



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 5

May 2008

Youth in Service to Our Community

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

The Town of Mooresville has three active youth organizations working to improve the lives of all citizens of Mooresville - young and old.

Mooresville's Youth Advisory Council

The Mooresville Youth Advisory Council consists of 22 high school youth engaged in learning leadership skills and how local government operates. The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Mooresville Town Board on issues of interest to Mooresville-South Iredell youth.

The Council recommends improvements to public projects and programs and assists in youth and recreation activities, such as drug/alcohol free social, cultural, recreational and other activities for the youth of the community.

Students interested in serving must submit an application (provided by the Town) to their high school principal who will then nominate students to the Council for a one-year term. Membership of the Council reflects Mooresville's population.

Police Explorer Post

In 2001, the Mooresville Police Department's Police Explorer Post was established. The Post is chartered and licensed through the Boy Scouts of America and open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21.

Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences that help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities.

During the past year, Mooresville's Police Explorers have participated in practical exercises involving patrol techniques, law enforcement procedures, teamwork and leadership. They have assisted with traffic and event parking at Cruise-ins, Stocks for Tots and the Mooresville

Christmas Parade. They raised money for Special Olympics and assisted at the Lowe's YMCA Healthy Kids Day.

The Cops for Kids Golf Tournament scheduled for May 20 at the Mooresville Municipal Golf Course helps raise money to support the Police Explorer Post as well as other projects.

To learn more about the Police Explorer Post or this year's Cops for Kids golf tournament, contact Major Carl Robbins at 704-658-9008 or CopsForKids@ci.mooresville.nc.us.

Fire Service Explorers

The Fire Service Exploring program is a work-site based program for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21. The Mooresville Fire Department's Explorer Program helps youth gain insight into a variety of programs that offer hands-on career activities with fun-filled activities that promote the growth and development of adolescent youth.

One project of the local Explorer post is making reflective address signs for the community. If you want an address sign for your home, stop by any local fire station and fill out an order form.

Explorers have monthly training in fire-fighting scenarios. Most meetings are held at Fire Station Three at 1023 Shearers Road.

Youth interested in becoming a member of the Mooresville Fire Department's Explorer Program should stop by Station Three on Shearers Road for an application.

No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline."

- Kofi Annan



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...

The Athenians Were Right

Two years ago our Town lost a young man of great potential - Griff Lyerly. Griff died in a boating accident during his senior year in college. I often think of this young man and his family. I remember his smile, his energy and his love for life - so common in youth of his age. My thoughts go back to March 2006 and the comments made by Griff's professor, Marc McClure of Lees-McRea College, concerning Mooresville's loss.

"As you can imagine, my reflections on Griff have led me to have great admiration for his family and this community. Much of the dominant culture in this country does not share your values and the national culture often has the high ground in delivering messages about values. This past year much of the focus in our history classes has been on culture and the institutions that shape it. We especially looked at the Greeks and Romans, but also the modern clash between urban-secular and rural-traditional values.

"By Griff's example I have come to conclude that Mooresville must have strong community institutions in its families, schools, religious organizations, clubs and civic life. But like all societies there are counter forces within and without that seek to erode what you stand for. And so as I reflected on these ideas I could see that Griff's death is not only a personal loss for you, but a community loss as well.

"Griff was a standard bearer for your ideals and your values. Had he returned here after college he would have helped instill those values in two or three more generations of Mooresville citizens. This thought led me back to the Greeks and to what they taught us. The Greeks knew who their heroes were - they were the men and women who strengthened, served and protected the community. When those heroes fell through battle, old-age or tragedy, the Greeks raised them up as icons to remind the living of their best communal values and to instruct those who followed.

"Mooresville has a fallen hero, a fallen standard bearer in Griff Lyerly. But his loss to this community can be redeemed if you honor the memory of this native son. His character and integrity and balanced life between personal fulfillment and community service can be an asset to you still if he will be remembered and honored. Raise up a monument to this young man so that he will be an inspiration to your sons and be the standard of admiration for your daughters and he will continue to make Mooresville a better place for generations to come - even as he would if he were still here with you. I know this community doesn't want to let Griff Lyerly go, and I don't think it should..."

I am proud to live in a community that supports young people - a community that inspires and instills values such as character, personal responsibility, tolerance and integrity. Many men and women have given of themselves to strengthen, serve and protect Mooresville from forces of negativism, intolerance and doubt. As Mooresville continues to grow, I hope we do not lose those institutions that instilled in Griff recognizable character traits. I encourage all citizens to get involved and make Mooresville a better place.

Professor McClure ended his comments by saying, "Let us continue to pay our respect to Griff throughout our life and hold him up as a standard for ourselves and our community until we meet him again."

The Athenians were right. Let us leave it better than we found it.

Thank you!

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



Jobs Well Done

This letter did not come through Reader Mail but is from a citizen who took the time to write and share praise for some well-deserving Town staff.

Recently, we contacted John Finan and Bob Blizzard in reference to some sidewalks in our neighborhood that were in need of repair. Within days, someone from their department came out to inspect the situation and contacted us with the results of their visit. Then, the following week, the crews came and fixed the problems. We were astonished at how quick the turnaround was on our request. Each city employee who I came into contact with was respectful and professional in how they presented themselves. And they did a TERRIFIC job! Bob Blizzard went an extra step and followed up to make sure that we were satisfied with the work.

Too often, people take the time to voice complaints when they are dissatisfied with something the town has done, but I wanted to take the time to tell you how much the people in our subdivision appreciated the work of each of these employees.

Many thanks.

