



# Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 7

July 2008

## Comprehensive Bicycle Plan

### 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's Comprehensive Bicycle Plan was adopted by the Town Board in June. The plan was funded by a grant from the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation to encourage the development of comprehensive municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans. The Town previously adopted a Pedestrian Plan (June 2006) with assistance from the same grant program.

The Town's Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan focuses on creating 20 Pedestrian Oriented Development Zones that will encourage walking. Since bicycling is affected by many of the same issues as walking, a similar concept was applied to generate land use strategies for the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan.

Urban distances up to three miles are most quickly covered by the bicycle compared to walking, the automobile and public transit. Ideal bicycle trips range from one-half to three miles in distance and provide a balance between energy and time efficiency.

Three bicycle districts have been identified and will serve as centralized hubs for practical bicycle accommodations:

- Downtown Mooresville, including surrounding neighborhoods of Cascade, Eastern Heights, Harris Crossing and Mill Village;
- Lake Norman, including parts of Oak Village, Morrison Plantation, Winslow Bay, the Brawley School Road Corridor, and the racing attractions and industries; and
- Mount Mourne, including Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, Lowe's corporate campus, the proposed CATS North Corridor Commuter Rail station, and new Langtree Road developments.

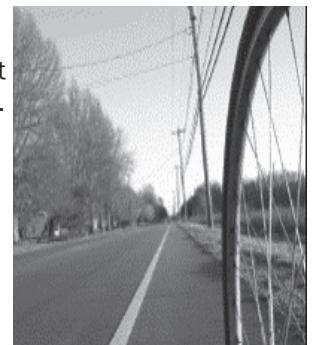
Other than creating the land-use development needed for future bicycling, a top priority of this plan is to create conditions that are suitable for children to bike. Children of bicycling ages make up a high percentage of Mooresville's residency and are by nature a captive audience because they cannot legally drive. Also, they show declining health trends due to a lack of exercise.

According to the survey used for this plan, 84% of those surveyed with children in Mooresville stated their children never bicycle to school. However, almost 98% stated they would like for their child to be able to bicycle more often.

A variety of programs are recommended to enhance the overall cycling environment by educating and encouraging citizens; enforcing laws that protect bicyclists; increasing transportation options; and maintaining the safety of the roadways to help establish a bicycling "culture" in Mooresville.

The plan also includes policy recommendations to remedy land use policies and regulations that discourage bicycle and pedestrian-friendly roadways. The recommendations provided in this plan are intended to create more transportation options to Mooresville's residents and create a more complete street system.

The plan includes infrastructure improvements (bike lanes, bike routes, parking shelters and signage) and identifies "high priority projects" that can be completed first and will have the most benefit to cyclists in the area. Other projects will be implemented as resources and opportunities become available.





**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 Business of Budgets

The Town is required by law to prepare and approve a balanced budget no later than June 30 of each year. The budget is then monitored and audited according to State law. The tax rate and income sources must be in balance with the cost to deliver the services. It is what many taxpayers call a "necessary evil."

The budget for fiscal year 2008-09 includes debt payment on the \$33 million in bonds approved by voters in 2005; funding for daily services such as fire & police safety and water & wastewater treatment; and funding for the pilot recycling project. It also includes funding for 15 new employees. Several positions, including an electrician and pump maintenance mechanic, will save money by providing services in-house that were previously paid to outside contractors. An engineering technician, biosolids technician and pretreatment technician will be added to manage mandated state programs. Seven public safety workers will be added to the fire and police departments. With the increasing cost of fuel, the Town's projected fuel costs will increase 35% over last year's budget.

When finalizing a budget, elected officials and staff must decide what is a "want" and what is a "need." What services can be provided? How many people will that impact? All citizens do not agree on or use the same services. The pilot recycling program will be a good example to watch.

Town management is committed to providing an equitable, fair and stable tax rate that provides the resources needed to offer the programs requested - while not depending on the Town's savings account to make the budget balance. We must pay off the debts of previous years, provide services for today and plan for the future.

Sincerely,

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



## Fireworks & Water Fun

### What fireworks are illegal?

The following fireworks are illegal for personal use in North Carolina:

- Anything that explodes or is projected into the air
- Firecrackers
- Rockets
- Roman Candles
- Aerial Fireworks

### Are slip-n-slides and other outdoor water toys allowed during the drought?

The Town is under Stage III Mandatory Water Restrictions because of the on-going drought conditions. As of this publication's printing deadline, the Town was allowing customers to use water for any purpose (except filling pools) on the following schedule: odd-numbered addresses on Saturdays; even-numbered addresses on Sundays. However, the local Drought Management Advisory Council is expected to review water uses and restrictions by the end of June. To check for updates on the water conservation ordinance, visit [www.ci.moore'sville.nc.us](http://www.ci.moore'sville.nc.us).

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Post Office Box 878  
Moore'sville, NC 28115  
704-663-3800

[comments@ci.moore'sville.nc.us](mailto:comments@ci.moore'sville.nc.us)

# Sister Cities

Hockenheim, Germany is Mooresville's Sister City. Typically, residents of Mooresville and Hockenheim visit annually to build friendships and learn new cultures. The most recent visit occurred here in May.

