



**Neighborhood
Association Newsletter
December 2008**

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Charlotte, NC 28262-0115

Email:
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The Wexford Watch

2008 Board Members

President: Doug Nitkiewicz
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Vice President: Gerald Crump
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Letter from the President

Dear Residents,

I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Whether traveling or staying at home, I hope that you, your family and friends remain safe this holiday season and always.

It could just be hindsight but most would probably agree, for some reason at this time of the year when we look back it seems like it went by too fast. It would seem that a good bit of everything has happened this year but with the new year quickly approaching we each have opportunities before us. It may be hard to see or even acknowledge but they are there. It could be something as simple as make a promise to yourself to try to wake each morning and go into work with a smile on your face. Or it could be something as important as improving your overall health. No matter what the item is, it starts with an idea, then a picture. As you work on it, the picture develops and eventually success is or can be achieved.

I wrote last year that "Thoughts become words, words become actions, actions define character, character is everything." What you believe, you can achieve. We spend time as infants strengthening our bodies to learn how to crawl, walk and then run. We spend years listening before we engage in a dialogue with others around us. Everything we want to achieve usually starts with a smaller step. Taking that first step can sometimes require courage and maybe a bit of faith.

I hope that each of you has a very happy holiday and that however you define success, happiness or joy that it finds you, your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Happy Holidays!

Doug Nitkiewicz
President, Villages of Wexford HOA

The Neighborhood Speed Limit is 25mph

Please be aware of your speed when driving through the neighborhood. The posted speed limit is **25mph**. Our streets are patrolled regularly by CMPD. Speeders will be ticketed.



10 Helpful Crime Prevention Tips

Keep your family safe in your community by following these tips:

1. Teach children how to reduce their risk of being victims of violent crime. Insist on knowing at all times where your kids are, what they are doing, and who they are with.
2. Get involved. Volunteer to help in community and neighborhood anti-crime and other community improvement efforts. Encourage groups you belong to -- religious, civic, social -- to help stop crime.
3. Use common-sense tips to reduce your risk of being a crime victim. Stay in well-lit, busy areas; travel with a friend if possible; walk in a confident, assured way. Avoid known trouble spots.
4. Report crimes and suspicious activities to police; agree to testify when necessary. Stand up for what you believe in.
5. Get to know your neighbors and agree to look out for each other. Get organized; work with the police.
6. Find ways to settle arguments without violence. If you resort to violence to settle disputes, this is what you will teach your child. Be a good role model.
7. Use common courtesy. It helps ease tensions that can lead to violence. Teach your kids that good manners are important.
8. Don't carry a weapon. You lose, whether you use it or it's used on you.
9. Don't support illegal activities, like buying stolen property or using illegal drugs. It's the wrong message to send a child, and it involves you in criminal activity.
10. Volunteer your home as a reliable source of help for kids who are scared or need assistance.

Information provided by The National Crime Prevention Council.

Our Website is: www.neighborhoodlink.com
Enter our zipcode and select Villages of Wexford from the list

2008 Association Dues Are Only \$35 a Year

While other communities fees are much higher, ours are only \$35 per year for 2008. We need your participation to make things happen in the community. Please make your checks out to: **The Villages of Wexford Association**

Please mail to our PO box (PO Box 620942, Charlotte, NC 28262-0115) or drop them off with a board member or block captain today!!

2008 Association Membership

Street	Properties *	2008 Members Paid	Total Dues Received	Participation % by Street
Balbriggan Court	15	3	105.00	20.00%
Bally Duff Lane	7	1	35.00	14.29%
Bantry Lane	6	0	0.00	0.00%
Biscoe Way Lane	11	1	35.00	9.09%
Castlecomer Drive	21	3	105.00	14.29%
Cherring Lane	7	1	35.00	14.29%
Clonmel Place	16	3	105.00	18.75%
Dembrigh Lane	47	9	315.00	19.15%
Derry Drive	8	1	35.00	12.50%
Downpatrick Place	17	4	140.00	23.53%
Dungarvon Court	14	3	106.15	21.43%
Flint Glenn Lane	36	6	210.00	16.67%
Killamey Place	33	6	210.00	18.18%
Leadenhall Lane	41	6	245.00	14.63%
Magenta Lane	14	4	140.00	28.57%
Oak Leigh Drive	39	6	210.00	15.38%
Presco Court	4	1	35.00	25.00%
Rothmullan Drive	17	2	70.00	11.76%
Shandon Way Lane	35	0	0.00	0.00%
Tralee Place	4	2	70.00	50.00%
Wiltshire Lane	25	4	140.00	16.00%
Winsted Court	17	3	105.00	17.65%
Total *	434	69	2,451.15	15.90%
* Includes non-residential properties in total				
Summarization of Residential Properties ONLY				
Total Residential Properties	429			
Active Participation %	16.08%			

Update on Ongoing Projects

Due to the number of observed speeders in the community, a traffic survey was recently conducted on Flint Glen Lane and Magenta Lane. The results show that Flint Glen is traveled by over 1000 vehicles a day. Magenta Lane is traveled by slightly more than 500. This means that Flint Glen Lane is potentially eligible for other traffic calming solutions. CDOT will be preparing additional analysis to determine what options are available to our neighborhood.

