

# Haw Creek

## Community Association Newsletter

### New Board Members?

Bob Pierce, who have served our association admirably, is stepping back. Alex Babek has agreed to serve as a board member in Bob's place. However, if you are interested in becoming a part of the board feel free to contact Chris Pelly.

### Connecting Moms

Attention moms of school-age (K-12) kids who live in the Haw Creek area: Hang out with friends old and new at a Haw Creek Girls' Night Out! If there's enough interest, we can make it a regular event, perhaps monthly. We can start by meeting at Ruby's and decide from there where we'll meet next. Date/time TBA. Please e-mail Pam Hecht at pamjh8@gmail.com if you're interested!

### Kindergarten Anyone?

Attention: Parents of Kindergarten Students. Attend a workshop for families that will explain the Kindergarten registration process. At this workshop you will receive a kindergarten readiness kit, children's book, and the Kindergarten Registration booklet. This booklet has registration information for Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools, and the three Charter Schools. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

January 7, 5:30-6:30 pm  
North Asheville Public Library

February 11, 10:00-11:00 am  
West Asheville Public Library

March 11, 3:30-4:30 pm  
Johnston Elementary

Call to reserve your spot  
828-225-5283

### Annual Meeting January 28th

Date: Thursday, Jan. 28th

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: St Johns Church  
290 Old Haw Creek Rd

Please join us for our annual meeting during which special guest Marcus Renner will discuss home energy efficiency options and programs available to Haw Creek homeowners. Mr. Renner, a building performance analyst with Asheville-based Conservations Pros and a leading expert on energy-efficiency, will present a talk on the how's and whys of home energy retrofitting.

With new programs and tax credits becoming available to homeowners, Mr. Renner will discuss:

- \* How energy is lost and gained in our homes
- \* The pros and cons of solar and geothermal
- \* Tax and utility incentives and credits
- \* Calculating return on investment
- \* The first steps every homeowner can take to begin saving immediately

Also at our annual meeting will be reports on the activities of our association, our budget for 2010, and elections for our board of directors for 2010. All Haw Creek residents are welcome.

--Chris Pelly

### 2010 Meeting Schedule

**Thurs, January 28th, 7:00pm**  
Location: St. Johns Church  
Agenda: New Board Elections

**Thurs, April 22nd, 7:00pm**  
Location: St. Johns Church  
Agenda: TBA

**Thurs, July 29th, 6:00pm**  
Annual BarBQue Dinner in  
Haw Creek Park

**Thurs, Oct 28th, 7:00pm**  
Location: St. Johns Church  
Agenda: Board Members  
Nominees

\*Any or all of the above are subject to change at any time. Please check calendar with each issue for any changes or check the website.

### Your Haw Creek Community Association Needs Your Support

Do you like reading the Haw Creek Newsletter? We like bringing you up to date on what we are doing. Help us keep going by achieving our best membership year ever! So, if you are reading this newsletter and have not yet paid Haw Creek Community Association dues for 2010, please show your support by sending a check for \$12 to HCCA, P.O. Box 9193, Asheville, NC 28815. If you have already paid 2010 dues, thank you for your support. For those who donated 'extra' with their dues, a big double thank you.

### 2010 Annual Dues Submission

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I value the HCCA and have enclosed my annual dues for 2010 of \$12.00.

\_\_\_\_ I have also enclosed a monetary donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

## From The President

Dear Neighbors,

With heating bills rising after a severe blast of winter, the timing is right to learn how we can make our homes more energy efficient. Our January 28th annual meeting program will offer ideas and information that can save money and reduce energy consumption. Please plan to join us to hear this important information.

A big thank you to the more than 250 Haw Creek families who supported our association with their membership dues in 2009. With your help and participation we can continue our work to make Haw Creek an ideal neighborhood.

Thank you,

Chris Pelly, President  
Haw Creek Community Association

## Master's Park Update



By Dick Meehan

After meeting with city leaders this past fall, a time line has been established for design work on Masters Park. Once the design phase is ready for public review and comment, we will share this information. Following this we should be ready to begin trail and site clearing work on our way to getting our park up and running and usable.

