



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 8

August 2008

Keeping Families Safe

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's Police & Fire departments are working together to offer classes and tips to keep Mooresville families safe.

The Mooresville Police Department is offering a Safety Series during the month of August. The three classes offered are:

Internet Safety for Parents & Grandparents

Tuesday, August 5
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The class will provide internet and computer safety tips and concentrate on understanding popular sites such as Facebook and MySpace. The class is limited to 25 people. Depending on the response, a second class may be scheduled.

For more information or to register, contact Captain Thompson at 704-658-9021.

Self Defense for Women

Tuesday, August 12
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

This class will give participants a practical and common sense approach to personal protection. The class is limited to 25 people. Depending on the response, a second class may be scheduled.

For more information or to register, contact Captain Anderson at 704-658-9019.

Child Safety Seat Check

Tuesday, August 19
5 - 8 p.m.

Trained and certified firefighters and police officers will inspect child safety seats for proper installation or any potential problems. Registration is not required and there is no limit on the number of inspections that will be conducted.

For more information, contact Major Robbins at 704-658-9008.

The Mooresville Fire Department offers these tips for a safer summer season.

Boating Safety

Stay safe on the lake with these boating tips:

- Learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. This includes anyone participating in any boating activity.
- Alcohol and boating don't mix. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance and coordination - over 50% of drownings result from boating incidents involving alcohol.
- Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets for yourself and passengers when boating and fishing.
- Develop a float plan. Tell a responsible person where you will be and how long you will be gone.
- Take a boating course (U.S. Power Squadron, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Sailing, etc.) that teaches navigation rules, emergency procedures and the effects of wind, water conditions and weather.
- Know local weather conditions and prepare for storms. Stop boating as soon as you see or hear a storm.

Grill Safety

Fire code prohibits outdoor grilling on decks in apartment communities and within ten feet (vertically & horizontally) of combustible materials or portions of all occupancies except one/two family dwellings and townhouses. This code applies to charcoal grills, propane gas grills, natural gas grills, hibachis, smokers or any other appliance which uses an open flame to cook, including portable electric grills if the grill contains loose heat storage material such as lava rock.

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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...

Trust in Government

There is a joke that says the scariest words a citizen can hear are “I’m from the government and I’m here to help you.” However, I believe those are words of commitment. Our citizens have come to expect Town employees to do their best to support the citizen’s needs. Town employees are called to help with daily issues and emergency situations. Many times employees are a welcome sight to our citizens.

The citizens of this community need to be able to trust that government leaders, appointed or elected, are doing the right thing. This doesn’t mean that no one makes mistakes. Many issues that staff and elected officials deal with are complicated and there is no right or wrong answer. In fact, there may be multiple right answers!

Recent issues affecting the Town may give the perception that the public trust is shaken. It is my hope that our citizens will not rush to judgment but wait for the facts. Unfortunately, that doesn’t stop rumors or accusations. Our justice system is based on the premise that a person is innocent until proven guilty. I hope Town staff receives the same consideration.

Personnel matters are some of the toughest and most complicated issues for managers. Many times a manager cannot respond to questions or inquiries due to personnel privacy issues. State law dictates what information the Town can release.

The Town of Mooresville is committed to honesty and integrity in government. In my opinion, our employees possess high moral character and go above and beyond to provide exceptional customer service. This is our goal. I know that trust in your government is earned and I pledge to do everything in my power to make that happen. I hope our citizens recognize and respect that fact.

Sincerely,

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



Drought Update

Since we’ve had some rain lately, why do we still have such stringent water restrictions?

While the rain has brought some much-needed relief, our area is still in an “Extreme Drought” as classified by the North Carolina Drought Management Council. Therefore, all water/sewer customers of the Town of Mooresville remain in Stage III Mandatory Water Restrictions.

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 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.*

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

comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

Xeriscaping

Xeriscaping: the planting of drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, plants and ground cover that are comfortable in their natural environment and need little, if any, water or fertilizer.

Xeriscaping uses practices such as mulching around plants and trees, decorating with stones or pavers, and building decks in areas that may traditionally be planted in turfgrass. Also, planting species with similar water requirements together in water-use zones allows for irrigation based on plants' needs during times of severe drought.