## Diary of A Visit

*Many in the Mooresville/South Iredell Sister Cities area enjoyed visiting with 27 Hockenheim friends. Kurt Waldthausen, Honorary Counsel of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of North Carolina, also attended. The delegation arrived on May 16 and met the families who would be their hosts. After the "official" welcome at Town Hall, they had dinner at Little Kitchen.*

*The entire delegation attended the Race City Festival on May 17 where they were introduced to the citizens of Mooresville. That evening, all attended the All Star Race at Lowe's Motor Speedway. Sunday was a day for guests to experience typical Mooresville events with their host families.*

*On Monday, the official tour of Mooresville and the surrounding area began. These tours included Mooresville area schools, NASCAR Technical Institute and The Energy Explorium. Evening dinner and entertainment were at Club FX.*

*On Tuesday, the group toured Penske Racing, Lowe's YMCA and Carolina Blonde. A farewell dinner was held at Soiree'.*

*The enjoyable, fast-paced five days were over on May 21. Many fond farewells were exchanged in the Charles Mack Citizen Center parking lot.*

This visit of friends from Hockenheim, Germany was made possible by elected officials, town employees, civic organizations, restaurants, businesses, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Mooresville/South Iredell Chamber of Commerce and, of course, the host families.

The Mooresville/South Iredell Sister Cities organization is already planning for a group from Mooresville to visit Hockenheim in 2009. For more information about the program or to get involved, contact Kim Streb, Chairperson, at 704-658-0649.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**On-Site Defibrillators.** Mooresville resident Jeff Cohen recently helped the Town's Recreation Department obtain two Philips HeartStart Onsite Defibrillators; one for the War Memorial and one for the Charles Mack Citizen Center. Weighing just over three pounds, the defibrillators can be carried to the patient's side in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. Using clear, natural voice instructions, the OnSite Defibrillator guides the user through each step of defibrillation and CPR. Town employees at the War Memorial and Charles Mack Citizen Center have received training on the devices.

**Share The Ride.** Share the Ride NC is a new state-wide rideshare matching service which allows commuters in North Carolina to quickly and securely find individuals who share similar commutes and work hours and are interested in carpooling or vanpooling. In addition, Share the Ride NC allows commuters to find park and ride lots, public transit services, bike routes and more. For more information, visit [www.sharetheridenc.org](http://www.sharetheridenc.org).

**Water Conservation Violators.** Anyone observing violations of the Town's mandatory water restrictions should contact the Water & Sewer Maintenance office at 704-664-3705. All water/sewer customers of the Town of Mooresville are in Stage III Mandatory Water Restrictions. For a complete listing of all restrictions and/or updates, visit the Town's website at [www.ci.mooresville.nc.us](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us).

**Cable Watchdog.** The Town contracts with Cabltrac Associates to assist customers with service issues and monitor the service provided by MI-Connection and Time Warner Cable. Cabltrac Associates is available 24 hours per day by phone or e-mail to receive and track complaints. If you have problems with customer service, cable lines that have not been buried or other unresolved service issues, contact Cabltrac Associates at 704-541-5787 or [cabltrac@carolina.rr.com](mailto:cabltrac@carolina.rr.com).

**General Fire Safety Tips.** Using simple rules and common sense can help prevent a fire tragedy from happening in your home. Follow these simple rules year-round to keep your home and family safe.

- Keep children away from open flames and electrical outlets.
- Make sure your smoke alarm is maintained and working properly.
- Have a smoke alarm in every level of your house.
- Keep your emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Call the fire department for ANY fire - even if it has been extinguished.
- Know what to do in case of a fire. Get low and get out of the house. Go to the designated meeting place. Never go back in the house for a toy or pet.
- Have a fire evacuation plan and practice it with your family!

For more information, contact the Mooresville Fire Department at 704-664-1338.

## Help Us Help You, *Fireworks Safety*

Many families use fireworks to celebrate holidays. Here are a few safety tips to keep you and your family safe during the July 4th holiday:

- Have a responsible adult present when shooting fireworks.
- Buy only from reliable vendors.
- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Always have water (garden hose & bucket) available.
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework. Wait 15-20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Never give fireworks or sparklers to small children. They are not toys!
- Dispose of fireworks properly. Soak them in water, then dispose of them in your trash can.

- If you must keep fireworks, store them in a cool, dry place.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- Always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Always read and follow label directions.
- The best fireworks shows are the professional ones; check your local listing for shows.
- Stay away from illegal explosives.

Violators face misdemeanor charges punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. Children under 16 years of age may not purchase fireworks of any kind in North Carolina.



### Mark Your Calendar

**July 3**  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Mooresville Public Library  
@ 7 p.m.

**July 4**  
Independence Day Holiday  
Town Offices Closed

**July 7**  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

**July 9**  
Environmental Protection Commission  
Town Hall @ 7 p.m.

**July 10**  
Water Bills Due

Planning Board  
Town Hall @ 7 p.m.

**July 29**  
Water Service Disconnected for Non-Payment

## New Life for Old Tree

During the June Town Board meeting, John Melius presented the Town with a decorative bowl crafted from the willow oak that once stood as a local landmark in downtown Mooresville.

The 70-year-old large willow oak located in John Franklin Moore Square, at the corner of Center Avenue and Main Street, was removed in October 2007 because it was decaying and had become a public safety hazard. Considered by many a Mooresville landmark, the felled tree was given new life by local artists who shared their talents for the benefit of local charities and civic organizations.

Melius, a local businessman, started "turning" wood just a few years ago but his works of art are already displayed in several galleries.



Above: John Melius (right) presents the turned bowl to Mayor Bill Thunberg.  
Left: The bowl crafted from the historic willow oak.

## Breaking & Entering

The Mooresville Police Department and area law enforcement agencies are experiencing a number of regional crime trends related to Auto Breaking and Entering. We can all work together to combat this local crime by following a few suggestions.

- Remove any item from view that a thief may want such as purses, cell phones, music players, GPS systems, tools, video equipment, money, etc.
- Lock vehicle doors.
- Park in the garage.
- Install motion lights that come on when someone gets near your car at night.
- Start a community watch program.
- Get to know your neighbors.
- Call the police when you see anything that is out of the ordinary.

If you have any questions, contact the Mooresville Police Department at 704-664-3311. In case of emergency, always dial 911.