



The Wexford Watch

2006 Board Members

President: Doug Nitkiewicz **Vice President:** Debra Diegmann **Secretary:** Debbie Bisson **Treasurer:** Adrienne Nitkiewicz

Letter from the President

Dear Residents,

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend our annual meeting on April 6, 2006. Your feedback and involvement is vital to our community and I am grateful to those of you who have taken an interest. My appreciation to the work done by last year's board members: Kevin Burns, Kenny Simmons, Jeff Holden; also Shannon Sizemore, Debra Diegmann, Eric Dawson and Adrienne Nitkiewicz who assisted last year's board in getting organized and reaching out to the community.

Our journey continues and I want each resident to come along. You are necessary and important to the success of our community. I'm sure you've noticed some of the improvements we've made. Here is another opportunity to get involved.

The goals in our community focus on:

- Creating a community where residents feel secure within and outside of their homes
- Fostering neighborhood relationships so neighbors know each other, work together to solve neighborhood problems and commit to a clean and nuisance free environment.
- Working with City/County officials to enforce ordinances, improve streets and sidewalks and any other measures that improve the neighborhood.

We'd all like to think we live in a place where people care about others — where people pitch in when things get rough — where it's safe to leave the doors unlocked and let the kids play outside.

Continued on page 5

Contact Us

Email:

Villagesofwexford@earthlink.net

US Mail:

Villages of Wexford Association
PO Box 620942
Charlotte, NC 28262-0115

Get your business
noticed. You can
advertise your business
here

Ask us how.



Reminder to Parents

Dirt bikes, ATV's and those shown above are illegal on our streets. Riding them on a neighbors property without permission is disrespectful as well as illegal. Please ensure the riders are being responsible, obeying the laws and taking safety precautions.

Neighborhood Landscaping Day

Date: Saturday, May 20

Starting At: 9:00 AM

Meet At: Flint Glen Island

Please come give us a hand. We will be putting down new pine straw on the islands, sprucing up the area and making sure the sidewalks on Oak Leigh are unobstructed.

2006 Association dues are only \$25 a year

While other communities fees are much higher, ours are only \$25 per year for 2006. We need your participation to make things happen in the community. Please make your checks out to: **The Villages of Wexford Association**

Please send or drop them off with a board member today!!

A little bit about our new board members...

President – Doug Nitkiewicz

Doug and his wife, Adrienne, live at 11048 Wiltshire Lane. Doug's home phone number is 704-503-1916.

I was born in Toledo Ohio and raised in the suburb of Oregon. I spent 11 years in the Marine Corps after graduating early from high school in 1985. I moved to Charlotte in 1999 and have been living in the Villages of Wexford community for 3 years. I have been working in the financial services industry since 1996 and currently work for a large financial institution in Investment Services. I was drawn to this community because of its natural beauty and proximity to everything. We are within 15 minutes of uptown, shopping, the university, amphitheater and other venues. I enjoy playing sports, specifically softball and basketball.

Vice President – Debra Diegmann

Debra and her husband, Scott, live at 1923 Winsted Court. Debra's home phone number is 704-548-9428.

Hello! My name is Debra Diegmann and I have been a part of our community for five years. I reside on Winsted Court with my husband Scott and our spoiled cat. I have been an active neighbor since we moved here and actually served as our neighborhood president for two years. We absolutely love our neighborhood! Our neighborhood has many positive features like its location, diversity, and natural landscape with lots of trees. One of my many passions is to work in the yard planting flowers and trees. Along with that passion I have worked on our landscaping committee to bring our entrances back to life. I am also a third grade teacher at our neighborhood school, University Meadows Elementary. So as you can see I am dedicated to help and educate our community. I urge all of you to volunteer and GET INVOLVED this year! Great things can be accomplished when we all pitch in to make things happen. The responsibility belongs to all of us not just the elected board members. I look forward to a wonderful year as your neighborhood vice president.

Secretary – Debbie Bisson

Debbie and her family live at 1919 Dembrigh Lane. Her home phone number is 704-548-1239.

