The Town of Wynnedale Newsletter

Wynnedale News & Views

"One Newsletter for One Wynnedale"

Spring is Coming – really!

Easter Sunday is March 23
Passover is 4/19 to 4/27

March 2008 Edition

Letter from the Editor

Spring is here!

By the time this newsletter reaches your home, Spring will have officially arrived and Easter will be just a few days away. There may still be some cold days and even snow to come, but the official passage of Winter into Spring will take place on March 20th regardless of precipitation or temperature.

Spring brings a new sense of awareness of our surroundings. It fosters a sort of renewal or re-birth; an awakening of the dormant spirit much like that of the buds on the trees and return of the migrant birds. All of this "newness" tends to imbue us with hope; to lighten our steps and our hearts.

There is also something about the longer days and brighter sunshine that makes many of us embark on a mission to clean, de-clutter and beautify our homes and yards. In shedding our heavy winter coats, gloves and boots, we are much like our furred and feathered friends, who shed their extra coverings and prepare to get busy with all the activities their springtime world demands.

As the days grow warmer we will start to move our focus and activities outdoors -
With that in mind, we would like to get your feedback - via email - on several ideas:

1. **Who among our residents is interested in having a "community" garage sale?**
2. **It has been suggested that we have a Town Beautification Contest!**
   The point of which would be to inspire us all to work on cleaning and beautifying our yards, with perhaps the town board members being the "judges" and bragging rights and ribbons awarded to the top 3 in one or more categories! (Maybe even a winner's flag to display?)
3. **Are you interested in participating in a street fair for our neighborhood and immediately surrounding areas?**

Please voice your opinions and/or offer other suggestions by emailing me at: dransom13@Yahoo.com.

As we age and the world changes – our relationships with our family,
friends and neighbors become more valued, precious and meaningful.
Community events can help us become more aware of and connected to our fellow residents.
Please let us know what you think!

Denise Owens, Editor

****

"Our mission is to keep the newsletter vibrant and relevant while using it to maintain a strong bond of community in our town; fostering a sense of inclusion for all by living up to our new motto "One Newsletter for One Wynnedale".

Our Young Wynnedaleans!
By Cheri Moore

Juliana Messina, a 2nd grader at Crooked Creek Elementary School, was the winner of our "Young Wynnedalean Artist" contest and is shown here being presented her framed award certificate and $25 Gift Card to Michael's Arts & Crafts, donated by the owner of "County Cork Construction" Randy Duffin.

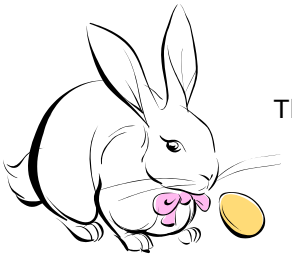
Left to Right: Cheri Moore, Juliana and her mother, Robin Reagan

More "Young Wynnedalean" News!

Rebecca Kincaid, middle daughter of John Kincaid and Mary Soper, has been accepted into the IU School of Medicine for the class starting in the fall of 2008. Rebecca will graduate from McDaniel College, Westminster Maryland, in May. She is a graduate of North Central High School where she was a Counterpoint.

Katya Herring celebrated her 9th adoption anniversary on Feb. 25th, 2008. Katya is a 4th grader at St. Richard's School and has been on the high academic honor roll for both the Fall and Spring trimesters. Kat also recently earned her green belt in karate.

Congratulations Juliana, Rebecca & Katya – we are all very proud of you!



Ever wonder where the Easter Egg Hunt tradition started?

The Easter Bunny is a rabbit-spirit. Long ago, he was called the "Easter Hare", hares and rabbits have frequent multiple births so they became a symbol of fertility. The custom of an Easter egg hunt began because children believed that hares laid eggs in the grass. The Romans believed that "All life comes from an egg." Christians consider eggs to be "the seed of life" and so they are symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(***This is according to "About.com")***

"On The Town"

Town Council News

By John Kincaid

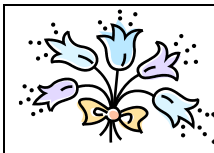
Council report February & March 2008

New Light Posts: At the January 08 council meeting the possibility of upgrading the town's street lights was discussed. The town has 18 street lights in the south part of town and 3 in the north. Several lamps on IPL poles and private security lights supplement lighting in Wynnedale. The lamps in the south part of town have been installed over many years and are maintained by the town. The lamps along Paula and Hidden Orchard Lanes were installed by IPL in the 70's and are maintained by IPL. Currently Wynnedale pays $121 per month for street lights' electrical power.

