

Spring 2008



Aero Points

Annual Meeting Highlights

In case you were unable to attend this year's annual meeting back in February, here's a quick summary of what happened:

- 1-) Congratulations to our newly elected Board: Karen Carroll, President, Jim Badalamenti, Vice President, Donna Crawford, Aaron Efird, Rob Smith, and Sue Zarrabzadeh. Due to a change at work, Houghton Lewis has stepped down and Dale Ensing has been asked to take his place. Ann Westphal and Mimi Smith have agreed to continue on as secretary and treasurer, respectively.
- 2-) The situation with the lower dam was fully explained. Karen Carroll has taken on the project with full gusto. She has been in talks with the engineers as well as the state inspectors to get this project moving forward. The hold up was caused by several factors including engineering issues and working through the channels of the State Dam Inspection Department. Karen has been sending out weekly email updates to keep everyone apprised of the situation so we seem to be well on our way to a solution.
- 3-) A tennis court proposal was presented to see if there was any interest in bringing the tennis court back to its' glory days. The project would involve milling the current asphalt down to a level surface then applying a new hard court surface on top. The membership showed some interest so final numbers and plans will be presented at a later date.
- 4-) The Beautification Committee requested support for irrigation at the front entrance. Options from digging a well to tapping on to county water were discussed. The Association voted down pursuing any of these irrigation proposals at this time until other details could be worked out.
- 5-) Nancy Anderson, Mayor of Weddington, spoke to the Association about future roadway and sewer projects. She answered questions in regards to the Rea Road Extension, Providence Road widening, and The Woods subdivision request for a pump station and what impact these projects may have on Aero.
- 6-) Committee sign ups were offered. If you are interested in participation on any committee, please contact Ann Westphal for a complete list of committees.

The Woods Subdivision Pump Station Denied

Just to keep you up-to-date on the surrounding area and how Aero will be affected, The Woods subdivision's request to install a pump station near our community was denied.

Who's Been Busy?

After going through the Board's Architectural Review, the following families are adding on and sprucing things up since the last edition of Aero Points: the Paganos have added a pool; the Goetchius' have added a shed; the Browns plan to add a pool; and the Hanrahans plan to add a fence.

Beautification Still Blooming

Judith Weston and Liz Baumgart addressed the Board at the Feb. 21st meeting. The Beautification Committee decided to forgo the idea of having a well drilled at the front entrance. They have decided to use organic products on all Aero common properties going forward to improve the soil so that less water will be required. The Committee asked for Board support to talk with the owners of the lake from which the front entrance irrigation garners its water so that water can be used for only the front four irrigation zones.

Sprucing Things Up A Little At A Time

In response to requests to keep Aero the beautiful community that we all love, a new net and signage is being installed at the tennis court. It's a small step, but hey, it's a step!

Preflight Checklist

Before you head off into the wild blue yonder, you might want to check the Pilot Advisory Committee's updated rules and regulations. Aero Plantation's runway has been active now for over 40 years, and the community currently has around 20 active pilots most of whom fly in and out of Aero on a regular basis. Beginning this past fall, the group of pilots started a new tradition of holding semi-annual meetings to discuss runway operations, procedures, safety, and improvements. The group last met on April 5th and defined minor refinements to the procedures for flight to and from Aero's runway with the goal of further enhancing safety as well as minimizing the noise and low flying concerns of neighboring communities. In response to a new City of Weddington ordinance, Aero Plantation has established specific rules in regards to helicopter landings and take-offs. The pilot group encourages non-flying community members as well to become familiar with the practices and procedures at Aero's runway. Of particular importance is to remember that aircraft can come and go at all times and all are encouraged to not drive or walk on or near the runway surface. There have been instances where pedestrians or vehicles have taken this lightly only to find an airplane attempting to land or take off with them in the way. Also, a reminder that airplanes taxiing on the streets have the right of way. There simply isn't a "reverse" gear on an airplane! For the most part the pilot group would like to express their appreciation for the great cooperation the community has indeed provided.

Please note that Aero's runway is private and guests are allowed on an invitation only basis. Before inviting a guest, please be sure that the guest pilot has reviewed Aero's procedures prior to traveling to Aero. Copies of the procedures as well as any other pilot information may be obtained from :
Allen Osborne at 704-843-5338,
Dale Ensing at 704-243-1129, or
Rob Smith at 704-243-2420.

Taxiway Improvements

The taxiway from the back loop of Baron Road to the runway is now paved. For many years this taxiway was grass and worked satisfactorily, but with the addition of a home on the adjacent lot and subsequent grading, it became difficult to sustain grass and hold off erosion which made it unusable at times. Paving resolved the issue by providing a smooth, stable, and clean surface for taxiing aircraft. Please note that this taxiway is for aircraft only and is not intended for use by any vehicles (cars, trucks, golf carts, etc.) or pedestrians.

Surrounding Area Crime Information

In the future, any requests for emails to be forwarded to all Aero residents concerning crimes or information concerning the surrounding area will be forwarded to Ron Honeycutt at the Union County Sheriff's Office for verification. Any statements from Ron Honeycutt will be placed on Aero's website for viewing by Aero's residents. To access this information, please log on to Aero's website <http://www.aeroplantation.net>. Please contact Peter Balletta @ 704-843-2884 or peter@balgard.com for any website assistance. Aero's secretary's (Ann Westphal) email list will be reserved for emails pertinent to Aero only. Please contact Ann (annwest87@hotmail.com or 704-843-5157) if you have any questions concerning the previous information.

You're Approved!!!

What's this all about? In case you didn't know, any improvements made to your property need to be submitted to the Board for approval prior to the commencement of any work. The process is simple, just turn in 2 copies to the Board of your plans for the new garage or new fence or new pool or new whatever so they can review the plans to be sure they meet the requirements spelled out in our covenants. If you are unsure of the process, please dig up your copy of the covenants and rules and regulations. If you don't have a copy, you may access them on Aero's website. If the computer is not your thing, please contact the secretary, Ann Westphal for a copy. The procedure is simple and painless and it's the neighborly thing to do.

If you would like to submit information for the next edition of Aero Points please contact Lori Walters at loriwalters@carolina.rr.com 704-243-2313 or Ann Westphal at annwest87@hotmail.com 704-843-5157.