16, Denver NC 28037 704-827-1301 Fax 704-827-1307</p>
Financial Advisors	Jewelry
<p>ANDREW E. JOHNSON, AAMS Financial Advisor – EdwardJones® 8261 NC Hwy 73, Suite E, Stanley NC 28164 704-827-9656 Mobile 704-682-1213 www.edwardjones.com</p>	<p>LASSY'S FINE JEWELRY Jewelers and Goldsmith Denver Lake Shopping Center J. Rodney Willis, Graduate Gemologist (GIA) Intersection Hwy 150 & 16, Denver NC 28037 704-483-4533</p>

Insurance	Life/Personal Coaching
<p>GRIFFIN INSURANCE AGENCY Sarah Reed Auto, Home, Life, Commercial 7505 F Hwy. 73 Denver, NC 28037 704-483-2578 Also offices in Mooresville, Lincolnton & Statesville</p>	<p>renaissance coaching for women Kate C. Cameron, M.Ed, CEC Certified empowerment coach/ Reiki Master www.lifecoachingwomen.com 704-483-8243 lifecoachkate@gmail.com</p>

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Plumbing	Propane
<p>WESTPORT PLUMBING 8062 Golf Course Dr. N. Denver, NC 28037 980-722-9604 Mark Sliwoski</p>	<p>Energy United Propane 4411 N. Hwy. 16, Denver, NC 28037 704-677-3627 (cell) 704-483-7363 (Denver office) Jimmy Scaglione Special Locked-In rate for Westport</p>
<p>Please use our advertisers when you need one of their services and thank them for supporting our neighborhood.</p>	<p>SHOP LOCALLY WE ALL BENEFIT.</p>



THE MUSIC MAN will be performed at North Lincoln High School March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13. Call the school for details.

To: WCA Members

DATE: February 21, 2010

RE: 1. **Current WCA Dilemma- (we need a dime a day from each home)**

2. **Volunteers Needed**

3. **Maintenance/Landscape/ Signage Update**

FROM: Anne Michael- Vice-President WCA

1. CURRENT WCA DILEMMA

Members of the Westport Community Association share community concerns including neighborhood appearance desiring manicured grounds and infrastructure to accommodate its needs. That standard does not just happen. There is a cost involved. A community is developed around a standard, people become its residents banding in an association dictating how to maintain and operate their community in relationship to that standard. At least that was the intention for Westport's inception in the late 70s. Unfortunately when Westport Number One was under construction, even though covenants were written into community planning, legally tested, they were found unenforceable and set legal precedence governing Westport Number One, Two and Three. This is the sad fact. If a resident does not abide by our written covenants, the association will address the issue, apply peer pressure, send a formal letter to the resident at odds and assist in a legal process if necessary with county commissioners, community legal professionals, area service providers or county, state and federal organizations. The association is a membership reflecting the entire community with duties overseeing each other and assisting in resolution of community problems.

The Westport Association is also a communication vehicle for the residents. The organization's small membership financially maintains monthly expenses the **entire** community incurs- grounds keeping, lights, irrigation, signage, newcomer packets, etc. with limited member's financial dues –yet all benefit. Relative to the 700 plus homes in the community, the small membership addresses issues of property value and personal safety. The association is not a club but a community group operating with limited funds through membership dues to perform bylaw directives. The group addresses issues in the name of the association in county and state forums. The association members voluntarily branch out to be members of other organizations as watchdogs within the county for our community. By communicating with other community organizations the association strives to keep members abreast of issues concerning Westport.

But the association cannot fulfill its duties with only 25 % community participation. This is a wake up call to the Westport residents in a plea to: (1) join our association so Westport can remain as appealing as those newer surrounding neighborhoods being developed and (2) become informed citizens making educated decisions in Westport's best interest. It takes all Westport residents. Westport represents a significant county tax base. As a WCA member, you have voting rights that effect change within our community and as a WCA group, its members can effect change within our county.

If you live "in community" with others, there are reduced costs but still ongoing costs; the costs are less because the costs are shared. That is one of the reasons for "community living" in the first place. Infrastructure is less costly because of the economy in consolidated services. But there is still a cost to live in community with others and more of a cost if the community is large like Westport. Westport has so much to offer with a beautiful golf course surrounding our property and a lake in our backyard and so many diverse, talented and educated residents. We have specific issues and ongoing concerns that require the residents band together protecting these amenities. This community has continuously shown we can band together making a difference effecting either positive changes or making the best out of bad situations. Your support has been there addressing the county with specific concerns. But the needs are ongoing right here in our backyard. We need your annual support right here too!