To investigate possible upgrading of the street lights council member Russ Richey met with Donna Senese, Lighting Representative for IPL. IPL subsequently submitted a bid of approximately $4,000.00 to replace each light post. This amount includes the price of the pole and its installation. The lamps in the proposal would be 18' black fiberglass smooth columns with 150W bulbs. New buried electric cable would be used and new foundations would likely be poured. The monthly service fee would be $27.31 per light post, which includes maintenance and electrical power.

The $70,000 amount for the installation exceeds the town's budget capability, at least for a single phase project. Options including installing several additional IPL supplied poles along Paula and Hidden Orchard Lanes, and repainting poles in the south part of town will be considered by the council over the next few months. Council member Jon Kindred is investigating grants which might allow Wynnedale to purchase a limited number of solar powered street lights.

Council Members: Judy Hall, President; Mary Koers, Clerk-Treasurer; John Kincaid, Jon Kindred, Mike Owens and Russ Richey



In Care & Concern

By Janet Gibson

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of two of our neighbors/family members:

- Mark & Janet Walker recently lost his mother, Margaret Walker. Her services were held the week of February 25th.

- Sue Gilfoy's mother, Ruth Densmore Heinmiller, passed away on Friday, Feb. 22 at age 99.

Please keep our friends and neighbors and their families in your hearts and prayers.

Also, please remember to notify me of any illnesses or deaths in our town.
You may call or email me with any news you have in this vain,
and I will make sure we get it in the next edition.

You can contact me at: 293-5597 or hegibson@iquest.net

Safe & Sound

"Keeping ourselves and our homes physically safe and financially sound"

By Denise Owens – Editor/Insurance & Financial Specialist

Spring Rains Bring More Than Flowers: They Bring Floods!

Many are under the impression that they only need Flood Insurance if they live in a "Flood Zone" and that those are only near large bodies of water.

Not true!

According to information on the FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Association:

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states.

However, all floods are not alike. Some floods develop slowly, sometimes over a period of days. But flash floods can develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes and without any visible signs of rain. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water that carries rocks, mud, and other debris and can sweep away most things in its path. Overland flooding occurs outside a defined river or stream, such as when a levee is breached, but still can be destructive. Flooding can also occur when a dam breaks, producing effects similar to flash floods.

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds, or low-lying ground that appears harmless in dry weather can flood. Every state is at risk from this hazard.

What does Flood Insurance Cover?

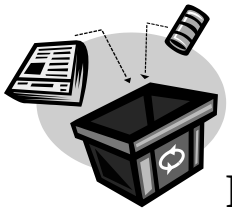
Flood Insurance covers damage to your home, business or personal property caused by:

- *The overflow of inland or tidal waters*
- *The unusual and accumulation or run off of surface waters from any source and*
- *Mudslides that are proximately caused by flooding.*

It can also coverage for items in basements like furnaces, air conditioners, hot water heaters, food freezers, clothes washer & dryers, unfinished dry walls and sheet rock and related fiberglass insulation, foundation elements, sump pumps, heat pumps and electrical junctions and circuit breaker boxes.

Who can buy Flood Insurance? In communities that participate in the NFIP, National Flood Insurance Program, flood insurance is available to all property owners and renters but rates vary by "zone", which is based largely on the likelihood and history of flooding.

Check with your insurance agent to see what a policy would cost and verify what zone you are in – most communities in Indiana are eligible for Flood Insurance but the rate and coverage depends upon the zone in which your property is located.



Plant a Tree, Save a Tree

"Spring is here - so let's talk about trees"

by Sue Gilfoy

In our last newsletter, as a New Year's resolution, I suggested we each try to recycle more. Since I am a firm believer in practicing what one preaches I decided to start in February recycling every newspaper, magazine, catalog and all junk mail we received during the month. I found myself carting an average of three large shopping bags full a week to any one of several church recycle bins I pass each week.