Hello. My name is Debbie Bisson. I grew up on a horse farm in southern Quebec. After graduating, I worked in Montreal in accounting as the comptroller for an import company. I was married in 1996. I moved to Charlotte in 1998 from Canada to become a full time stay at home mom. I am devoted to my children. I enjoy living in the villages of Wexford. I Love the large lots, the mature trees and my great neighbors. I miss the community activities that some of you may remember like the Easter egg hunt, fall festival, neighborhood yard sales and the pool. I found these things brought our neighborhood together and allowed us to get to know each other. One of the biggest reasons these activities are not feasible any longer is because we do not own any community property. This is why I have joined the grant committee. We will try to buy back the pool and surrounding land so we can have a place in the neighborhood where we can play, relax and get to know one another. As the new secretary for the Villages of Wexford I look forward to working with the other board members for a better community for all of us.

Treasurer – Adrienne Nitkiewicz

Adrienne and her husband, Doug, live at 11048 Wiltshire Lane. Adrienne's home phone number is 704-503-1916.

I was born in Endicott, NY and my family moved to North Carolina in 1979. After graduating from high school, I went to nursing school and then earned my degree in computer science. Professionally, I am a technology development manager for a large financial institution downtown and have been in technology for about 15 years. I am an avid animal lover and gardener and enjoy doing things in the yard and around the neighborhood. I enjoy cooking, movies, books, sports and many things one might not expect. I also enjoy helping out and doing things with and for others when they need assistance. As an active member in the community, I hope more people will see the good things going on in the neighborhood and will want to help make an impact too.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

MAY 6TH: Boy Scout Troop 49 Annual Auction and BBQ
Newell Fire Station off Old Concord Rd.
May 6th 2006
Auction and BBQ starts at 4:30
Lots of GREAT merchandise to be auctioned!!

Do you have an event coming up that you'd like to include in our newsletter? Send your information to us at villagesofwexford@earthlink.net and we'll try to include it in our newsletter. Newsletters are published on a quarterly basis.

Villages of Wexford ... We're on the web!

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/vofw/>

How can I contact a board member?

Email: Villagesofwexford@earthlink.net

Phone:

President — Doug Nitkiewicz	704-503-1916
Vice Pres. — Debra Diegmann	704-548-9428
Secretary — Debbie Bisson	704-548-1239
Treasurer — Adrienne Nitkiewicz	704-503-1916

Neighborhood Forum

This is your space to tell us what's on your mind. Would you like to let everyone know about a problem you've seen in the neighborhood? How about something positive that you've seen in the neighborhood? Do you have an idea you'd like to share?

Whatever your comment, send it to us at villagesofwexford@earthlink.net with the subject of "Neighborhood Forum" and we'll include your comments in this space in our next newsletter. We will not print your name (unless you specifically request that we do). Comments with inappropriate content may be altered or omitted altogether.

❖ Please be aware of the noise in the neighborhood throughout the day and in the evening. There are many infants and young children who nap during the day and go to bed early. Firecrackers, motorcycles, parties, and kids yelling and hanging out can disturb their sleep. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

❖ The island at Flint Glenn is **not** a pet area. Please clean up after your pet.

(Editor's note: Failing to remove feces deposited by a dog on any public street, sidewalk, gutter, park or other publicly owned property or private property unless the owner of the property has given permission allowing such use of the property is illegal. Please clean up after your pet or leave your pet at home.)

❖ Please don't use the neighborhood as your trash can. People have been seen throwing trash out of their cars (this time, we won't give vehicle descriptions and license plates), and children and teenagers have been seen throwing their trash into people's yards or just dropping it on the street. This is rude and it makes our neighborhood ugly. Please put your trash where it belongs — in a trash can.
(Editor's note: Littering is illegal. Those caught littering will be subject to a fine, jail time and/or community service.)

❖ There are several properties along Oak Leigh Drive (some between Dembrigh and Killarney) that are poorly maintained. Some properties have fences and are poorly maintained between the fence and the street. Also, the drainage ditches and creeks are not dumping areas for grass clippings or yard waste.