Approximately 25% of the 700 residential homes in Westport support the association. Yet all benefit. How? As a residential member of the association, your address gets a vote, a monthly membership newsletter emailed or hard copy mailed, a directory of all residents living in Westport by name, address and phone number. The people living at that residential address can attend two annual meetings- (bonus outside the bylaws if meetings come with dinner and/or entertainment). The annual meetings are not necessarily attended by one member per residence. All residing in that single-dwelling home can attend. Currently the association membership does not distinguish between a single or family membership because we are not a club. If more than one person resides in a household, that address is benefiting even more when you bring your entire family to the annual meetings for dinner and a program. Our membership is per residential home not per person.

The bylaws dictate the association foster community spirit as well. The board continuously elects to provide a dinner with the annual meetings and has traditionally elected to coordinate or participate in the parades during Christmas and July 4th and has additionally provided for a celebration at the end of the July 4th parade to foster community spirit. The association is not in the business of making money off the residents nor are we in the business of entertaining the residents. The golf course, the Westport Club and area community centers are in business to accommodate the residents in that manner charging monthly or via a per-event charge.

We need residents to take responsibility to be informed about community issues affecting them and pay their share of the relative financial costs. We pay county, state and federal taxes that in turn provide many services albeit we need more. Many residents incorrectly think maintaining Westport is paid for by the above or surely someone else. That is a problem. We need the \$40 annual dues as financial assistance to pay for community maintenance and bylaw directives. Westport does not benefit by mandatory homeowner's dues like 100% of newer neighborhoods because our community was developed before that concept. We still have the expenses and more so because we are a large community- in fact the largest community in Lincoln County. Yet because we were the first community, the county used our community as the springboard for others and all the bugs in the organization were addressed such as mandated homeowner dues.

With our non-mandatory membership dues though, we still need a more effective reminder to current members to pay current dues and we need a method to recruit more members. We need you! **A small group of members are paying the financial commitments for the Westport community and that group can no longer carry the load for everyone.**

It is time. The community you live in needs your help. If you live in Westport, you should help maintain the community. The dues for the Westport Association are ONLY \$40 per year. We need about a dime a day from each home. The association has annual financial responsibilities and without your financial help, those responsibilities cannot be met. It is as simple as that. **Please make a check out today to the Westport Community Association for \$40 and send it to Anke Van Eijk at 8030 Lakeview Court, Denver, NC 28037.**

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The same people volunteer for particular projects and to be board officers. Thank each and every one of you for your tireless efforts and success over the years. This is huge community of some 700 homes and residents do not realize the association also functions as a welcome wagon to the entire community with 36 greeters responsible for meeting new residents offering information-filled newcomer packets and 11 representatives coordinating their efforts. The association also has a treasurer, a secretary, a vice-president and president, a newsletter editor, a directory editor, and an additional handful of dedicated volunteers who help coordinate the parades for the fourth of July and Christmas holidays and celebrations afterwards. And there are volunteers who coordinate the details of setup, food, drinks, program, cleanup, and music scheduling for two annual dinner meetings for members. Over the past 30 years, approximately 1600 volunteer positions have been met by a handful of the same residents who have rotated their services. We are a huge group of people representing 700 plus homes and we need help from more people. This is not just a membership, it is a support group. We support each other and together we make things happen.

3. WCA DUTIES- MAINTENANCE- LANDSCAPE- SIGNAGE UPDATE-

In recent years, events have affected the overall community makeup regarding the golf course and the old club. The association no longer has any legal connection with the old Westport Club and never had ownership of the golf course. All co-exist in a neighborhood with the same purpose- to promote a healthy spirit of community and fellowship.

It was not until the first golf course failed and the old club house was demolished that the real purpose of the Westport Association was revisited and understood. Confusion existed among the three entities because membership overlapped. It was often mistaken that membership in one club automatically meant membership in another club and even more confusing was the fact that every club went under the first name "Westport" something or another. There has always been a separate community club, a separate golf club and a separate community association. Those entities now are even more separate. The new ownerships have made their clubs more attractive than ever. They are open to the public bringing in more revenue offering viable services, energizing the community and solidifying its continuing existence adding value to our community. Their revenues pay their expenses.