Additionally, just as a reminder, a sidewalk request was submitted for Harris Houston Road from Hwy 49 toward Houston Farms. This request is not expected to be complete for a few years, due to the city's backlog of requests for sidewalks throughout the city. We know that the sidewalk is a dire need and will stay in touch with the city regarding this matter and provide updates as they become available.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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. We try to publish newsletters approximately every 2 months.

Best Decorated Home for the Holidays

Congratulations!

Patrick & Catherine McIndoe

2110 Dembrigh Lane

Neighborhood Reminders

- When walking your pets, please remember to pick up what they leave behind. No body likes stepping in dog poop or smelling it, but more importantly, there are health concerns as well as just general good manners at stake here. **Additionally, it's the law!** Our neighborhood properties ARE NOT pet areas – please do not allow your dogs to relieve themselves in these areas.
- All trash needs to be bagged! When you see trash in our neighborhood on Thursdays right after trash pickup has occurred, it's because many people are putting loose trash in their trash cans. Trash cans and recycling bins need to be brought back up to your house before Friday morning.
- We have several homes where the back of the property is along another street, particularly Oak Leigh and Harris Houston, where residents are not maintaining the property behind their back fences. This makes the neighborhood look very bad. Please remember that you are responsible for maintaining the section of your properties beyond your fences.
- If you must park your vehicle on the street, please be sure to park parallel to the curb with your tires against the curb. Many of our streets are somewhat narrow and parking off the curb can make it difficult to navigate. Please be sure to leave ample room for your neighbors to get in and out of their driveways.
- Please be considerate of others when you crank up the volume on in your home or in your car, especially after 10pm and before 8am. If the bass can be felt OUTSIDE your immediate proximity it's TOO LOUD!
- Please be aware of things going on in the neighborhood and if something doesn't look right, please call 9-1-1. The police can't help us with problems they don't know about.

Trash in our Community is Everyone's Problem

Thank you to everyone who makes that extra effort to keep our community clean. For everyone else, please take time to pick up trash in your yard, on your street and as you travel in the community. It doesn't take much time or effort if we all pitch in. We've received calls from neighbors in the community about seeing people in vehicles throwing trash out of their windows. This is disgusting and disrespectful as well as illegal. Whatever the reason, there's never a good reason for littering. Unlike in an apartment complex that has a grounds crew, there's a little more responsibility that comes with living in a home whether you're a home owner or renter. Please take pride in your community - don't litter.

Digital TV – Get The Facts



What is the digital TV (DTV) transition?

The switch from analog to digital broadcast television is referred to as the digital TV (DTV) transition. In 1996, the U.S. Congress authorized the distribution of an additional broadcast channel to each broadcast TV station so that they could start a digital broadcast channel while simultaneously continuing their analog broadcast channel. Later, Congress mandated that February 17, 2009 would be the last day for full-power television stations to broadcast in analog. Broadcast stations in all U.S. markets are currently broadcasting in both analog and digital. After February 17, 2009, full-power television stations will broadcast in digital only.

Why are we switching to DTV?

An important benefit of the switch to all-digital broadcasting is that it will free up parts of the valuable broadcast spectrum for public safety communications (such as police, fire departments, and rescue squads). Also, some of the spectrum will be auctioned to companies that will be able to provide consumers with more advanced wireless services (such as wireless broadband). Consumers also benefit because digital broadcasting allows stations to offer improved picture and sound quality, and digital is much more efficient than analog. For example, rather than being limited to providing one analog program, a broadcaster is able to offer a super sharp “high definition” (HD) digital program or multiple “standard definition” (SD) digital programs simultaneously through a process called “multicasting.” Multicasting allows broadcast stations to offer several channels of digital programming at the same time, using the same amount of spectrum required for one analog program. So, for example, while a station broadcasting in analog on channel 7 is only able to offer viewers one program, a station broadcasting in digital on channel 7 can offer viewers one digital program on channel 7-1, a second digital program on channel 7-2, a third digital program on channel 7-3, and so on. This means more programming choices for viewers.

