



NEWS OF NOTE

Volume 1, Issue 2
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Maeneen Klein Resigns from the ELBA

On October 10th of this year Maeneen Klein announced her resignation from the ELBA Presidency for health reasons on the advice of her physician. Maeneen said she was scheduled for surgery in November and she recently learned of an unexpected complication that required her to reduce her workload.

In order to deal with Maeneen's resignation and other leadership issues the Board called a special meeting on October 21st. After a careful review of the bylaws the Board elected Jack LaPointe president to replace Maeneen. The Board also elected Rose Marie Poppler vice president to replace Martha Lide who had taken a position with the Lincoln County Government in September. Both appointments of President and Vice President run until the January 2010 membership meeting at which time the Nominations Committee will announce a slate to fill all vacancies.

The members of the ELBA Board relayed their thanks to Maeneen for her outstanding service, wished her well in her treatment and looked forward to a speedy return to our company when the time was right.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO DENVER



The Denver community is looking forward to the Christmas holidays this year with added anticipation because for the first time in its history, Santa will be riding into town accompanied by marching bands and floats. Denver's inaugural Christmas Parade, *A Parade of Trees*, will fill Highway 16 with kids, bands, floats, cars, beauty queens, and hometown heroes.

The East Lincoln Betterment Association (ELBA) along with its partner, Lincoln County is sponsoring the Christmas event on Saturday December 5th. The event kicks off with the parade on Highway 16 between Highway 73 and Triangle Circle, followed by a community sing and tree lighting ceremony. The parade committee has been hard at work for months soliciting sponsors, lining up parade entries, and finding the perfect community Christmas tree to decorate. Lincoln County will provide the supporting infrastructure with security, traffic control, emergency services, and communications on event day. The Denver Christmas Parade begins at 2:30PM and the award ceremony and tree lighting kicks off at 4:00PM. ELBA is currently accepting parade entries and sponsorships. Entry forms, sponsor commitments and parade route information are all available on line at www.elbanc.org. The event is filling up fast, so interested schools, churches, clubs and businesses are encouraged to submit their forms soon. All financial sponsors are entitled to have a tent at the tree lighting ceremonies following the parade.

For additional information about Christmas in Denver, contact Maeneen Klein at maeneen@yahoo.com or call 704-820-3980.

Coming Soon – A Chance to Win a Christmas Prize

Be watching the News@Norman in future editions for several chances to win a true collector's item – the first annual Denver Christmas Parade tee shirt. Special edition tees will be awarded for both The Christmas Quiz and the children's coloring contest.

The Christmas Quiz will test your knowledge of all things Christmas –y, so dust off your original edition of The Night Before Christmas and hum a few bars of your favorite carols and you might be wearing the “in” shirt of the holiday season.

Christmas is all about children, of all ages, and the coloring contest will provide a wonderful scene of the family tree to color and decorate with hoped for presents on every child's list for Santa. Tee shirts awarded by age group.

Contest information and winners will be announced weekly, starting in November.

Be Santa's Helper for a Day

Santa is coming . . .are you? The 1st Annual Denver Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting ceremony is set to bring all forms of Christmas entertainment to Denver for an afternoon of fun and fantasy for all ages.



The parade is scheduled for Saturday December 5th from 2:30pm – 4:30 pm and will take place on Highway 16 business between Hwy 73 and Triangle Circle.

An event of this magnitude takes lots of support, effort, coordination and resources. **That's where you come in.** The event committee has been hard at work for months getting sponsors, parade entries and the support services needed to make Santa's big day a grand success. But we can't do it alone. We need your help too.

ELBA members can ensure the best parade ever by giving 2 hours of time to this wonderful community occasion. We need:

Parade marshals - to take a position along the parade route and help direct folks to their viewing areas and provide information.

Staging area volunteers - where entries line up and get their parade entry numbers for judging.

Parking marshals – directing cars on the Denver Days site after the parade for the tree lighting and awards ceremony. (all traffic control **on** the highways will be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office)

Awards ceremony volunteers – to hand out song sheets, direct groups to viewing areas and return transportation.