The Westport Community Association however **is not a club and not in business to make money and our present dues cannot sustain our maintenance . Without dues from every home it cannot pay its expenses such as grounds upkeep, landscape and sign maintenance in addition to the directories, newsletters, newcomer packets, parade and two annual dinner meeting details.**

When there was no longer a perceived roof over the association's head, a place to sit and fellowship did the association revisit its existence purpose. The association was never a club house. The association is the people itself banded together for the purpose to foster community spirit, address issues, communicate to its members and take action as needed in a coordinated fashion. But there are two key factors- **NEEDED VOLUNTEERS AND NEEDED DUES.** We need your financial help through dues to address maintenance in addition to communication issues.

Our surrounding service clubs stepped up to the plate and updated their businesses hoping to attract new members. Now it is our turn to step up to the plate. Westport is not living up to the standards first set by our developer. Surely you have noticed the 15 year-old signs look a little worn since the majority of Westport is approaching 30 plus years old and many of the signs you see have already been replaced one time in 30 years. Maybe you have seen a

neighbor's home that has not been maintained as you would like. Have you even seen your neighbor lately? Have you spoken to that neighbor about the issues? Are you afraid of offending a neighbor? Moving into a large community comes with responsibility. It is "community" responsibility to maintain and care for our environment. For Westport residents, that means the lake, the grounds, the safety, the lighting, the signage, the condition of our streets, fields, health of our neighbors, and finding out what is going on around us. We have to be alert and willing to address situations arising that negatively affect our standard of living in this area. One such coordinated relationship was to address the signs for Westport. In a fairly accelerated fashion, a new stone sign was erected at Fairfield Forest and the Hwy 16 corner. The urgency was to coincide with the new golf course opening in 2007. The golf course, under Tom Daniels, financed a \$7,000 portion of the main sign- and the association paid \$2000 for the granite insert: "Westport." Jimmy Phillips, mason, erected most of the older community stone signs and therefore the association contracted with him to erect the new stone sign as well. That relationship proved to be a negative venture. The association and the Golf Club experienced problems with quality and adherence to the actual sign footprint. Most of that situation has been resolved and is behind us. Completing that sign structure and addressing other aging signs is a goal and both issues compromise the desirability of our community. We are competing with newer communities who can mandate homeowner dues for such things as sign and grounds maintenance. As stated earlier, we need your \$40 annually. But we need it from every home in this community!

It all comes down to membership and the \$40 annual dues. Unless we maintain our existing membership and recruit new members, we cannot maintain monthly fees of lighting, water bills, grounds keeping, sign maintenance or replacing/ remove signs. As amazing as that sounds, it continues to be an issue that residents don't pay a \$40 membership dues. It is only \$40 a year. That is about a dime a day per address. Our community has expenses that must be paid by the residents who live here. The county or state do not pay these. All large communities have a minimal fee and our \$40 per year dues are minimal.

The Westport Association is the main organization that is recognized by all the neighborhoods within the community. There are several smaller neighborhood associations that have developed over the last decades within the larger Westport Community that operate separately from the Westport Community Association. These smaller associations represent Governor's Island, the Peninsula, and Governor's Landing and they have their own dues that pay for certain things that apply to just those areas. An issue regarding the Peninsula's lighting bill surfaced. The Westport Association currently pays for the lighting bill for the Peninsula subdivision sign which is being addressed by the current association board. The association members residing in Westport I, II and III do not have smaller neighborhood associations and depend on the Westport Community Association for their information.

The community association is known and operates as the Westport Community Association. This point is key because it reiterates that there is a need to address all the concerns of our smaller neighborhoods and address concerns of the community as a whole that are not necessarily the responsibility of any one neighborhood or any one person. **The WCA strives to be fair in all community issues and strives to communicate issues on a regular basis and encourages any member or nonmember to attend meetings every third Thursday of the month at 7PM at The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake.**

Homeowner's Associations are different entities. Neighborhoods built in the 1980s are covered under a mandated homeowner's dues. Unfortunately, Westport I, II, III, Governors Landing, Governor's Island and the Peninsula fall under a statute where the law is a little fuzzy with this mandated-homeowner- dues issue. The intent for a financial method to maintain Westport was communicated in writing in the original plans and covenants for this development. This mandate was to cover the above neighborhoods mentioned but Westport I, II and III began development in the late 70s before the homeowner's dues could be mandated until a ruling in the 1980s. This is important because the majority of Westport cannot mandate dues. The law is fuzzy because Westport III was started after the 80s but is legally under the initial development in the County records. Newer Westport neighborhoods require dues and fall under different guidelines. The main reason for the ruling in the 1980s was so that when a developer had sold 95% of the lots with most of the homes constructed a homeowner's association could be formed to cover maintenance expenses.