I figure I saved 2-3 trees in just one month using the statistics that a 48" high pile of paper saves one tree. Multiply that by Wynnedale's 90+ occupied households and, if we all joined the effort, our little community could be saving 180 or more trees a month. Awesome! It also helps any school or church you chose earn money so everyone wins!

While I'm still in a talking trees mode I will also suggest that we all plant a tree. If each Wynnedale household planted one tree this spring, we'd not only have a greener, more beautiful environment but cleaner air as trees help that effort in several ways.

While I'm on my soapbox I will note that hardly a day goes by anymore that we don't see an article or two about some aspect of our environment. A new vocabulary is emerging. Words like carbon footprint, eco-friendly, tree-hugger and many more are becoming part of our everyday language. One could say these are all planting seeds for change.

In the months to come I will try to help our neighborhood find ways to save resources by recycling. I hope you will in turn pass the information on to friends and family. There are safe ways to get rid of old batteries, paint cans that still have paint in them, plastics, cardboard; even prescription medicines. No longer can we simply pour these potentially dangerous items down the drain. For now I will suggest hanging a large plastic bag on a nail or hook in your garage and, instead of throwing batteries away, put them in the bag. In the coarse of six months or so you could possible have 20-30 or more which can be recycled. The same goes for plastic bags. In one month I collected two huge bags that did not go in the landfill. (Walmart has bins inside the front door of their stores where you can leave sacks full of plastic bags)

We are short of space in this issue but in our next newsletter I will have a list of where all and various materials can be taken. If you need to know sooner, give me a call, I may know already, but if not, I will find an answer. Last, but not least, if living an Eco-Friendly life is something you are interested in, I will mention that there is a new book just out by Ed Begley Jr. titled "Living like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life" which can give you lots of suggestions. See you next month!

School News

Washington Township

Mar. 31 - April 4
Spring Break (no school)
Watch MSDWT Superintendent's Overview Show

Crooked Creek Elementary

Thursday, March 13th. Crooked Creek will welcome Harcourt families whose children will attend Crooked Creek this fall. Babysitting will be provided and refreshments will be served.

PTO

The PTO needs to develop its own mission and vision in order to agree on and prioritize the many opportunities that are available to help kids at Crooked Creek. There are many questions that parents, teachers, staff and the community would like to discuss. You will have that opportunity at a half-day, Saturday morning planning session on March 15th. The workshop will be held at The Children's Museum. The PTO is looking for a diverse group of people (moms, dads, grandparents, guardians, etc.) to develop a PTO mission and vision.

Spelling Bee

The Marion County Regional Spelling Bee Championship will be held at the Children's Museum on March 15th. Fifth grader Andrew Finnell who is one of nine finalists who qualified will represent Crooked Creek.

Mar. 13 PTO Meeting, 7:00 pm
Mar. 14 Report Cards go home
Mar. 18, 19 Kindergarten Conferences (no school for Kindergarten.)
Mar. 21 Honors programs
April 10 CC Open House

Westlane Middle School

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night – March 11
Westlane Honor's Celebration - March 25 – 7pm

Northview Middle School

All 5th Graders are invited to the NORTHVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING OPEN HOUSE - TUESDAY, MARCH 11 6:30-8:00 (students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

North Central High School

Did You Know?

You can track your student's grades and attendance, add lunch money to his/her account, pay book rental and purchase gym clothes, find a daily calendar of events, and much more by visiting NC's website: nchs.cc
North Central Counterparts are participating in a State Competition at Lawrence Central - Sat., March 15

PTO General Meeting Monday, March 10, 2008 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Room H193

Coffee with Mr. Quandt Friday, April 18, 2008 7 A.M., Room H193
Take a few moments to enjoy a cup of coffee and chat with Principal Quandt and other parents.

Oral History Project Features Veterans

United States History students will have the opportunity to learn about World War II and the Korean War by interviewing military veterans. Veterans of the Vietnam War are also invited to participate in this oral history project.

This program will be held Thursday, March 27, 2008. A luncheon featuring music of the 1940's and 1950's will be a part of the celebration. Vietnam War veterans will meet with students on Thursday, April 24, 2008. A brunch buffet and concert of 1960's and 1970's music will be a part of this day. Any veteran who would like to be invited to participate in either program should contact: Mrs. Lynn Slivka at 259-5301, ext. 5803 or lslivka@msdwt.k12.in.us.

