



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 4

April 2008

Water Conservation Updates

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

N. Erskine Smith Jr.
Interim Town Manager

Stephen P. Gambill
Town Attorney

Janet Pope
Town Clerk

Although we have enjoyed some rainfall during the early months of 2008, Mooresville and surrounding areas are still suffering from severe drought. As we approach warmer weather and the time-honored tradition of spring yard work, please remember to conserve your water, follow conservation efforts and restrictions, and do your part to protect our water supply.

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.

Lake Irrigation Forbidden

During this period of drought, it is forbidden for citizens to use irrigation systems to withdraw water directly from Lake Norman. According to Randy Welch of Duke Power, "Anyone that sees others irrigating their lawns may contact our Lake Services Department at 1-800-443-5193. Duke Energy personnel will visit the home and/or leave a door hanger reminding folks of the continued drought. Further actions could be taken if they continue to utilize this method to water their lawns."

Rain Barrels for Sale

Rain barrels are an increasingly popular conservation option. They collect runoff from rooftops for irrigation and other non-potable uses, thus reducing reliance on drinking water supplies. The barrels provide a way for residents to sustain landscaping in a time of exceptional drought and stringent watering restrictions. Just 1/4" of rainfall provides enough runoff from the average roof to fill a typical rain barrel.

Town of Mooresville Rain Barrel Sale

April 4 & 5 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Mooresville Police Department

60 Gallon \$90
80 Gallon \$100

Pick-Up Only • No Deliveries

Pre-paid orders are encouraged.

For more information or to place your order, contact the Business Office at 704-663-3800.

On April 4 & 5, the Town of Mooresville will be selling 60 and 80 gallon rain barrels to interested consumers at the Mooresville Police Department at 750 West Iredell Avenue. Rain barrels will be available on a first come, first served basis. However, pre-paid orders will be accepted.

"Selling rain barrels helps us help our customers be proactive in their conservation and lawn-care efforts," said John Vest, Public Services Director. "We, as a municipality, can purchase these barrels for less than individuals can. In turn, we can pass along the savings to our customers."

A limited supply of 60 and 80 gallon barrels will be available. If demand exceeds supply, the Town will order more barrels for additional sales.

The rain barrels offered for sale by the Town are made in North Carolina from high density polyethylene. Each barrel comes with a brass spigot, two overflow valves that can be used to connect additional barrels, and a screen to keep out debris and insects.





DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Engineering
704-663-4510

Employment
704-662-8724

Fire (Non-Emergency)
704-664-1338

Golf Course
704-663-2539

Winnie 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 OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER...

Retreats, Budgets & Safety

Musings of an Interim Town Manager

The Town held a very successful retreat in Winston-Salem in February. The Town receives both positive and negative comments about holding the retreat out of town, but this allows the Board to deliberate on key issues that affect the Town's business. I believe strongly that having the retreat in town would not be as productive. There are just too many distractions. We should be thankful that our elected officials are extremely dedicated in conducting the Town's business.

At the retreat, the Board amended the Town's Strategic Plan. Department managers presented their departmental strategic plans and performance measures. Significant strategic priorities were established, including: maintaining a strong commitment to public safety by prioritizing the needs of the Police and Fire departments; constructing a new Public Services Operations Center; keeping Recreation on the forefront by selling the remaining bond funds for Mazeppa Park and the future park on Cornelius Road; and implementing the proposed pilot program for curbside recycling.

Of course, traffic congestion was again a top priority. The Board discussed funding options to assist NCDOT with projects at key intersections, as well as additional signals, enforcement, and the ability to locally control and manage traffic lights.

These priorities are still up for discussion during the budget process. With increased fuel costs, infrastructure needs, bond debt repayment, and day-to-day service expectations by citizens, it should be a very interesting budget year.

My last musing deals with the safety of town employees. Our Risk Manager and members of the Town's safety committee strive to ensure that necessary and required employee training,

as well as workplace safety measures and practices, are carried out. The loss or serious injury to any employee is a devastating event. Unfortunately, sometimes the work environments that our police, fire and public services employees experience are extremely dangerous. The recent loss of two firemen in Salisbury drove this point too close to home.

Please honor the men and women who work for your municipality - the ones who work so you can feel safe at home, work and play. Take a moment to say thanks to those who keep our streets clean; remove our trash; provide clean, safe drinking water and safely treat our waste products; plan healthy activities for our spare time; plan and design our community; and provide sound financial management and good governance for future generations of Mooresville.

Dr. Jonas Salk said that the reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more. Our employees look for that opportunity each day!

N. Erskine Smith, Jr., AICP, ICMA-CM
Interim Town Manager

Early Voting

One-Stop (Early) Voting for the 2008 Primary will be held at four locations in Iredell County: Iredell County Board of Elections (Statesville), Union Grove Fire Department (Harmony), Mooresville Public Library and Lake Norman Volunteer Fire Department, both in Mooresville.

Contact the Iredell County Board of Elections at 704-878-3140 for dates and times.



Newsletter Paper

I enjoy the updates in the *Town Voice* every month. However, why is it printed on glossy paper this month? Wasn't the old paper better for the environment?

Thanks for reading *Town Voice*. When it was time to update the layout of the newsletter, we examined paper stock, ink colors and other options to improve the quality of the publication without increasing the cost. The new paper is "coated" so it holds the ink better from the press and allows for better printing of photographs. This new paper is recyclable but it does not have post-consumer recycled materials in it.

