



# Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 2

February 2008

## *More Details About Traffic*

### **Elected Officials**

Bill Thunberg  
Mayor

Mitchell Abraham  
Ward I Commissioner,  
Mayor Pro Tem

Thurman Houston  
Ward II Commissioner

Mac Herring  
Ward III Commissioner

Chris Carney  
Ward IV Commissioner

Miles Atkins  
At-Large Commissioner

Frank Rader  
At-Large Commissioner

### **Town Officials**

James E. Justice  
Town Manager

N. Erskine Smith Jr.  
Assistant Town Manager

Stephen P. Gambill  
Town Attorney

Janet Pope  
Town Clerk

**I just read the [January] newsletter and I am always wanting and craving to hear more about what Mooresville's plans are for traffic in the area. I believe it would be a good future article to explain some specifics as to what changes we can be expecting in the coming years.**

Following the 2006 Citizens Survey, the Town created a Traffic Task Force to evaluate and provide solutions to the most significant traffic issues throughout Mooresville. Some new solutions are listed below.

### **Blocked Intersections**

A significant amount of Mooresville's traffic congestion, particularly in the interstate area, could be reduced if intersections remained unobstructed by vehicles, allowing for traffic signals to properly regulate the flow of traffic.

The Mooresville Police Department, in conjunction with the Street Department and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT), has taken steps to address this traffic concern. "Do Not Block Intersection" signs have been approved and installed. Officers have issued verbal and written warnings in an attempt to inform the motoring public and correct the problem. The Police Department, in response to continuing citizen and business owner complaints, is now taking full enforcement action.

NC General Statute 20-142.5 states that a violation has occurred when a vehicle enters an intersection and there is insufficient space to accommodate the vehicle, obstructing the passage of other vehicles. In other words, although the signal light displayed green allowing you to enter the intersection, a violation occurs when your signal light displays red and your vehicle has not cleared the intersection, preventing cross traffic from proceeding. The violation levies a \$25 fine and \$120 court cost.

The Police Department needs your assistance to facilitate a safe and enjoyable commute. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Police Department's Duty Officer at 704-664-3311.

### **Railroad Crossings**

The Traffic Task Force, in cooperation with DOT and Norfolk-Southern Railroad, is moving toward improvements of several railroad crossings in the Town. The crossings will be constructed with concrete for a smoother ride, similar to the newly installed crossings in downtown. The Traffic Task Force is proposing to improve crossings along Highway 150 near the intersection of Highway 115 and several more in downtown.



### **Mayors' Transportation Task Force**

The mayors of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville and Mooresville joined forces to create a transportation task force and develop a balanced and integrated approach to addressing the transportation priorities affecting citizens in this area.

Each town appointed one elected official and one citizen to serve on the task force. The group meets each Wednesday night in Cornelius and will submit an initial report in April. February agenda topics include Bicycling, Walking and Greenways; North Corridor Commuter Rail; Accidents on I-77; and Alternative Funding. The meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.



## DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Engineering  
704-663-4510

Employment  
704-662-8724

Fire (Non-Emergency)  
704-664-1338

Golf Course  
704-663-2539

Hooper Center  
704-663-0033

Library  
704-664-2927

Charles Mack Citizen Center  
704-662-3334

Planning  
704-662-7040

Police (Non-Emergency)  
704-664-3311

Recreation  
704-663-7026

Sanitation  
704-664-4278

Water  
704-663-3800

Zoning  
704-662-3191

## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER...

# Your Time & Opinion Make A Difference!

Last month, the Town Board received a report from the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) about the possibility of curbside recycling in Mooresville. The report recommended that the Town start a pilot program for 1,200 homes in the 2009 fiscal year and then town-wide service in the 2010 fiscal year. The Town Board will study the recommendation and consider the pilot program in the upcoming budget work sessions.

This service has been requested by numerous citizens and is good for the environment. The economics of the service (how to pay for it) have always been the difficulty. Stay tuned to budget deliberations for that outcome. The EPC's preliminary report is on the Town website under "Planning - Working Documents - Working Drafts."

What is so impressive is how this recommendation came forward. The EPC is a Town-appointed advisory board. It is comprised of citizens from different areas of town with different backgrounds - who are volunteers! This Commission put in significant hours researching curbside recycling, while also providing storm water education and tree protection.