Westport experiences the droneness of a community developed before the 1980s law and incurs on-going expenses to maintain its community with no way to fund the expenses. That is the reason for the 1980s law. Our funding is through volunteer membership.

The Westport Community Association's most pressing issues are the depreciating condition of our community signage. The association has been involved in addressing this issue the last two years. The association does not have the money to do what should be done to erect new and maintain all the old signage without additional membership.

The association is addressing signage as the monies are available. Westport has many neighborhood signs but our Westport Community Association only maintains 5 of those signs. Two signs near the golf course are about 15 years old and are now in need of restoration.

A third sign at Webbs Road/ Hwy 16 is a sandblasted, wooded sign and is also 15 years old and will be removed soon and not replaced since it is 2 miles away from Westport, down two streets that pass many new neighborhoods not identified at that Hwy 16 location. The location of the sign among the power lines and electrical boxes, guide wires and underground utilities does not lend itself to a matching stone renovation like the one on Fairfield Forest. But more importantly, there is no longer a sensible reason for a sign at that location. Soon Harris Teeter will have their sign as a much more sensible landmark. A member has volunteered to remove this sign soon and will be immediately removing landscape around the sign. The elimination of this sign would save the association \$1200 annual mowing fees. Those monies can be used to fund other maintenance projects and the main entrance sign on Fairfield.

The idea to enlarge the sign and include all the neighborhoods down Webb's Rd and Webb's Chapel Road was not feasible with the height and width constraints posed by the obstructions at the Hwy 16 location below and above ground.

Selecting a new location for a Westport sign at the back Westport entrance nearer to Blades trail entailed private property issues with developer groups Westport was already at odds with. The county suggested Westport put a sign in the county right of way near the sewer location about 1/10 mile down Blades. Presently, that location did not seem appealing to anyone.

The fourth sign is located at the Westport Baptist Church and Hwy 16 and is also about 15 years old and is a sandblasted, wooded sign on two posts as well. It is deteriorating as well as the surrounding landscape. Due to underground utility issues, plans to install a new stone sign will necessitate moving the location higher on that hillside and tree limbs hang precariously over where the new sign would be erected. There are plans to remove that tree and provide low maintenance groundcover.

This replacement of this sign is connected to the continuation of the plans for the signage and landscape at Fairfield Forest Road. The association is in need of a licensed architect that can finalize drawings for both signs, a reputable mason to complete all the work needed on the all the signs. To date we do not have a licensed architect or mason employed to complete the work.

The sign on Lakeshore Road South at the Baptist Church is on private property. The county advised us we needed to contact the owner, get permission and submit the letter of permission to the county for record. The association has obtained permission from the resident now living in Tennessee to remove the sign and the county has given permission to erect a stone sign similar to the one on Fairfield but smaller scale. The existing wooden sign does not meet code in distance requirement of 40 feet from the center line of Hwy 16 and needs to be moved.

For the new Lakeshore sign, our hopes were to create a maintenance free alternative to the landscape design due to lack of water and electricity. Decades of continued watering by volunteers has ultimately failed. And defining responsibility is key since the sign would be on private property.

Our plans at Lakeshore also involve removing the evergreen tree at an estimated cost of \$800 due to the power lines, take the railroad ties away and replant grass or an appropriate ground cover the present renter can maintain. Maintenance responsibility would then be defined as the sign and its surrounding self contained planter That design needs further research into a mass of underground utilities, fiber optics, county wires, water, sewer and Duke Power Lines. We have had Miss Utility mark the obstructions several times and have come to the conclusion that a new stone sign would have to be erected approximately 10 feet upwards of the existing hill and a tree removed. It makes sense to erect this sign and build planters with installation of landscape in conjunction with the additional work planned for the Fairfield forest sign.

The last sign we own is the one at Fairfield Forest and Hwy 16. Our plans include possibly adding a second similar structure to the existing stone sign structure that would be erected on the Fairfield Forest Road side. No additional granite name plate insert would be added however a small maintenance box would be erected behind the entire sign for storage of signage related items. The current sign construction allows for electricity (there are issues- Duke Power cannot open an account for an association, they have to open an account in a person's name.)

Watering plantings remains an issue. Childress Klein, the owners of the shopping center will consider a proposal concerning irrigation and electricity to our sign. The property management group presently charges each tenant a portion of the utility expenses and a portion of the expense might well be assigned to our association. It might be physically possible to tap into their utility lines. First we have to finish our sign and landscape design to determine where utilities are needed.

The County and Duke Power have quoted a monthly price to place electricity and water at desired locations with a meter. WCA would hire a contractor to run irrigation lines and tap onto electricity. The meter and the service would have to be placed in the name of an individual presently also an issue.

