

# House Renovations Underway

February 2012

Those traveling through Taylorsville, NC, on Hwy 16 South recently may have noticed quite a bit of activity around the facilities of Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc.. The organization's home care offices are located in the beautiful two-story house known for most of the past century as the "Gwaltney House". Extensive renovations are currently underway.

The "Gwaltney House", a long time fixture in the landscape of Taylorsville, NC, was originally the home of John Lemmons Gwaltney and his family around the turn of the century. Throughout his life, J.L. Gwaltney played a leading role in Alexander County affairs. Over the years he served as Register of Deeds and County Attorney for Alexander County, City Attorney for Taylorsville, attorney for Southern Railway, chairman of the Alexander County Board of Education, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, Presidential Elector in 1908, and Taylorsville Postmaster. The house became a home as Gwaltney and his wife, Emma Eugenia Connolly, raised their three children: Maurice, Flora Lee and Milton. According to Lucy Echerd (born 1915), daughter of Flora Lee Gwaltney and Charles Echerd, the house burned when she was quite small, and was rebuilt with the same layout and style.

The house became home to Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County in 1989 after the property was made available for purchase by two of Mr. Gwaltney's granddaughters, Mary Connolly Echerd Ward and Lucy Echerd. Both hospice and home care offices operated in the house until 1996, when the current brick structure, located behind the house, was built for the hospice offices. Since that time, the home care staff has enjoyed the entire space.



**HOSPICE  
AND HOME CARE  
of ALEXANDER  
COUNTY, INC.**

50 LUCY ECHERD LANE  
TAYLORSVILLE, NC 28681

828.632.5026

www.  
HospiceandHomeCareAlexander  
.org

# House Renovations Underway

As with any home, upkeep and maintenance are ongoing concerns. In 2011, the Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County Board of Directors authorized an inspection by structural engineers to determine the wisest course of action for the future of the house. Solid Rock Structural PLLC, of Hiddenite, NC, deemed the structure sound and worthy of investing in some structural renovations to ensure the house's continued presence on the corner of Hwy 16 South and Lucy Echerd Lane.

Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County accepted bids from local contractors for the renovations. Terry Russell Construction, of Taylorsville, NC, was awarded the contract for the project. Terry Russell Construction specializes in custom homes, small commercial projects, and renovations, and has been in business since 1990.

Renovations to the house are primarily exterior. The entire structure will be raised three feet—the foundation replaced—and lowered back 8" to 12" above the original level. The house will then receive new windows, insulation, siding, and roof. The wrap around porch, which was removed for replacement of the foundation, will also be replaced.

During the renovations, which are projected to take up to four months, the home care staff will operate from the lower level of the hospice office. Follow us on facebook for updates on the project.

Serving residents of Alexander and surrounding counties in North Carolina since 1985, Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. is committed to helping both patients and their families live life to the fullest with optimal comfort and support. For more information about quality end of life care in Alexander County, contact us at 828.632.5026 or visit [www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org](http://www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org).