What do I need to do to be ready for the end of analog TV broadcasting?

Because Congress mandated that the last day for full-power television stations to broadcast in analog would be February 17, 2009, over-the-air TV broadcasts will be in digital only after that date. If you have one or more televisions that receive free over-the-air television programming (with a roof-top antenna or “rabbit ears” on the TV), the type of TV you own is very important. A digital television (a TV with an internal digital tuner) will allow you to continue to watch free over-the-air programming after February 17, 2009. However, if you have an analog television, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue to watch broadcast television on that set. This converter box will also enable you to see any additional multicast programming that your local stations are offering.

To help consumers with the DTV transition, the Government established the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a part of the Department of Commerce, administers this program. Every U.S. household is eligible to receive up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. Beginning in January of 2008, the NTIA has begun accepting applications for coupons. The coupons may only be used for eligible converter boxes sold at participating consumer electronics retailers, and the coupons must be used at the time of purchase. (Please note that these coupons will expire 90 days after mailing). Manufacturers estimate that digital-to-analog converter boxes will sell from \$40 to \$70 each. This is a one-time cost. For more information on the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program, visit www.dtv2009.gov, or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY).

Cable and satellite TV subscribers with analog TVs hooked up to their cable or satellite service should not be affected by the February 17, 2009 cut-off date for full-power analog broadcasting.

If I have an older analog television, will I have to throw it away after February 17, 2009?

No. A digital-to-analog converter box will allow you to continue using your existing analog TV to watch over-the-air digital broadcasts. You do not need to get rid of your existing analog TV. In addition, analog sets should continue to work as before if connected to a subscription service such as cable or satellite TV. Also, analog sets should continue to work with gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products that you use now.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Are You a Good Neighbor?

Take this quiz to find out if you would want to live next door to you.

1. You see a neighbor outside struggling to get her bags of groceries out of her car and her wayward toddler into the house.

What do you do?

- A. Sit and watch. It's amusing to observe a mom in distress.
- B. Walk away. You can feel her pain and seeing it is just too much for you to handle.
- C. Offer to help. Keep an eye on her little one or carry a few bags to the porch.

2. The neighbor's 8-year-old boy has thrown rocks at your dog every day for the past two weeks.

What do you do?

- A. Yell at him the next time he passes your home. If his parents won't teach him some manners, it's up to you.
- B. Ignore him. He may be a pest, but there's nothing you can do about it.
- C. Politely ask him to stop. Treat him with respect and explain that his mistreatment of your dog may hurt your pet's health.

3. Everyone in the neighborhood is getting together for a homeowners meeting to discuss traffic problems.

What do you do?

- A. Go to the meeting and complain. People drive way too fast in front of your house, especially the teenagers that live down the street.
- B. Skip it. It will just be a bunch of fuddy-duddies talking about the purple house on the corner or the guy with too many weeds in his yard.
- C. Introduce yourself to others at the meeting. Offer helpful suggestions for solving the traffic problems.

4. Your neighbor comes by and asks you to help him cut the tree that is on your property line and drops leaves into his yard. What do you do?

- A. Tell him to forget it. You don't have time to cut the tree nor do you have to pick up the leaves, so what's the problem?
- B. Tell him you'll do it but never do. Let him think you'll take care of the problem so he'll leave you alone.
- C. Thank him for his help and let him know when you're available. Offer to help him rake the leaves that have fallen off the tree into his yard.

5. A neighbor's child falls off his bike. He's crying on the corner by your house.

What do you do?

- Tell him to go home. His mom can help him with his problem.
- Ignore him. He's not your kid, after all.
- Console him and help him get home. If he were your child, you'd want someone kind to help him.

How Did You Rate?

Mostly A: You need some lessons in neighborliness. You're meeting your neighbors, but they probably don't think much of you. Find positive ways to interact with them.

Mostly B: You probably don't even know your neighbors. Step outside your door every once in a while and meet someone new.

Mostly C: You're the kind of neighbor most people would like to have. Keep finding ways to make your neighborhood a better place to live.

Neighborhood Pride Quiz

Question	True	False	N/A
There is no litter or trash around my home, including my yard, near the curb, or in the alley.			
I mow my lawn at least every two weeks.			
Neighbors can safely walk on my sidewalk because there are no holes in the concrete and the bushes are neatly trimmed.			
I always put my trash container away at the end of the trash collection day.			
My car is parked in my driveway, garage, or on the street, not on the grass in the front yard.			
The gutters and downspouts on my house are securely attached.			
The paint on my house is in good condition and is not faded			
I always repair any broken window as soon as I can.			
The doors on my home are securely attached.			
The leaves and grass clippings are raked from my yard and properly disposed.			
The car(s) I park in my driveway, garage, or on my street are fully operable.			
I store BBQ grills and other accessories safely and properly when not in use.			
My address is clearly marked on my house for instant visibility.			
The stairs, handrails, and/or porch are sturdy, safe and free of rust.			
The fencing surrounding my home is straight and intact.			

