



February 12th Monthly Business Meeting Market on Main

Please join us for our Monthly Business Meeting
on **Thursday, February 12th**

Guest speaker: Jamie Brown
with Sipe's Orchard Home.

Jamie will be discussing the programs at Sipe's Orchard Home, including their Transitional Cottage for the 'children' who have aged out of their regular programs but are not quite ready to be on their own. He will also be sharing their needs and plans for the future.

Chapter Officers:

President – Will Clayton
President-Elect – Chris Lefevers
1st Vice President – Stacey Walker
2nd Vice President – Steve Smart
Secretary – Melissa Swanson
Treasurer – Randall Williams
Newsletter Editor – Melissa Swanson

When:	Thursday, February 12, 2015
Where:	Market on Main 535 Main Ave SW Hickory, NC 28602

Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Dinner & Meeting: 6:30 PM

**PLEASE REGISTER/RSVP NO LATER
THAN TUESDAY, February 10th!**

Bring a guest/potential member!

Register online at:

www.pcea-catawbavalley.org

Professional
Construction Estimators
Association
Catawba Valley Chapter



PCEA-Catawba Valley Chapter
PO Box 547
Hickory, NC 28603
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The Dangers of Texting While Driving

The popularity of mobile devices has had some unintended and even dangerous consequences. We now know that mobile communications are linked to a significant increase in distracted driving, resulting in injury and loss of life.

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2012 **driver distraction was the cause of 18 percent of all fatal crashes – with 3,328 people killed – and crashes resulting in an injury – with 421,000 people wounded.**
- **Forty percent of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger,** according to a Pew survey.
- The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that **text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.**
- **Eleven percent of drivers aged 18 to 20 who were involved in an automobile accident and survived admitted they were sending or receiving texts when they crashed.**

Distracted driving endangers life and property and the current levels of injury and loss are unacceptable.

To stem this problem, the FCC is working with industry, safety organizations, and other government agencies, to inform and educate the public about the dangers of distracted driving and is seeking to identify and facilitate the development of innovative technologies that could reduce the incidence of distracted driving. To help in this effort and share information, we created a [dedicated website](#).

Distracted Driving Information Clearinghouse

In addition, to collect and share information about consumer outreach activities and technology that could potentially reduce the problem of distracted driving, the Commission's staff created the [FCC Distracted Driving Information Clearinghouse](#).

State Laws

Currently there is no national ban on texting or using a wireless phone while driving, but a number of states have passed laws banning texting or wireless phones or requiring hands-free use of wireless phones while driving. For more information on state laws, visit www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html.

What You Can Do

Give Clear Instructions – Give teen drivers simple, clear instructions not to use their wireless devices while driving. According to Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, the easiest way to say it is: "On the road, off the phone." Before new drivers get their licenses, discuss the fact that taking their eyes off the road – even for a few seconds – could cost someone injury or even death.

Lead by Example – Children learn from their parent's behavior. No one should text and drive. Be an example for your children and if you need to text or talk on the phone, pull over to a safe place.

Become Informed and Be Active - Review the information in our Clearinghouse and the literature on the websites mentioned above. Set rules for yourself and your household regarding distracted driving. Tell family, friends and organizations to which you belong about the importance of driving without distractions. Take information to your children's schools and ask that it be shared with students and parents.

Info found on FCC's website 2-05-15

Gas Prices Starting to Rise

Brad Tuttle- Feb 3, 2015

After dropping mightily for four months in a row, prices at the pump appear to have bottomed out—meaning you'll probably pay more than \$2 a gallon again soon, if you aren't already.

Last week, something weird happened: Gas prices rose. In most years, an increase in gas prices around now isn't unusual at all. In fact, a gas price hike at the start of the year has become more or less an annual tradition lately. But this year, the late January rise ended a historic decline in fuel prices that stretched 123 consecutive days.

That rare increase in prices at the pump appears to be no fluke. According to AAA, the national average for a gallon of regular bottomed out at about \$2.03 last week. The average has since inched up a penny or fraction of a penny here and there, reversing earlier trends in which it dropped 1¢ daily for weeks. Yesterday, the national average hit \$2.056, and it's up to \$2.067 on Tuesday.

Very recently, AAA forecast that the national average would dip below \$2 a gallon by the start of February. Now it looks like we'll never get there. Instead, AAA researchers and other gas analysts are saying that prices are likely on the upswing through spring.

“It is a good bet that most drivers will pay more for gasoline in March than today,” AAA spokesperson Avery Ash said in a press release this week.

Oil refineries have reduced their output lately, and the result is rising wholesale gasoline prices—which translate to rising consumer prices as well, GasBuddy senior analyst Gregg Laskoski explained in a post published Monday: “From Jan. 7 up to this morning, wholesale prices on average are up 23 cents per gallon so there's no doubt now that the first-quarter climb is under way and is already being reflected in rising prices at the pump.”

In all likelihood, the gas stations that will see the steepest price increases are the ones that have been selling the cheapest gas in recent weeks. For instance, the statewide average in California is currently \$2.45 per gallon, but some stations have been trying to woo customers with prices under \$2. It's these kinds of stations, GasBuddy analyst Allison Mac told the *Sacramento Bee*, that “will see the most dramatic change. Those are the stations that are going to see 20 to 30 cents [price-per-gallon increases], probably over the next couple of weeks into mid-February.”

Even with the tides turning toward higher gas prices, drivers should keep in mind that fuel costs remain exceptionally cheap. This week's message from AAA noted that more than half the gas stations in the U.S. still have gas under \$2 per gallon, that the average last month was \$2.11—*incredibly cheap* compared to \$3.30 in January 2014—and that it does not expect the national average to ever surpass \$3 in 2015. Mind you, the average was well over the \$3 mark for the majority of 2014, and it was considered a big deal when prices dipped under \$3 at any station. What's more, the national averages for the years 2012 and 2013 were well over \$3 per gallon.

In other words, even if gas prices creep upward for months, drivers will still be paying far less than they have during the past few years.

Info found on www.time.com 2-5-15

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

(Please Save these Dates)

February 25th

March 25th

April 29th

May 27th

June 24th



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PO Box 547
Hickory, NC 28603