❖ Mini motorcycles and dirt bikes are not legal street vehicles. Kids are riding these in our neighborhood on people's property and in the streets. Parents, it's your responsibility to make sure your children know the proper place to ride these vehicles.

❖ Please watch for suspicious activity on your streets — vacant homes are a favorite target for crime. Know what's going on on your street and don't hesitate to report anything that looks suspicious to 9-1-1. Remember, if it doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Call 911.

Annual dues for 2006 (April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007) are \$25.00. A motion to increase dues to \$35.00 for 2007 was entered at the annual meeting and passed by a nearly unanimous margin. Beginning in 2007, annual dues for our community will increase by \$10.00 a year to \$35.00.

If you haven't already paid your 2006 dues, **please** send them today. Because our dues are so low, every little bit helps out in big ways! Dues may be mailed to our PO Box or dropped off with any of the board members. Please make your checks payable to: **Villages of Wexford Association.**

Thank you so much to everyone who came out and attended the 2006 Neighborhood Annual Meeting. It was great to see you there! Thank you for your feedback on issues, concerns and ideas. Together we're able to make a difference.

Charlotte Mecklenburg 311 Service

311 is a new phone number that provides easy access to local government. Customer Service Representatives are available to answer your questions, and/or process selected service requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you are calling from outside Mecklenburg County or if your cellular carrier will not connect you to 311, dial (704) 336-7600.

Want to report a code violation, have your garbage cart repaired, or request sidewalk repair without picking up the phone? CharMeck 311's new online request system allows you to do just that. Over 20 service requests are available at your fingertips. Check it out at: <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/CharMeck311/Home.htm>.

New to the area? This section is for you

Voter Information

Precinct 237 Polling Location
University Meadows Elem. School
1600 Pavilion Blvd, Charlotte

Mayor
Pat McCrory (R)

Sherriff
Jim Pendergraph

County Commissioner District 1 Representatives
Jim Puckett (R)
(AL) Jennifer Roberts (D)
(AL) Wilhelmenia Rembert (D)
(AL) Parks Helms (D)

City Council District 4 Representatives
Michael Barnes (D)
(AL) Pat Mumford (R)
(AL) John Lassiter (R)
(AL) Anthony Foxx (D)

School Board District 1 Representatives
Larry Gauvreau
(AL) Joe White
(AL) Kaye McGarrey
(AL) Kit Cramer

National Senate Representatives
Richard Burr (R)
Elizabeth Dole (R)

National Congressional District 8 Representatives
Robin Hayes (R)

State Senate District 40 Representatives
Malcolm Graham (D)

State House District 99 Representatives
Drew Saunders (D)

2005-2007 Student Assignments

High School
VANCE HIGH SCHOOL
7600 IBM DRIVE
980-343-5284

Middle School
MARTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
7800 IBM DRIVE
980-343-5382

Elementary School
UNIVERSITY MEADOWS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1600 PAVILION BOULEVARD
980-343-3685

City and County Tax information

2005 Property Tax Rates

Charlotte	.42 per \$100
Mecklenburg County	.8368 per \$100
Combined rate	1.2568 per \$100

Solid Waste Fees

Single-family & mobile homes	
City:	\$12.00
County:	\$45.00
Total:	\$57.00

Automobile Fees:

Charlotte	\$30.00
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Real Estate tax bills are generally mailed in September and are due the first of January. Vehicle taxes are mailed approximately 3 – 4 months after renewing the vehicle's registration.

Service Information

Trash / Recyclables – Thursday pickup

City Ordinances are available online:
<http://librarytest.municode.com/mcc/home.htm?infobase=19970>

Ordinance enforcement: Call 3-1-1

Report a damaged streetlight: Call 3-1-1

Report suspicious activity: Call 9-1-1

Mecklenburg County Website:
www.co.mecklenburg.nc.us

Parks in Northeast Mecklenburg

The Northeast Park District features great parks and facilities for the whole family. Some of the larger parks include Reedy Creek Park/ Nature Preserve and Nevin Community Park.