Grade 11 College Night

Learn more about the college application process and receive your key college resource guide, The College Application Book, by attending "Inside the College Admission Office" on Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.

All juniors and their parents should plan to attend.

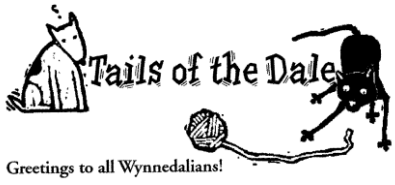
St. Monica Catholic School - Spring Break – March 29 – April 6

Bethel Nursery School

Bethel Nursery School is currently registering children for the 2008-09 school year. Bethel offers half- day classes for children ages 2- 5. Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in our classrooms. Bethel Nursery School is located at 5252 West 52nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana and is a part of Bethel United Methodist Church Please call 293- 1555 for more information.

Have you been awarded an honor or recognition at your school? Are you involved in a special project?

Please tell us about it.If your school was not listed or there is information you would like to add, please contact Charlotte Talley at (317) 299-7127 or **talley-charlotte@sbcglobal.net**



"A Sad Tail" *By Sue Gilfoy*

The Humane Society's announcement that they will no longer take in strays could turn out to affect many of us who love and rescue animals. In the four years we have lived in Wynnedale we have taken in three strays left to roam this area. Always scared, hungry and very cold these animals are just the tip of an iceberg of discarded animals we may soon have on our doorsteps. Of the three dogs we cared for temporarily we found a loving home for one and had to take the others to the Humane Society, hoping they would find either the dog's owners or a new home.

As this issue goes to press the city is still wrestling with how to deal with the approximately 5,000 animals the Humane Society will be turning away. It may seem like an unpopular suggestion but if you do not have a pet, please consider adopting one. They offer not only devoted companionship but also a great level of security for young and old alike.

In the 3/7/08 article in the Star, Marion County Public Safety Director Scott Newman said that the goal of the city's efforts is to prevent people from letting strays loose on the streets which could lead to packs of feral dogs foraging in trash cans for food, disrupting traffic and creating new unwanted dog populations. Hopefully a solution will be found for this problem.

Chicken Fajita Soup

Ingredients

1 pound thin chicken cutlets, cut into thin strips
Juice of 2 limes, divided
1 tablespoon coriander
1 tablespoon cumin
Salt Hot sauce to taste
6 flour tortillas (6- to 8-inches in diameter)
2 handfuls cilantro leaves, roughly chopped
1 ripe avocado, diced (optional)
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese (optional)
1/2 cup sour cream (optional)
Add freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
3 large or 4 medium bell peppers, seeds removed and sliced
1 to 2 large red onions, sliced
3 large cloves garlic, grated or finely chopped
6 sprigs of thyme, leaves removed from stems
1 cup Mexican beer, or an additional cup chicken stock
1 15-ounce can stewed tomatoes
1 quart chicken stock

Yields: 4 servings

Preparation

In a shallow bowl combine the chicken strips with the juice of 1 lime, coriander, cumin, salt and pepper. Let the chicken marinate while you cut the veggies for the soup.

- Place a large soup pot over medium-high heat with 2 turns of the pan vegetable oil, about 2 tablespoons. Heat the oil until it just starts to smoke and carefully add the marinated chicken to the pot, spreading it out in an even layer (the oil can have a nasty attitude and spit at you so be careful). Let it brown up completely on one side before moving the pieces.
- Add the peppers, onion, garlic and thyme to the pot and cook a couple of minutes, until the veggies just start to get tender. Add the beer or stock, scraping up any brown bits on the bottom of the pot; then the stewed tomatoes, chicken stock and some hot sauce to taste. Bring up to a bubble and simmer while you prepare the tortillas.

If you have a gas cooking range, turn the flame to medium and, using tongs, place the tortilla right on top of the flame. Turn it and flip it until it starts to blister on both sides -- ***don't walk away, this needs your full attention!***
If you don't have a gas range, place a medium to large dry skillet over high heat and, working with one tortilla at a time, blister them in the skillet on both sides. As you blister each tortilla, stack & wrap them in a kitchen towel to keep them warm & pliable.
Once all the tortillas have been blistered, cut the stack in half, stack the two halves on top of each other and slice into short thin strips. Divide the strips between 4 serving bowls and reserve while you finish the soup.
Add more hot sauce, salt and pepper, to taste. Ladle the soup over the tortillas and top with some cilantro, diced avocado, additional lime juice, shredded cheddar and/or sour cream.