Why is being a Good Neighbor Important?

Living in a neighborhood can be an interesting and life-enriching experience. To reap the benefits of living in any neighborhood, it is important to sow the seeds of courtesy, respect, and consideration.

- Problems that arise later will be a lot easier to resolve if you have already established a positive relationship with your neighbor and gotten acquainted under ideal circumstances. This means, when you accidentally block your neighbor's driveway with your car or if your party is getting a little loud, your neighbor will know to call you first, rather than the police.
- Need a recommendation for a good restaurant or an activity to enjoy with your significant other?
- What about someone to pet-sit or collect your mail while you're on break?
- If you have children, do you occasionally need a babysitter...maybe on a moment's notice?
- Need a good car mechanic close to home?
- Are you making that delicious dish and forgot that you ran out of sugar last week?

In all of these situations, neighbors could help, but only if you have taken the time to get to know them. This does not mean that you have to be "best friends" with your neighbors, but you should be aware of the advantages and downright pleasantness of cultivating mutually-respectful relationships with folks living near you. Remember that your lifestyle and the condition of your home make an impact on your neighborhood, and your neighbors' perceptions about you. Good neighbors make life better, but always remember that neighborliness is a two-way street.

Holiday Treats and Ideas FOR KIDS

Easy Chocolate Fudge

What you need:

1 pkg. (8 squares) BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate

1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk

2 tsp. vanilla

Directions:

LINE 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan. Set aside.

MICROWAVE chocolate and milk in microwaveable bowl on HIGH 2 to 3 min. or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after 2 min.

STIR until chocolate is completely melted. Blend in vanilla and add-in's.

SPREAD into prepared pan.

REFRIGERATE 2 hours or until firm. Use foil handles to lift fudge from pan before cutting to serve.

Mini OREO Surprise Cupcakes

Makes 2 doz. or 24 servings

What You Need:

1 pkg. (2-layer size) chocolate cake mix

1 pkg. (8 oz.) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened

1 egg

2 Tbsp. sugar

48 Mini OREO Bite Size Chocolate Sandwich Cookies

1-1/2 cups thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping

Directions:

HEAT oven to 350° F. Prepare cake batter as directed on package; spoon 1/2 evenly into 24 paper or foil-lined muffin cups, filling each cup about 1/2 full. Beat cream cheese, egg and sugar until well blended. Top each with about 1-1/2 tsp. of the cream cheese mixture and 1 cookie. Cover with remaining cake batter.

BAKE 19 to 22 min. or until toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean. Cool 5 min.; remove from pans to wire racks. Cool completely. (There may be an indentation in top of each cupcake after baking.)

FROST cupcakes with COOL WHIP. Garnish with remaining cookies.

Holiday Tabletop Tree

Yummy graham crackers are turned into miniature Christmas trees!

Ingredients & Equipment Needed:

* Prep: 10 min | Total: 10 min

* Honey Maid Honey Grahams

* Green decorating icing

* Small red candies



Step By Step

1. CUT 2 graham each in half diagonally, slowly sawing back and forth with serrated knife to create 4 long triangles (adult assisted).

2. PIPE small amount of icing onto the long uncut side of each triangle.

3. PRESS icing-sides together to form a standing tree. Pipe outer edges of tree with additional icing. Press candies into icing to create ornaments. Set aside to dry.

Makes 1 tabletop tree decoration.

Christmas Crafts for Kids - Hands and Feet Reindeer Craft

An easy to make reindeer craft for classrooms, a Christmas party, or with your children at home.

You'll Need:

Large plastic eyes

Large red pom-poms (glitter pom-poms are a fun addition!)

Brown construction paper, craft foam or cardstock paper

Lighter brown or tan paper for the ears (optional)

Construction paper in any color; optional if you would like to glue the reindeer onto another piece of paper.

How to Make It:

First, with one shade of brown, cut the antlers and reindeer, using your child's handprint and shoeprint as a pattern.

Then, cut the ears with the other brown. We used a lighter shade of brown to add yet another layer to the ears but that's not necessary.

Glue the antlers together at a slight angle. Then add the ears and glue the head on last. Glue the eyes and nose to the head and add a smile with a marker.

More great ideas and recipes can be found at www.kraftfoods.com.