To volunteer for parade day, please email us at Maeneen@yahoo.com or call 704-820-3980

Make it a day to remember.

EAST LINCOLN MAY LOSE OUR VOICE IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSION PRIMARY ELECTION

East Lincoln may lose its voice in the forthcoming Board of Commission Primary Election! The May 4, 2010 Primary election will be very important to the future of East Lincoln County because two (2) of the Lincoln County Board of Commission seats will be on the ballot!

The makeup of the Board of Commission for the last four (4) years has resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of administration and focus of affairs for not only the East, but for the entire County. The East Lincoln Betterment Association (ELBA) thinks that this should be the goal of every future Administration.

The Primary Election has for many years determined who will fill these seats because of the dominance of one party. ELBA does not take any political position so far as advocacy for any political party or candidate, but we do recognize that the competency, outlook and empathy for East Lincoln issues could change dependent on the individuals who win these seats.

First, ELBA encourages anyone who has not registered to vote should do so. Registration forms can be obtained from:

- Online at <http://www.co.lincoln.nc.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=181>
- Lincoln County Board of Elections Office, Room 202, Lincolnton (Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm)
- Our local Frances Soule Shanklin Library at 7837 Fairfield Forrest Road here in the Denver area (704-483-3589).

Second, ELBA encourages everyone to examine the qualification, platform and previous political history of each candidate.

Third, ELBA encourages everyone to vote in the Primary Election on May 4, 2010.

If any ELBA member, or anyone else who reads this newsletter, would like to get more information about the East Lincoln Political Action Committee or would like to support their program they should contact either;

- Lillian Barr by email at chair@elpac.org
- Jessica Lamb by email at vchair@elpac.org
- Telephone 704-489-1488 Ext. 251

Proposed Addition of Development Districts to the UDO

Lincoln County is diversified in population and exhibits many different levels of development and **infrastructure** as you move from west to east.

This infrastructure varies greatly as you travel across the four (4) sectors of the County: 1) West Lincoln; 2) Lincolnton; 3) East-Central; and 4) East Lincoln. West Lincoln has a largely rural and undeveloped character compared to the much denser and demanding development patterns and pressures of East Lincoln.

The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners (BOC) on August 17, 2009 and became effective on August 31, 2009. The UDO addresses only the basic zoning needs of the four sectors of the County listed above.

Shortly after the UDO became effective, the BOC directed Lincoln County Staff and the Planning Board to create additional standards for the growing sectors of the county beginning in the East because of its present and proposed stages of growth, infrastructure, and conservation efforts that include but are not limited to the following:

- Ability to ensure water resources are not polluted as a result of growth (Lake Norman & Mountain Island Lake)
- Ability to direct “smart growth” in areas that can support it in a manner which will ultimately shape the communities future.
- Existing areas of adequate transportation methods
- Completed NC 16 Business Corridor Vision Plan
- Existing and proposed interconnectivity of streets & commercial centers to reduce transportation congestion
- Protection of large Open Space areas and ability to provide additional Public Recreation areas
- Proposed Commercial / Industrial Construction Standards: building attractive, articulated, functional new buildings while being able to retrofit, rehabilitate and redevelop existing buildings, site designs, signage and landscaping.
- Proposed Small Area Plans:
 - Optimist Club Road
 - Old Plank Road
 - St. James Road
 - NC 150 / NC 16 Intersection
 - Campground/Forney Hill
 - St James/Will Proctor Intersection w/old NC16

The Planning Board recommended these additional standards be called “Development Districts,” and defined their purpose be to address the growth opportunities in the rapidly developing sectors of Lincoln County that are not addressed in the present UDO. The Planning Board further recommended that these Development Districts shall be in accordance with the Lincoln County Land Plan Guidelines that were adopted in August of 2007.

Development Districts will offer a more detailed type of guidance that will help East Lincoln retain it’s distinct charm and character and will better allow it to meet the continuing development pressures.