Masters Park Design Schedule:

- Task 1 - Field Site Visit - November 2009
- Task 2 - Preliminary Design - December 2009
- Task 3 - Review/Comment on Design - January/February 2010
- Task 4 - Final Design - April/May 2010

## Connecting East Asheville

Board members have begun meeting with leaders from other East Asheville neighborhoods to begin work on seeking to build continuous sidewalks on Tunnel Road from Avon Road at the library east, we hope, all the way to the new veterans shelter in Oteen. At this point the group has only met a couple times for brain storming. Marsha Stickford, from the city, has been at the meetings as well and been helpful in supplying maps and guidance. If you are interested in helping with this cause please contact Marianna Bailey at 299-8251 or by e-mail, wmbailey@charter.net.

*continued from back page*

## • Boys on ballfield

The boys had already stopped the game. They had never seen the old man so upset, and as they gathered there at the front porch, Mr. Wright told them of the terrible attack on the American Naval fleet at Pearl Harbor.

The boys had never heard of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. All they knew about Hawaii was that they grew pineapples there.

As Mr. Wright continued talking, his voice cracked and tears filled his eyes. He said, "Boys, our nation will now enter into a great global war. The oldest of you will probably enter the military soon, and the rest of you when you are old enough." By now tears were flowing down his face as he continued "I'm afraid some of you will go and will not come back."

The old man's prophecy proved tragically true. Of the 15 or so boys there that day, five gave their lives to protect our freedom. Johnny Cannon was lost at sea with the attack and sinking of his merchant marine ship. Bruce Carscaddon died on the Anzio Beachhead. Hugh Jolley was killed in a military air crash. Paul Taylor died on a battlefield in Italy, and Elmer Lawing, Army Ranger, who at the age of 20 had just attained the rank of lieutenant, was killed on a battlefield in Germany.

All of the boys on the ballfield that day became part of the war effort. Several were wounded in action, allowed to heal and returned to active duty. Thankfully, after the war's end they returned home.

Tonight, in this room we have the privilege of having two of the boys who were on the ballfield and witnessed the tears of Wallace Wright.

First, let me introduce my father, Roy Gasperson. At 14, he was probably the youngest boy at the ballfield. He entered the navy in early 1945 and had just finished basic training as the war ended. I also have here tonight my uncle, Herman Gasperson. Being two years older than my dad, he was only 18 years old in 1943 when he was thrust into some of the heaviest combat missions of the Pacific theater, fighting in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies, and the Philippines. Herman's unit, the 41st Army Infantry, entered Hiroshima, Japan just a few days after the atomic bombing of that city. Herman was wounded three times in combat and received the Purple Heart with two clusters.

Now as we rise to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag that represents our great nation, let us remember the men and women who have shed their precious blood to keep our nation free and strong.

## Haw Creek Community Association 2009 Board of Directors

President	Chris Pelly	95 Cisco Road	298-5299	cpelly@buncombe.main.nc.us
Vice President	Beth Jezek	62 Cisco Road	299-0914	pastacook@att.net
Treasurer	Vickie Gaddy	440 Governors View Road	275-2680	vjones@charter.net
Co-Treasurer	Calvin Underwood	7 Munn Dr	230-6317	calvin.underwood@charter.net
Newsletter	Amy McCrea	433 Governors View Road	299-1831	amymccrea@charter.net
	Ed Seel	107 Maple Drive	298-5413	edandpat@bellsouth.net
Website	Jennifer Spector	90 Bell Rd	296-1506	jendavespector@yahoo.com
	Bob Pierce	12 Munn Dr	298-6723	rmp342006@yahoo.com
Park Liaison	Dick Meehan	48 Alpine Way	299-0442	rbm2@charter.net

**DUES:** Twelve dollars (\$12) paid once each calendar year. Make your check to HCCA and mail to: HCCA; P.O. Box 9193; Asheville, NC 28815

Please include: member names, postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership in the Association shall be available to residents, as well as property owners, in the Haw Creek community and there shall be one class of membership.

Visit our new website at [www.hawcreeknc.org](http://www.hawcreeknc.org).