If you have a question about town services, send your name, contact information and question to:

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

comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

NEWS IN BRIEF

Monthly Concert Series. The Charles Mack Citizen Center is proud to host Mooresville Concerts' 2008 season. Performances are held monthly through May 2008. Tickets may be purchased two weeks in advance by calling the Mack Center at 704-662-3334 or the Town's Recreation office at 704-663-7026.

This month's concert features the The Merrows on Saturday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. Come be delighted and surprised by this contemporary Celtic band, performing an eclectic mix of original Celtic music, folk rock Americana, African drums and jazz themes. With John Fenn on vocals and guitar, Sandy Herrault on fiddle, and Jason Dulin on djembe, this group has performed at festivals across North Carolina.

Express Bus Service to Charlotte. The Town of Mooresville, in conjunction with the Charlotte Area Transit System, provides express bus service into Uptown Charlotte. The service operates Monday through Friday, with four trips in the morning traveling into Charlotte and four trips returning to Mooresville in the afternoon. The morning bus picks up at Williamson Chapel United Methodist Church Park & Ride on Williamson Road at 5:50 a.m., 6:15 a.m., 6:40 a.m. and 7:05 a.m. Four buses in the afternoon loop through Uptown Charlotte making many stops, including the Uptown Transportation Center where the bus departs at 4:09 p.m., 4:39 p.m., 5:09 p.m. and 6:09 p.m. for travel back to Williamson Chapel. The cash fare is \$2.60 one-way. Various discounts are available for people who buy weekly, ten-ride or monthly passes. These buses take advantage of the HOV lane on I-77. Call CATS at 704-336-RIDE for more information.

Mutual Aid. Mooresville's Fire Department responded to the tragic structure fire that killed two fireman in Salisbury recently. Our Tower Truck was one of several on the scene offering "mutual aid" during the deadly blaze and engine crews helped staff the Salisbury fire stations in the days after the tragedy. Mayor Bill Thunberg expressed Mooresville's deepest sympathies to Salisbury Mayor Susan Klutz and all the citizens of Salisbury. The Mayor pledged the Town's assistance to Salisbury during the aftermath of this tragedy.

The Budget Process. The process for creating the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget is well under way. Department managers have submitted their budgets to the Finance Department. Meetings were held with each department manager in late March to review and discuss their priorities and needs. Also, the Board held their first workshop to review "outside agency" requests. Other public workshops and a public hearing will be scheduled before the new budget is adopted in June.

Help Us Help You, Spring Yard Debris

Many property owners spend hours in their yards—cutting, raking, mulching, pruning, etc. The following guidelines will Help Us Help You efficiently dispose of your spring yard debris.

- Keep all debris out of the street! Tree limbs, grass clippings and any yard debris should be placed at or behind the curb - not in the street. A homeowner is responsible for any debris placed in the street that causes damage to a passing vehicle.
- Separate different types of yard waste. Place grass clippings and leaves in one pile and limbs in a different pile.
- Always keep household waste separated from yard waste.
- Yard waste cut by a contractor must be properly disposed of by the contractor.
- When discarding limbs, place the largest end toward the street. Limbs should not be larger than 4" round and will be chipped.

- When using chemicals to treat lawns or gardens, use and dispose of the chemicals according to directions on the package.
- Do not place building materials at the curb for collection. Call the Public Works Division at 704-664-4278 for methods of disposal.

The Town has many pieces of equipment for efficient yard waste collection.

- The vacuum truck picks up leaves and grass clippings the day after your normal garbage pick-up.
- The chipper truck picks up limbs, clippings and other brush and works a continuous route that takes 8-10 days to complete.
- The street sweeper takes approximately two weeks to complete the "loop" on Mooresville's curb and gutter streets.

Thanks for your cooperation with the collection procedures. If you have questions, call the Public Works Division at 704-664-4278.



Mark Your Calendar

April 7
Board of Commissioners
Town Hall
6 p.m.

April 10
Water Bills Due

Planning Board
Town Hall
7 p.m.

April 29
Water Service
Disconnected for
Non-Payment

Water & Sewer Droplets



- The new water treatment plant will be fully operational this summer.
- The Town continues the work for an expanded wastewater treatment facility. The proposed re-rating for additional treatment capacity of the wastewater treatment plant was approved by the State.
- Town staff continues to closely monitor the sewer allocation process as it changes with the economy.
- Unfortunately, water conservation means a decrease in revenues. Water and sewer rates will again be a hot topic in the coming budget season.

Scoop the Poop

Did you know that an average-sized dog dropping produces three billion fecal coliform bacteria?

Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly - it is a health risk to pets, bodies of water and people, especially children. Pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, streets and grassy areas is flushed into the nearest waterway when it rains. In addition, pet waste contains nutrients that will speed up the growth of nuisance algae in lakes and rivers.

Two years ago, the Town began placing Mutt Mitt dispensers in local parks. Mutt Mitts are biodegradable bags designed to help pet owners clean up after their pets. Simply follow the directions on the dispenser box and throw the bag in the trash. If walking your pet near your home, a plastic grocery bag can do the scooping job.

Please be respectful of others. Keep your animals on a leash and clean up after your pet!

For more information, contact Iredell County Animal Services & Control at 704-878-5424.