One of the Guiding Principal’s of the Lincoln County Land Use Plan states that the Land Use Plan shall be kept current and guide and direct zoning and growth decisions.

Other Guiding Principals as defined in the Land Use Plan include:

- Infrastructure shall direct growth - “**Smart growth**” shall be directed to areas of the County that have the basic physical systems to support it, such as roads, utilities, water and sewer, etc. in a manner which ultimately shapes our communities future.
- Provide for adequate transportation infrastructure to serve current & future populations - Provide for transportation methods (mass transit, roads, pedestrian sidewalks, trails, bicycle paths, etc.) for current and future populations to easily get around in our County.
- Community facilities (schools, libraries, parks) shall be considered when making land use decisions - Inspire a sense of community by allowing residents to live within walking distance of typical town amenities such as churches, schools, shops, and playgrounds. An added benefit of this would be to keep traffic volumes low and not pollute the air we breathe.
- Economic development opportunities shall be encouraged in target areas of the County – Provide incentives to attract international well known jobs and industry for the residents of our County, and allow them to build in designated areas close to our homes to decrease our everyday dependence for foreign oil and gasoline.
- The County’s natural beauty & resources shall be preserved - Preserve the many historic landmarks, buildings, and natural beauty of our County’s dwindling **open spaces** and connect them with a system of scenic highways, trails and bicycle paths. Ensure our water resources (Lake Norman & Mountain Island Lake) are not polluted as a result of our growth.

- Provide for well designed & well integrated developments - Encourage compact well designed and thought out developments (**Small Area Plans**) that fit into our overall land use plan and are compatible with the structures and areas they are built around.
- Develop appropriate regulations that guide density for both single and multi-family developments - Develop well thought out regulations that will be a guide to allow for the increased number of dwelling units (apartments, condominiums and homes) to enable more open space preservation.
- Allow for mixed-use development to occur in order to promote the integration of land uses, pedestrian accessibility and to reduce vehicle usage in the County - Ensure our land use zoning regulations will promote the preceding type of “**mixed use**” dwelling units to tie into our overall Land Plan and allow us easy access to mass transportation to enable us to go where we want and do the things we need and like to do such as walking to the grocery store, shopping. Movies, etc.
- Ensure Lincoln County remains an “affordable” place in which to build & live.

This work will be the first major addition to the UDO. Careful preparation of this District and its eventual boundaries by the Lincoln County Planning Board and municipal staff will determine the future success of using the UDO as a base document and providing the ability to build upon it as needed, not only in the East Lincoln sector, but in the three other sectors of the County as the population and infrastructure expands.

Please plan to attend the forthcoming Public Involvement Session to be announced to discuss and provide comment concerning these proposed Development Districts.

Carolina Thread Trail Project Update

The Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) is an ambitious project to establish a regional trail network that will eventually reach 15 counties and over 2 million people. The hiking/biking/paddling trails will link people, places, cities, towns and attractions. It will preserve our natural areas and will be a place for exploration of nature, culture, science and history. Lincoln County is actively planning for our part of this project. ELBA Board member Ray Holmes is a member

of the Lincoln County Trail Advisory Committee which will be responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of the Carolina Thread Trail project in Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Trail Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Lincoln Natural Resources Committee (LNRC).

The Carolina Thread Trail Project awarded Lincoln County a \$60,000 grant to plan for the trail in our County. ELBA contributed \$500 toward the required match for the grant. There have been several outreach activities to “get the word out” about the project – another open house forum to gather more input and educate the public about the project will be held at the end of July. Information booths about the project will be set up at the Apple Festival and Denver Days. The public input that has been received is being incorporated into a draft map of potential trails in our County which will be presented to the Lincoln County Commission in November.

If you would like to learn more about the Carolina Thread Trail project go to <http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org/>. If you would like to find out more about the project in Lincoln County and provide your input, please complete the on line survey at www.greenways.com/lincoln and click on Comment Form.

EAST LINCOLN BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION

E-Mail:

www.elbanc.org

We're on the Web!