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

comments@ci.moore'sville.nc.us

NEWS IN BRIEF

Historic Homes Needed for Tour. The Moore'sville Historic Preservation Commission is seeking applications from homeowners interested in showing their historic homes during the 2008 Historic Moore'sville Tour of Homes scheduled for October 17-19. Volunteers are also needed to help on the tour dates. For more information, visit the Tour's website at www.HistoricMoore'svilleTourOfHomes.com or call Town Planner Jim King at 704-799-8018.

Water Restrictions Amended. All water/sewer customers of the Town of Moore'sville are still under Stage 3 Mandatory Water Restrictions. However, these restrictions were amended by the Town Board in April. Read "Help Us Help You" on page four for updated information.

More Cable Channels. MI-Connection is adding 37 channels, including analog, digital, high-definition and premium channels, to its lineup on May 1. Customers will receive the new channels at no additional charge and there is at least one new channel for each level of service. System upgrades are scheduled for completion by February 2009.

To cast a vote for the channel(s) you want added as the upgrade progresses, click on "Your Opinion Counts" at www.mi-connection.com.



Town Staffers Catch Robbery Suspect. Larry Hendren and Bobby Honeycutt were cleaning sewer lines on North Main Street last month when they saw a suspicious looking man leaving a near-by house. The owner came out saying that the man had stolen her purse. The two men called 911 and split up to pursue the man. They retrieved the purse (and the cash) and subdued the man until the police arrived. In an e-mail issued shortly after the incident, Interim Town Manager Erskine Smith said, "While I advise caution in these situations, I think it is important to remember that community safety is everyone's responsibility, not just Police and Fire. The Town has many 'eyes on the street' as our workers travel the streets doing their daily jobs. Please continue to stay alert on the streets, report any suspicious activity, and look for ways to help out citizens."

Bag Your Trash. Help keep your neighborhood and Town clean. It is required by Town ordinance to place your trash in bags BEFORE placing it in the roll out garbage containers. During disposal and pickup, trash can become scattered in yards and throughout the neighborhood if it is not bagged. Help us keep Moore'sville clean - bag your trash!

Protect Our Parks. The Town has a serious problem with vandalism at our park sites. If you witness any misconduct or vandalism, immediately call 911. If you notice damage at a park, contact the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026 as soon as possible.

Help Us Help You, *Water Conservation Changes*

In April, the Emergency Water Conservation Plan for the Town of Mooresville was amended. Currently, the Town is in Stage III Mandatory Conservation. To view the entire water conservation ordinance and/or check for updates, visit www.ci.mooresville.nc.us.

Stage III • Water Shortage Warning

It is *unlawful* for a customer to:

- Fail to take all actions requested in Stages I and II.
- Sprinkler irrigate residential lawns, shrubbery and trees except for newly sown lawns for the first thirty days between 7 - 11 a.m. OR 6 - 10 p.m.
- Wash cars or other equipment, except using commercial car washes.
- Fill pools and fountains.
- Wash down areas such as streets, driveways, etc.
- Serve drinking water in food establishments, except upon request.

The following activities are *allowed*:

- Irrigation of commercial stock in trade by persons regularly engaged in the sale of plants, shrubbery trees and flowers.
- Drip irrigation, soaker hoses, hand-held spring loaded hoses, or other hand-held methods of watering on ANY day from 7 - 11 a.m. OR 6 - 10 p.m.

When water conservation restrictions implemented by the Drought Management Advisory Group (DMAG) are less restrictive than measures listed in the Town's Ordinance, the less-restrictive measures shall be in effect. For example, DMAG now allows all types of outdoor water uses on designated weekend days. Until further notice, the Town of Mooresville will allow customers to water lawns, wash cars, top off swimming pools (filling is not allowed), and run outdoor fountains on the following schedule: odd-numbered addresses on Saturdays; even-numbered addresses on Sundays. *All other restrictions apply.*



Mark Your Calendar

May 5

Board of Commissioners
Town Hall
6 p.m.

May 8

Planning Board
Town Hall
7 p.m.

May 10

Water Bills Due

Rain Barrel Sale
Police Department
9 a.m.

May 26

Memorial Day Holiday
Town Offices Closed
No Sanitation Pick-Up

May 29

Water Service
Disconnected for
Non-Payment

Sister Cities Visit

Mayor Bill Thunberg and the Town of Mooresville will host 28 representatives of our Sister City, Hockenheim, Germany, from May 16-21. The delegation will be led by Hockenheim's Lord Mayor Dieter Gummer. Mooresville and South Iredell families will be hosting the delegation in their homes.

Mooresville commemorates its tie to Hockenheim on two main signs leading into town. Just before and during their visit, you will also see the Hockenheim flag flying alongside the Town of Mooresville flag, celebrating their visit.

"We are excited to have Hockenheim send such a large delegation to visit us," said Mayor Thunberg. "When we were there last June, we discovered many things we have in common and uncovered some rich new exchange opportunities for us to explore in the future."

The visit is coordinated by the Mooresville-South Iredell Sister Cities Committee. Stop by the Sister Cities booth during the Race City Festival on May 17 and visit with members of the delegation.

More Rain Barrels

In April, the Town of Mooresville held its first rain barrel sale - and the response exceeded expectations. The Town sold out of the 177 rain barrels and has placed an order for more.

On Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., the Town will once again be selling 60 and 80 gallon rain barrels on a first come, first served basis at the Mooresville Police Department on West Iredell Avenue.

Rain barrels collect run-off from rooftops for irrigation and other non-potable uses. 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.

Pre-paid orders are accepted until May 5 and are encouraged. For more information or to place an order, contact the Town's Business Office at 704-663-3800.