- ▶ Allen Hills Park, 5100 Cheviot Rd
- ▶ Briarwood Park, 5399 Waterwood St
- ▶ Mallard Creek Community Park, 3901 Johnston-Oehler Rd
- ▶ Nevin Community Park, 6000 Statesville Rd
- ▶ Newell Park, 9130 Newell Baptist Church Rd
- ▶ Reedy Creek Park, 2900 Rocky River Rd
- ▶ RibbonWalk, 4601 Nevin Rd.
- ▶ Thereasea Clark Elder, 6315 Rockwell Church Rd
- ▶ Tom Hunter Park, 919 Tom Hunter Rd
- ▶ Unity Park, 6401 Kelsey Drive
- ▶ Viewmont Park, 5400 Viewmont Drive

Letter from the President -- Continued from page 1...

This isn't always what we experience. Instead of community, we find alienation. We are attacked by crime and vandalism. Hoping for a better life for our kids, we encounter gangs, drugs and indifference. There are officials who preach envy and hate, dividing us further instead of working for reconciliation. People often retreat behind locked doors, ignoring their neighbors and neighborhood problems until it affects them. There are many things we don't have much control over, but like eating good food, building community is something that we can do, right here and right now. It does take a village to work with the family, raise a child and weather the storms of life. If we want that kind of support, the place to begin is with ourselves. **We start building a good neighborhood when we ourselves decide that we want to be good neighbors.**

It's not my intent to preach but rather challenge. Each day we are challenged in a variety of ways and on different levels. How we meet those challenges define who we are. Words may describe, but actions define. Here is an opportunity...what actions will you take? Join a committee? Lead a committee? Get involved—please.

Over the course of the next few months, I will visit each house within our community to introduce myself. If you'd prefer to host a gathering of your neighbors, let me know and I will be there.

Sincerely,

Doug Nitkiewicz

President, Villages of Wexford Association



Neighborhood Matching Grant To purchase and make this into a community park



The Neighborhood Matching Grants Program awards funds to neighborhood-based organizations for projects that will make neighborhoods a better place to live, work, play and shop. Such projects may physically improve neighborhoods or help strengthen neighborhood organizations. Public safety, educational, cultural, recreational, organizational and neighborhood improvement projects can receive support.

Organizations compete for grants and must match funds awarded by the City of Charlotte with contributions of cash, volunteer time, or in-kind donations of goods and services.

Grants ranging up to \$25,000 are awarded three times per year.

Applications are evaluated based on:

- The quality of the proposed projects (well planned, ready to implement, and sustainable).
- Neighborhood participation in the project
- Need for the project
- The neighborhood's matching contribution.

Proposed projects should relate to the applying organization's mission and purpose.

What Projects Are Eligible?

Proposed projects must:

- Provide a public benefit to the neighborhood
- Involve neighborhood people directly in all phases
- Not be used for the organization's operational budget
- Be achievable in 12 months

The Neighborhood Match Contribution.

To Qualify for a Neighborhood Matching Grant, organizations must match the funds requested from the City. The value of neighborhood contributions must be equal to or greater than the City dollars requested.

Neighborhoods may match contributions in a variety of ways:

- Cash
- Volunteer labor (valued at \$13 per hour)
- Donated supplies, equipment or professional services

Although outside groups can help with a project, the neighborhood's involvement **must** remain high. At least 25% of the required match must come from sources within the neighborhood.

For more information: <http://neighborhoods.charmeck.org>

Get Involved with our Neighborhood projects and committees for 2006

Working with City/County officials to enforce ordinances concerning the Swimming pool/tennis court property. The recent charges against the owner for failing to maintain a swimming pool were dismissed, this time. The owners attorney was informed and advised to ensure his client was aware that further violations would be met with fines or worse. After, we met with health department officials and the owners attorney.