Recently our treasurer researched the light pole locations funded by the WCA. Research disclosed the WCA is paying for the light pole on Fairfield Forest Road. Plans to piggy back off that light pole illuminating our sign might be a possible solution to provide electricity to illuminate our sign.

At the present time, we are looking for a licensed architect and a mason that is capable of working with multiple issues of buried utilities under all the signs in question and a nursery to quote on a revised landscape plan including about 74 junipers, 3-7 Nellie Stevens Holly trees, Variegated Liriodendron, and Dwarf Nandina and white blooming Indian Hawthornes. The small area just above the Westport granite sign was to have seasonal inexpensive flowers. Pine needles or mulch placed in the elevated planter is planned for off seasons. The community association originally approved a low maintenance design for signage and landscape for Fairfield Forest Rd.

When the sign was erected, our board received complaints regarding no landscape. The board had voted for this type design and the plans were communicated in previous membership newsletters. A few of the members financially supplemented the expense by temporarily installing steel edging for a low maintenance planter and spreading 600 bales of pine needles and erecting low cost wrought iron to improve the appearance and placing temporary expensive plastic plantings in areas.

We are currently seeking a licensed, reasonably priced architect and mason that can also recommend a reasonably priced gardener to maintain the grounds and the signs. Next month the board will be discussing fostering a possible relationship with the two community clubs to piggy back with their gardener to help maintain our signs and grounds for a nominal fee. Again, our membership money is needed for this type ongoing maintenance. If you can recommend an architect or mason, WCA will interview their credentials. WCA is eager to finish the sign project so we can address surrounding landscape.

Bottom line- WE NEED MEMBERSHIP and their dues to maintain and satisfy our neighborhood desire for a beautifully groomed community to maintain property values. Our neighborhood looks dated.

So if you would like to attend our board meetings, they are always the third Thursday at 7PM at The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake and you are welcome. Please give Andy Strand a heads up that you might attend at 704-483-8171 so seating and can be accommodated.

I hope you have a further understanding and appreciation for the association's duties and if you have the time, we need volunteers and we certainly welcome the \$40 membership dues.

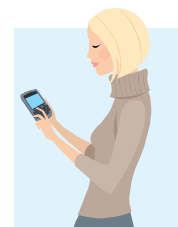
Your comments were appreciated and your suggestions welcomed.

Anne Michael, WCA Vice President
Community Volunteer
Concerned Resident
704-489-8154
Pushpinned@aol.com



Mark Your Calendars: WCA Spring Golf Tournament & Social Saturday, April 24th

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Captains Choice Format.



As spring approaches, I wanted to ask all of the WCA golfers to mark your calendars for the biggest spring golf outing to date. The format will be similar to our tournaments in the past and we hope to have hole sponsors and more enticements by way of prizes this year. I have been asked to plan this year's event and, with the help of the Westport Golf Association and others, we anticipate a great turnout.

More details will be coming and we will have advertisements and more information at the club for those that are interested. You can RSVP now or sign up at the Pro Shop. Deadline for registering is April 17th. We continue to look for hole sponsors so if anyone is interested, please feel free to contact me, Bob Gartland at robert_gartland@bellsouth.net or 704-483-0344. I am also interested in any input to make this the best tournament we have had to date so please feel free to offer suggestions.



Welcome Havana!

Greetings from the Havana Banquet & Ballroom. We are into 2010 and are excited to let you know that we have brought professional ballroom and Latin dancing to this side of the lake. The Havana has partnered with The Club at Westport adding to their already full list of amenities. Together we offer Tennis, swimming, fitness, a full social calendar of events and ballroom dancing. Nowhere else can you take advantage of so many activities at our affordable prices. We also offer full service event planning and have two beautiful locations to host your functions. We have some great specials available for a limited time and would love to be of service to you. Come on out and see for your self: The Club at Westport-A Beautiful Place A Great Value!

The Club at Westport

704-489-2227

Attention USTA Tennis Players!

The Club at Westport will host its first Adult USTA sanctioned tournament April 30, May 1-2. The tournament will offer Men's and Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. There will be a consolation round for the first match loser's so everyone will get 2 matches. Play begins at 5:30 or later on Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday. All entries will get an official t-shirt and a player's cook-out will be hosted. To enter go to nctennis.com and use the tournament ID# 703942709.

The Westporter

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Westport Community Association
8281 Fairfield Forest Rd, Denver NC 28037



**REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS.....March 13th
SPRING FORWARD**