There are numerous volunteer boards and commissions that support the work of the Town. These include the EPC, Planning Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Mooresville ABC Board, Mooresville Housing Authority, Mooresville/Lake Norman Travel and Tourism Board, ICARE Board, MI-Connection Board of Directors, Mooresville Human Relations Commission, Mooresville Beautification Committee, Information and Referral Board, Keep Iredell Clean, and the Library Trustee Advisory Board.

We are always looking for volunteers to fill positions on these committees. If you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 704-662-3131 or visit [www.ci.mooresville.nc.us](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us) for more information or to download an application.

As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."

## Citizens Survey Results

Our annual Citizens Survey closed on December 31, 2007. Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to the survey. We received 1,374 responses - with 896 surveys coming from Mooresville residents. Strategy Support Associates is analyzing the data and will make a presentation at the February Board meeting.

I strongly encourage you to get involved in our community. Volunteer your time and talents to help keep Mooresville a great place to live, work and play!



## Traffic Improvements

**Reader Mail was moved to the front page of this issue to provide more space for requested details.**

If you have a suggestion for a future article, send us a note and include your name and contact information. Send your comments and questions to:

"Town Voice"  
c/o Town Manager's Office  
Post Office Box 878  
Mooresville, NC 28115  
704-663-3800

[comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us](mailto:comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us)

# Cable Update

On December 19, MI-Connection welcomed 15,800 cable television and 8,000 high-speed Internet customers to the locally-owned system. While most customers experienced little or no change during the transition, some customers experienced service interruptions. The primary issues for most reported troubles were:

- Internet Service – Customers could not access e-mail for a portion of the day on December 20. IP addresses supporting access to the former operator’s e-mail platform were not in place. In cooperation with Time Warner Cable, this issue was resolved the same day.
- High-Definition (HD) Programming – Customers could not view HD channels on December 20 & 21. The equipment received by MI-Connection was loaded with the wrong software. These issues were resolved on December 22.

There were operational outages on December 20 & 25. These issues were unrelated to the transition and corrected within two hours.

## Telephone Support

As a result of the issues listed above, the system experienced higher than expected phone volume. Some customers experienced long wait times when calling customer service or technical support. This volume has continued after the transition. Additional staff have been hired to correct this problem.

## E-mail Conversion

Customers can go to [www.mi-connection.com](http://www.mi-connection.com) and click on “MI-Connection Control Panel” to convert their existing e-mail to the new “@mi-connection.com” address. After making the transition, the old e-mail address will remain active for 30 days or until March 18, 2008, whichever comes first.

## Upgrades

By April, the physical activities necessary to upgrade the system will begin. The upgrade will increase Internet speeds; improve overall picture quality and system reliability; and make it possible to add new cable channels, including HD channels, Video On Demand and other advanced services.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Historic Preservation.** The Historic Preservation Commission is working to identify, survey and document the Town’s historic assets. Preservation Consultant Leora Studholme McAuliffe will conduct a historic inventory report of five areas identified in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. These areas include Downtown as listed on the National Register of Historic Places, North Main Street between Culp Street and Stewart Avenue, Academy Street between Wilson and McLelland Avenues, Academy Street between Iredell Avenue and Tunnel Road, and West Center Avenue.

McAuliffe will be conducting the survey over the next six months. If you live within one of the identified areas, be advised that she will be photographing and documenting building exteriors, sites and streetscapes. If you have any questions regarding the project, contact Jim King in the Planning Department at 704-799-8018. If you have information regarding a property’s architectural, cultural or historical significance, contact McAuliffe at 919-360-0059 or [olivesandpearls@hotmail.com](mailto:olivesandpearls@hotmail.com).

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**Stage 3 Water Restrictions.** All water/sewer customers of the Town of Mooresville are still under Stage 3 Mandatory Water Restrictions. In Stage 3, it is unlawful for customers to water their lawn, wash their cars or engage in the wasteful use of water. For a complete listing of all restrictions, visit the Town’s website at [www.ci.mooresville.nc.us](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us).

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**Updated Planning Documents.** The Planning Department has recently completed updates to some of its most important documents. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted by the Town Board at their December 2007 meeting. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan was adopted by the Town Board at their September 2007 meeting and is scheduled for adoption by the North Carolina Board of Transportation in the coming months. In addition, a new Zoning Ordinance has received the Town staff recommendation for adoption and is anticipated to be adopted in February.