The **Neighborhood Matching Grant Program** will be our biggest project if awarded and wouldn't begin until after Labor day 2006. The project will be to purchase the swimming pool/tennis court properties and turn it into a community park. We have sent a letter the current owner, CHM Holdings LLC, asking/encouraging them to sell these properties back to the Villages of Wexford Homeowners Association, at a reasonable price. Doug Nitkiewicz is heading up the Neighborhood Grant committee and the next meeting is May 2nd at 7pm at 11048 Wiltshire Ln. If necessary we may also be contacting companies with whom CHM Holdings LLC does business with and ask them not to until our area is improved. If this primary project cannot proceed, we can still apply for the matching grant program with other projects that will benefit the community. What ideas do you have? ***We need coffee cans & lids (48oz +) to help with our fund raising efforts. Drop them off at 11048 Wiltshire Lane.***

The **Neighborhood Street Lighting Request** for Leadenhall, Biscoe Way, Rothmullan and Shandon Way/Presco Ct has been submitted. Ida Davis has volunteered to be lead petitioner on behalf of the HOA. A design will be prepared by Duke Power, once finalized at least 60% of those affected will need to sign the petition.

Sidewalk request from Shandon Way to Hwy 49 has been submitted. Please contact Adrienne Nitkiewicz at 704-503-1916 if you would like to be involved in this project.

Signage project for Pavilion Blvd at Oak Leigh and Rothmullan/Shandon Way.

Our committees include:

Block Captains - Assist neighbors and the board by being the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, Coordinate newsletter distribution, neighborhood watch and keeping all informed about things happening in or that affect your specific area (new residents, yard sales, community awareness, etc).

Landscaping - help our neighborhood look its best by assisting with maintaining the neighborhood islands and entryways. Present ideas for ways to improve the appeal of our community.

Welcoming, Membership and Social - help welcome new residents into our community, encourage membership in the association and plan community social events.

Community Awareness - connect with all city/county officials (police, fire, rescue, etc.) and local businesses on behalf of the board, about affairs or events that affect or will impact the community. Help develop community watch program.

If you have questions or are interested in participating on these projects or with these committees, please send an email to villagesofwexford@earthlink.net.

NEW – Wexford Mom's Club

Attention Wexford Mom's: Are you a stay at home mom? Do you have young children ages birth thru 6? Would you like to meet more moms in the neighborhood or have your children meet and play with kids nearby? The Wexford Mom's Club will meet for play dates at local parks, story time, and game days. It is also a great way for moms to network, get references for babysitters, or just enjoy the company of someone who knows.

If you are interested in joining please contact Debbie at (704) 548-1239 and watch the Wexford website listed in this newsletter for upcoming events. Remember everyone is welcome and it is free.

Membership Information/Neighborhood Grant Pledge Form

Membership is only \$25.00. If you haven't paid, PLEASE fill out and RETURN BY MAY 15TH 2006, even if you aren't participating in the Neighborhood Grant program.

Mail to: Villages of Wexford Association, PO Box 620942, Charlotte, NC 28262-0115 or drop off with a board member (see page 2 of the April 2006 newsletter for addresses.)

Name: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Hours Pledged

Labor - Administrative _____ (raising funds, volunteer signatures, assisting grant committee, etc.)

 Landscaping _____ (trimming/planting trees, bushes, flowers & grass; tilling/raking, clearing debris, etc)

 Dry Wall/Painting _____ (cleaning clubhouse, hanging drywall, paint, adding fixtures)

 Plumbing/Electrical _____ (checking and fixing electrical/plumbing fixtures)

 Fencing _____ (removing and putting up)

 Other _____ (willing to offer assistance in areas not yet determined)

Supplies, equipment or professional services

If able, please provide a letter on company/official letterhead indicating what supplies, equipment or professional services you can offer/donate. Please include the original price of these items, the discount you are offering and final price to the program.

Cash/Check \$ _____ Please make checks payable to Villages of Wexford HOA. On the memo line indicate "Neighborhood Grant".
If the grant is not awarded, the funds will be used for other projects within the community.

Name: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Hours Pledged

Labor - Administrative _____ (raising funds, volunteer signatures, assisting grant committee, etc.)

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List others on back of page with same information

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