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Haw Creek

### Elementary School

<http://www.buncombe.k12.nc.us/hces/site/default.asp>

- Jan 25th Teacher Work Day has been moved to Jan 28th.
- Feb 9th Third Grade Math Night at 5:30
- Feb 16th Early Release
- Feb 19th - Movie Night "Monsters Vs. Aliens" Movie is free we sell concessions.
- Feb 22nd No School
- March 12th No School

## Charles C. Bell Elementary School

<http://buncombe.schoolwires.com/ccbes>

- Jan 25th Teacher Work Day has been moved to Jan 28th.
- Feb 10th PTO Meeting 8:00am
- Feb 16th Early Release
- Feb 17th Wonderful Wednesday, 1:45pm 2nd Grade performs
- Feb 22nd No School
- March 11th PTO Meeting 4:45pm
- March 12th No School
- March 17th Wonderful Wed, Sign Language Club performs

## Evergreen Community Charter School

[www.evergreencs.org](http://www.evergreencs.org)

It time for CAFÉ (Caring Artists for Evergreen) Evergreen community Charter School's benefit concert and silent auction. This year celebrates CAFÉ's 7th year. We've made some changes: the location is The Venue on Market Street. The theme is Lucky Number 7. Katharine Whalen of the Squirrel Nut Zippers will perform with her 7-piece band Lucky. There will be a dynamic special collection of 7 fine art pieces and an installation by sculptor Jimmy O'Neal.

We haven't changed: the affordable art auction that includes wearable, functional and visual art, crafts, products and services from local artists and businesses, delicious local food and drink from the Asheville's finest breweries and eateries.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door and will be available online at [evergreencs.org](http://evergreencs.org) or call 298-2173.

## Haw Creek Natives:

### Interview with Mary (Penley) and Edwin Whitaker

By Chris Pelly

Raised at the foot of Piney Mountain in Haw Creek, Mary Whitaker remembers the excitement of winning the 1936 Mountain Dance and Folk Festival clogging competition. Just fourteen years old, Mary's prize for her team was to perform between movies on the stage of the Plaza Theatre in downtown Asheville. Known today as the Fine Arts Theatre, clogging at the Plaza was a big deal for a farm girl from Haw Creek.



Mary Penley (left) and Edith Stroupe in 1938 'on the town' in front of the S&W Cafeteria.

In the 10th grade a new boy showed up in Mary's class. Edwin Whitaker, the son and grandson of farmers from near Taylor Ranch in Fairview, had moved to town so his father could take a depression-era salaried job at Swannanoa Cleaners. Mary reports their first date was to downtown Asheville where Edwin took her up on the roof of the Grove Arcade to see the view and enjoy rooftop dancing.

After graduating from Haw Creek, both got jobs at Sayles Bleachery which allowed them to get married, sixty-eight years ago, on April 27th, 1941. Edwin was drafted in 1942 and away until war's end. "Sixteen of us boys from Asheville went into the service together and stayed together the entire war." reports Edwin.

Landing in Normandy on D-Day, Edwin's First Army Division made their way across France, Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany before their historic meeting with Russian soldiers at the Elbe River near Berlin in April, 1945. "At the Battle of the Bulge we nearly froze to death in waist deep snow."

Berlin in April, 1945. "At the Battle of the Bulge we nearly froze to death in waist deep snow."

Edwin and Mary and three other couples returned to Europe in 1984 to retrace the First Army's route. He was able to identify many of the landmarks of their campaign of forty years earlier.

While Edwin was serving overseas Mary continued work at Sayles Bleachery and was able to purchase a small Haw Creek home to which Edwin returned after the war. Following the war, he returned to Sayles and worked there forty-three years until his retirement.

Edwin and Haw Creek neighbor Bennett Warren started Haw Creek Little League in 1957. In a field leased from Bob Reese for \$1 a year, they graded a pasture that today is known as Bullman Park but was then known as Williams Field. From their leadership, the joy of playing baseball and softball has been made available to generations of east Asheville boys and girls.