Calling all cooks, young and old and anywhere in between!
We are still looking for recipes to share. Several of you indicated that a neighborhood cookbook would be wonderful. We cannot put together a cookbook without you.
Everyone is welcome to send in his or her favorite recipe.
Please e-mail to talley-charlotte@sbcglobal.net. We look forward to hearing from you. Bon appetite!

Upcoming Washington Township School Board Elections

Did you know that research consistently shows that public school quality has a very large impact on house prices? How well students achieve in Washington Township should be your concern regardless of whether you have school-age children or your children attend a private school. In one study of the impact of "grading" of schools, more than $9,000 in value was created for houses in districts with an A vs. B grade. This effect was magnified in higher income neighborhoods and for larger homes.

The Washington Township School Board plays a vital role in achieving the township's vision for top performing schools. Washington Township is a mature school district with little population growth over the past 20 years in contrast to other nearby, fast-growing areas. Given that state school appropriations are increased annually based on growth, Washington Township's state funding has, in effect, been declining due to inflation. Proposed property tax changes could result in Marion County schools experiencing an additional 5% drop in state funding.

After 17 months of study, the 5 person school board recently made the painful decision to close Harcourt School and the Wyandotte Early Childhood Center at the end of this school year. It is likely a middle school will also be closed in the near future. The May 6th school board election for 3 board positions offers an opportunity for you to influence the leadership of this important group. The five candidates running for the board propose significantly different recommendations for addressing the important challenges Washington Township faces.

As long as the Washington Township district remains competitive, neighborhoods remain vibrant and healthy by attracting young families, businesses and tax-paying employees. No coincidence that good schools also mean growing home values.

Robin Reagan and Frank Messina will be hosting a 7:00pm coffee and dessert reception, at their home – 4260 Roland Road, Wednesday, March 26th to meet candidates for the May 6th election.

If you are interested in attending, contact Robin or Frank by email at fcmessina@hotmail.com for further information.

What's Behind the Property Tax Crisis?

By Larry DeBoer, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University.

(This article appeared in full form in the Feb 2008 newsletter, ActionLines, of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, of which Wynnedale is a member. A condensed version of the article is presented here by Town Council member John Kincaid)

In 2007 the average increase in homeowner property tax bills was **24%**, before the end-of-year rebates. The increases were larger in Indianapolis. **Why did homeowner taxes go up?**

For decades homeowners got a tax break by houses being under-assessed relative to business property. In 1998 the Indiana Supreme Court directed that assessments had to be based on predicted selling prices. The 2002-03 re-assessment was based on predicted market values and the tax bills on many older homes jumped. The Legislature responded with a tax reform package that increased property tax relief payments to homeowners by about a billion dollars. Huge increases in property tax bills were reduced to just "big" increases. The share of the state budget devoted to property tax relief kept growing and the Legislature finally capped the amount. Capping the amount of the state's budget which could be devoted to property tax relief caused property taxes to increase by about **4%**.

The 2002 tax reform called for gradual elimination property tax on business inventories. Inventory taxes ceased in 2007. The need to replace those lost tax revenues accounted for another **4%** of the increased in homeowners property tax bills. The Indiana Supreme Court directed that property tax assessments be adjusted based on selling prices. Many counties had not properly updated property assessments and when those were re-done the distorted values of business and homes which had come about had to be corrected. Correcting the assessment increased the homeowner's share of property tax burden and accounts for **10%** of the 24% total change.

The final **6%** of the rise came from property tax rates which had been increased to fund local needs such as government directed construction projects. Homeowners' tax bills increased mostly due to lessening of the tax burden on businesses and lessening of the amount of the state budget which could be devoted to property tax relief. Large increases in government spending were not the main cause of the property tax increase.

For Your Health!

Health Corner Church Newsletter Article from Saint Ann, MO. - researched and submitted by Cassandre Wallace

When you have diabetes, taking care of your feet is very important. Those with diabetes are more vulnerable to foot problems because the disease can damage the nerves and reduce blood flow to the feet. The American Diabetes Association has estimated that one in five people with diabetes, who seek medical care, do so for foot problems.