These documents will assist elected officials and staff in making sound land use decisions and help guide the tremendous growth we are experiencing. For more information, contact the Planning Department at 704-662-7040 or visit the Town’s website at [www.ci.mooresville.nc.us](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us).

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**Planning for Parks.** The Town will hold public meetings in February to discuss the development of the Skate Park and a new park on Cornelius Road. On February 5 at 5 p.m. in the Moore Room at the Charles Mack Citizen Center, Recreation Director Wanda McKenzie and staff will seek public input on desired elements for Phase 2 of the Skate Park.

On February 12 at 7 p.m. at Shepherd Fire Department (2014 Charlotte Highway), recreation staff will seek input on the development and desired amenities for a park on approximately 80 acres on Cornelius Road. A second public meeting for this project will be scheduled later in February. Contact the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026 for more information.





## profile

### Miles Atkins, *Commissioner At Large*

Miles Atkins believes in his community. A political science major at Auburn University, he has spent immeasurable hours putting his educational learning into hands-on practice.

Married with two children, Atkins has served as a volunteer for many local organizations, including the United Way, Mooresville Museum and the Town's Historic Preservation Commission.

Atkins was elected to serve as Commissioner At Large during the November elections. Sworn in during the December Board of Commissioners meeting, he immediately went to work facing issues big and small, simple and controversial.

He is passionate about the downtown area, historic preservation, growth management and collaboration. "We should be working together - on the same page - on issues facing this community," said Atkins. "We should not have

several groups working independently on the same project."

Atkins believes the Town has the tools necessary to improve quality of life issues. "We have the growth management tools we need to raise the standard. To its credit, the Town has a Strategic Plan now to guide the growth. We can not change decisions made in the past, but we can do our best to make smart decisions in the future," said Atkins.

"I want the Board to have a goal of making the Town of Mooresville the best municipality in the state. By identifying the things that will make a difference, we can work together to do just that."

Commissioner Atkins can be reached at [matkins@ci.mooresville.nc.us](mailto:matkins@ci.mooresville.nc.us) or by cell phone at 980-722-1857.

## Mark Your Calendar

**February 4**  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Hall  
6 p.m.

**February 7**  
Comprehensive Bicycle Plan  
Public Workshop  
Charles Mack Citizen Center  
6 p.m.

**February 10**  
Water Bills Due

**February 14**  
Planning Board  
Town Hall  
7 p.m.

**February 21-23**  
Board of Commissioners  
Planning Retreat  
Winston-Salem

**February 27**  
Water Service  
Disconnected for  
Non-Payment

### Citizens Academy

The Town of Mooresville is offering the Mooresville Citizens Academy, an eight-session class offering an inside look at Town services and facilities.

The 5th Annual Mooresville Citizens Academy will begin March 6, 2008 and conclude with a graduation ceremony in May. Classes will be offered on Thursday evenings and are open to Town residents only. Classes are led by department managers and town officials, and offer residents an opportunity to meet the people who provide the services and take an "inside look" at Town facilities. There is no cost for this program, but space is limited.

Applications are available at the Mooresville Public Library, Charles Mack Citizen Center, Town Hall or online at [www.ci.mooresville.nc.us](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us). Application deadline is February 25. For more information, contact Janet Pope, Town Clerk, at 704-662-3131 or [jpope@ci.mooresville.nc.us](mailto:jpope@ci.mooresville.nc.us).



### Voter Registration Info

Don't get caught in unnecessary lines on Election Day! Make sure you are registered to vote and that your registration is up-to-date. Checking your voter registration is easy. Call the Iredell County Board of Elections at 704-878-3140 or visit [www.sboe.state.nc.us](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us). You may also check your registration and find local election information at the Iredell County Board of Elections website at [www.co.iredell.nc.us](http://www.co.iredell.nc.us). Click "Departments" then "Board of Elections."

Any changes (address, name, party affiliation) must be made by April 11, 2008. If these changes are not made by the deadline, you will have to complete paperwork on Election Day and possibly be required to drive to a different precinct to vote. Party changes CANNOT be made after the April 11 deadline.

Voter registration forms can be obtained at the Iredell County Board of Elections, local libraries, Chambers of Commerce, Town Halls or online at the above websites.

Don't wait. Check your voter registration now!