Edwin and Mary, January, 2010



Edwin and Mary on their wedding day, April 27th, 1941

Know a Haw Creek native with a story to tell? Call Chris Pelly at 298-5299

Haw Creek Community Association  
PO Box 9193  
Asheville NC 28815

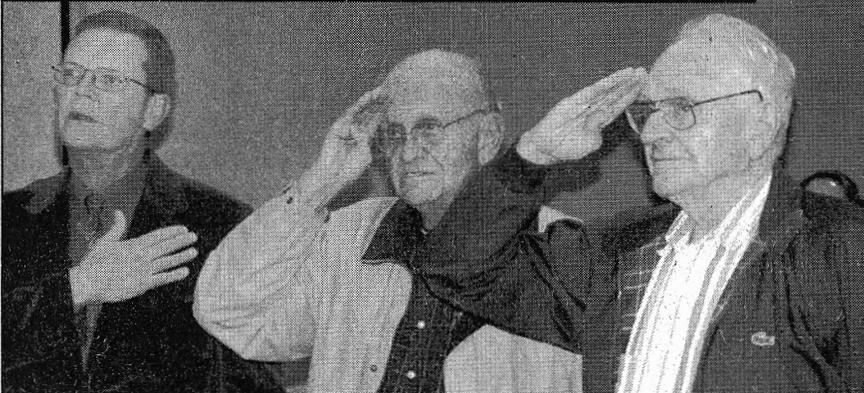
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### Next Meeting

Thurs, Jan 28th, 7:00pm  
Location: St. Johns Church

Vol. 82 / No. 209 Tryon, N.C. 28782 Friday, December 11, 2009 Only 50 cents

## THE BOYS ON THE BALLFIELD



Polk County commissioner Ray Gasperson (left) with his father, Roy Gasperson (center), and his uncle, Herman Gasperson, led the county in the pledge of allegiance Monday. Gasperson honored his father and uncle, both WWII veterans, by telling a story on the 68th anniversary of D-Day. (photo by Leah Justice)

### Polk's Gasperson shares family story of D-Day

Polk County commissioner Ray Gasperson honored his WWII veteran father and uncle, Roy and Herman Gasperson, during a county board meeting on Monday, which was D-Day.

Roy and Herman Gasperson and other family members traveled from Asheville to attend the meeting. Roy and Herman, along with Ray, led the county in the pledge of allegiance.

Gasperson told the story of what his then young father and uncle were doing when Pearl Harbor was attacked 68 years ago.

Following is the story Gasperson told Monday.

#### Pearl Harbor Day

Today, December 7, we remember the event 68 years ago that plunged our nation into war. The account of the attack on Pearl Harbor is well known, but tonight I wish to tell you about what happened on a ballfield in a pastoral setting up the mountain from here near Asheville in the Chunn's Cove and Haw Creek communities. The ballfield, ringed by the gentle mountains of Beaucatcher, Sunset, and

*continued at right*

## World War II Comes to Haw Creek

*How the Pearl Harbor attack affected Haw Creek, a remembrance by Ray Gasperson.*

As time marches on, there will come a day when the brave veterans of World War II are no longer with us. We think this reprint from the Tryon Daily Bulletin as told by Haw Creek native Ray Gasperson is worth sharing with the Haw Creek community. --Chris Pelly

Reprinted with permission from the Tryon Daily Bulletin. Originally printed December 11th, 2009.

*continued from left*

### • Boys on ballfield

Piney, was owned by Wallace Wright and it was a magnet to the 15 to 20 teenage boys who used it regularly. If the weather was warm, it was baseball they played. During the cooler days of fall and winter, it was a rousing game of tag football.

December 7, 1941 dawned cool and crisp with clear skies over Beaucatcher, Sunset, and Piney. Everything seemed normal. After chores on family farms were completed, the boys attended Sunday school, worship, and dinner with their families. Then, it was time to *play ball!* They all either hiked or rode their bikes to the ballfield.

Mid-afternoon locally was early morning over the Hawaiian islands. When the boys got to the ballfield, Mr. Wright was in his cabin sitting in his easy chair, enjoying the Sunday paper, and listening to the radio in the background as usual. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon, as the boys were fighting it out on the gridiron, that the first news flashes of the attack on Pearl Harbor started coming over on the radio.

Quickly, Mr. Wright got up and went to his front porch and began to yell for his son Blanton. Blanton, realizing that something was wrong, began to run to his father. When he got close enough to hear, his father told him, "Blanton. go get all of the boys!"

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