By taking care of your feet, most serious problems can be prevented.

Here are some tips to follow:

1. **Wash and dry your feet daily**. Use mild soap, warm water and pat your skin dry – do not rub! Thoroughly dry your feet. After washing, use lotion on your feet to prevent cracking – **Do Not** put lotion between your toes!
2. **Examine your feet each day**. Check the tops and bottoms of your feet. Have someone else look if you cannot see them. Check for cracked skin. Look for blisters, cuts, scratches, or other sores. Check for redness, increased warmth, or tenderness when touching any area of your feet. Check for ingrown toenails, corns or calluses. If you get a blister or sore from your shoes, **DO NOT "POP" IT**. Apply a bandage and wear a different pair of shoes.
3. **Take care of your toe nails**. It is best if a podiatrist (foot doctor) cuts your toenails. If you get the OK from your doctor to cut your own toenails: Cut them after bathing, when they are soft; cut them straight across; avoid cutting into the corner of your toes.
4. **Be careful when exercising**. Walk and exercise in comfortable shoes. **DO NOT** exercise when you have open sores on your feet.
5. **Protect your feet with shoes and socks**. **NEVER** go barefoot. **Always** protect your feet by wearing shoes and hard-soled slippers of footwear. **Avoid shoes with high heals and pointed toes**. **Avoid open-toed shoes or sandals**. Try on new shoes with the type of sock you usually wear. Look and feel inside your shoes before putting them on, to make sure there are no foreign objects or rough areas. **Avoid tight shoes**. Wear natural-fiber socks (cotton, wool or cotton-wool blend). Wear special shoes if recommended by your health care provider. Wear shoes/socks that will protect your feet from various weather conditions (cold, moisture, etc.) **Make sure your shoes fit properly.** If you have neuropathy (nerve damage), you may not notice that your shoes are too tight!

Spring is Tornado Season – Be Prepared!

- **Know where the safest place in your home is and rehearse the plan to gather there and when!**
- **Consider a generator if you have health needs that require electricity.**
- **Get a weather radio – they are not very expensive and really handy to keep up on impending storms.**
- **Have a cell phone charged & nearby plus keep an old fashioned analog phone – digitals do not work in a power outage!**
- **Know the emergency contact numbers for your area – put 911 on speed dial!**
- **Keep a flashlight and fresh batteries on every level of your home – especially by your bed!**
- **Keep bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Dried fruits and trail mix are great in an emergency.**
- **Know how to get your garage door up & down manually. You could be trapped inside if the power goes out!**

Calendar Items & Notices:

Our Town Directory is woefully out of date!

We have had residents move away and new ones move in since the last one was printed, and we have children listed that are long grown and on their own! (Special thanks to Bruce Ranger for keeping up and sharing his database!)

We plan to go to press with an updated directory in May, 2008.

We'd love to have your correct information. But if we do not get any new information for your family – we will assume the information we have is correct or that you do not wish to be listed if you are "new" to Wynnedale & not currently in the directory.

We will need you to check your current directory and verify your information is correct. If you have updates you would like made to your existing listing or if you are not listed at all, please send your information to me at: Dransom13@Yahoo.com

We list the addresses and names of the occupants and the contact telephone number. This year we'd like to add cell phones (may be all we have or needed in an emergency) and current email addresses, for those that do not one listed now.

The Next Town Board Meeting: Meeting Time and Location Change:
Effective Feb 2008, the time and day for the monthly **Town Council** meetings has been changed to
7 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
(The time had previously been 7:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday).
The location has been changed to the home of clerk-treasurer Mary Koers, 2134 Wynnedale Road.
All Wynnedale residents are welcome to attend.

Note:
A "Spring Dumpster" has not been determined and Heavy Trash Pick-Up days have not been set yet

Our sincere thanks to our newsletter article writers, contributors and sponsors:

Allstate Insurance Company
Who underwrites the printing of our newsletter

County Cork Contractors
Who contributed the prizes for our Young Wynnedalean contest winner

And very special kudos to our entire regular newsletter team that continues to come through for us every edition - with their unselfish donation of their time & talents!