



East Lincoln - Our Sense of Community

A sense of community exists when people

- Know one another in multi-dimensional ways (that is, more than what job someone does).
- Feel that they belong and are welcomed
- Look forward to a future together.
- Freely express hopes and feelings
- Participate in community activities

To that extent, East Lincoln is a community, even though it is not incorporated as a town.

Demographics

East Lincoln geographically covers the Catawba Springs Township, which ranges from the Gaston County border in the south to NC150 in the north. It is bounded by Lake Norman on the east, and the border of Ironton Township on the west. The population in 2000 was 13,078, with an estimated growth to approximately 15,000 by early 2005. It is about one fifth of Lincoln County.

The northern third of the township consists of the unincorporated town of Denver, with its geographic center at the intersection of NC16 and Slanting Bridge Road. The main industries are R'Anell Homes, which manufactures modular homes, and Martin Marietta Aggregates, which runs a quarry on north Hwy 16. The Rock Springs Elementary School and several small strip malls are in Denver.

The middle third is centered at the intersection of NC Hwy 16 and NC Hwy 73...both are major thoroughfares, scheduled for widening to four lanes each. This area is the fastest growing segment of Lincoln County, with ten new housing developments in place or scheduled since the year 2000. East Lincoln High School, Catawba Springs and St James Elementary Schools are in this middle third. Commercial activity is brisk, with the shopping center housing Harris Teeter on the southwest corner of NC 16 and 73, as well as the activity north on NC16 and east on NC73 being newly constructed commercial buildings. Clusters of medical facilities are situated near the main intersection.

The southern third encompasses what is known as Lowesville, and is largely rural. The notable industry is the North American headquarters of Julius Blum, an Austrian Company that manufactures high end kitchen cabinet accessories and hardware.

In the township there is a diverse mix of businesses and industry that provides employment and a good climate for startup businesses.

Community Organizations

A number of community organizations serve to unify East Lincoln as a community.

- **The East Lincoln Betterment Association (ELBA)** – was formed in 1976, with the original purpose of soliciting a medical doctor to settle in what was then a very rural area, underserved by any medical service capability. Since then it has continued to seek better facilities and infrastructure for East Lincoln. ELBA was instrumental in achieving local phone service to Charlotte, in getting Highway 16 widened, in setting up the East Lincoln Sewer District, and ensuring adequate schooling for the East Lincoln area. It holds four to five meetings of community interest a year, and is expanding into social activities. Its candidate forums during election years have proved to be very informative and popular. www.elbanc.com
- **The Denver Area Business Association (DABA)** was formed in the late 1990's to unite local businesses, increase networking opportunities and give them a voice in dealings with Lincoln County government. The group meets monthly for luncheon and network. It also sponsors the very popular July 3 fireworks display at East Lincoln High School.
- **The Denver-Lake Norman Rotary Club** was formed in 1994 as a spin-off from the Lincoln Rotary Club. It has thrived and grown, and provides several community-wide activities, including a February Art Auction, and the annual Citizen of the Year Banquet.
- **The Advisory Committee of the Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce** consists of several East Lincoln members of the Chamber, who meet monthly to advise and lobby for Chamber activities and participation in the East Lincoln area.
- **The East Lincoln Political Action Committee (ELPAC)** was formed in 2004 to influence the course of county-wide elections for County Commissioner and School Board. The group did extensive research, and interviewed all of the candidates before making recommendations. In the 2004 Primary Election, all candidates endorsed by ELPAC won.
- **The East Lincoln Community Leadership Council** consists of the leadership of ELBA, Rotary, DABA and the East Lincoln Advisory Committee of the Lincoln

County Chamber of Commerce. They meet monthly to coordinate activities among the organizations and to work on projects of mutual interest.

Community Events

Many events bring together citizens to enjoy festivals, community meetings and musical events that extend the opportunities beyond what a single church or organization can provide.

- The annual spring **Strawberry Festival** held at East Lincoln High School provides opportunities for craft vendors to showcase their wares, and for attendees to buy freshly picked strawberries.
- **Relay for Life** is a community event, with a Survivors Dinner, various fund-raising efforts over the area, and a Friday night/Saturday walk-a-thon to raise money for cancer research and support.
- The **Rock Springs Festival** supports the Rock Springs Elementary PTA, but also provides booth space for local merchants and craftsmen.
- The **Denver Area Business Association Fireworks Display** on July 3 brings over two thousand people to the East Lincoln High School. With band entertainment, numerous food vendors, culminated by a major fireworks display, the evening has been described as spectacular.
- The two-day **Denver Days Festival** has drawn over 12,000 people in its two years of operation. Over a hundred vendors showcase their products, crafts or services. Food vendors provide everything from barbeque to sit-down fine dining. Entertainment is prevalent, with name bands like The Tams performing. www.denverdays.com.
- The **Community Chorus** has produced a set of concerts of Handel's Messiah to enthusiastic and audiences. This group, consisting of talented choir members of several area churches will continue to produce at least one concert each year.

Education

The Lincoln County School System is recognized as a model of excellence across the state of North Carolina. For eleven years in a row, the percentage of students at or above grade level in reading and mathematics has grown, now standing at 93% for math. For three years in a row, proficiency has exceeded the state averages. East Lincoln houses eight of the county's twenty one schools, including the new state-of-the-art North Lincoln High School facility.

Medical

Numerous non-profit agencies and private providers deliver quality medical services, home care, counseling, education and support services. Among them is the Lincoln Medical Center's HealthCare Pavilion that is located at 275 Highway 16 North. This recently completed facility was constructed to give residents in the eastern part of Lincoln County better access to Lincoln Medical Center's physicians and services.

Nearby hospitals include the Lincoln Medical Center, <http://www.lincolnmedical.org/>, located in Lincolnton and affiliated with nationally recognized Carolinas Healthcare System and the Presbyterian Hospital in Huntersville, http://www.presbyterian.org/about_us/patient_care_facilities/hospitals/presbyterian_huntersville/.

Media

The sense of community is reinforced by a local newspaper, news@norman, which is delivered to all homes in the Catawba Springs Township. Its editorial direction is for the unification and togetherness of its geographical area. <http://www.newsatnorman.com/>

Also, the Lincolnton News Times publishes their Shoreline Edition every Wednesday, which focuses on news and events in the East Lincoln area. <http://www.lincolntimesnews.com>

East Lincoln has its own web site www.denvernc.com