When water is scarce, experts suggest using water-soluble fertilizers with a very low concentration of nitrogen and apply less frequently. Also, it is good to remove cross-over branches, suckers and dead wood. According to one study, when trees, shrubs and flowers are in their best environment, outside water use can be reduced by as much as 54%.

Xeriscaping does not mean eliminating lawns. Turfgrass serves many purposes such as erosion control, heat dissipation and noise reduction.

North Carolina has a variety of grasses (Centipede grass, Zoysiagrass and Bermudagrass) that do well in hot, dry weather. Once established, these warm-season grasses need less water than cool season grasses and typically do not die even in times of drought. Turfgrass must become well established before it will become drought tolerant.

By using drought-tolerant plants and natural materials, yards can adapt to the environment, whether wet or dry. Xeriscaping means less mowing, less yard work and a yard with plants that naturally fit. By using xeriscaping methods in landscaping, homeowners can help keep North Carolina's lakes, reservoirs and aquifers full during wet and dry times.

(Information adapted from Save Water NC. For more information, visit www.SaveWaterNC.org.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leash Law & Public Parks. Chapter 3 (Animals) of the Town's Code of Ordinances was amended on June 2. The amended ordinance states that "any dog while in any park operated by the Town shall be secured by a leash or chain of sufficient tensile strength to restrain the particular dog and of a length of no more than six feet. Any person failing to so restrain a dog as set out in this Section and upon being so notified by any officer or agent of the Town shall immediately leave such park and such person's failure to do so shall constitute a trespass." Failure to follow this ordinance shall result in a civil penalty of \$100. For more information, contact the Mooresville Police Department at 704-664-3311 or the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

Sorry for the Confusion. The water/sewer utility bills mailed on June 30 had an incorrect due date (7.01.08) printed on them. The actual due date was the tenth of the month (7.10.08) as always. It was a typographical error. We apologize for the confusion this caused some of our customers.

Free Movies in Downtown Mooresville. "Movies on Main" is a free monthly event presented by the Town of Mooresville. Bring your family on Saturday, August 23 at 2 p.m. to the auditorium of the Charles Mack Citizen Center for a free showing of Disney's "High School Musical 2." For more information, visit www.mooresville-nc.gov or call 704-662-3334.

Skate Park Update. Equipment has been installed and the new skate park is nearing completion. Once all work is done, a grand opening date will be announced. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

Water Conservation Violators. Anyone observing violations of the Town's mandatory water restrictions should contact the Water & Sewer Maintenance office at 704-664-3705. For a complete listing of all restrictions and/or updates, visit the Town's website at www.ci.mooresville.nc.us.

Monitoring the Drought. The Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) was formed to regularly review the drought status and to recommend and coordinate needed actions for the Groups' members. It also reviews the Low Inflow Protocol and recommends possible improvements to Duke Energy. Normally scheduled to meet once a year, the CW-DMAG has met as a group at least monthly since late summer 2007. CW-DMAG members include the area's public water suppliers, several large industrial users that withdraw water from the Catawba-Wateree Basin, NC and SC agencies, the US Geological Survey and Duke Energy.

profile

Recreation Advisory Board

The Town's Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) consists of nine community volunteers who "demonstrate expertise, experience or positive interest in an area of parks or recreation."

Members include three Town Board members, three members who have served or are currently serving as volunteers in the Town recreation program, and three members who are members at-large within the community. The Recreation Department Director and the Chairman of the Mooresville Youth Advisory Council serve as ex-officio members of the Board.

RAB serves as a liaison between the Town Board and citizens of the Town and works for "a favorable opinion of, and support for, parks and recreation services through community and neighborhood groups."

RAB advises the Town Board on matters affecting parks and recreation programs. These may include "fee structure, policies and procedures, use of all facilities, acquisition and disposal of lands and properties relating to all aspects of the Town recreation program."

Six regular meetings are scheduled each year. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chairman with at least 48 hours notice. All meetings are open to the public.

Meetings serve as a forum for the introduction of innovative and new ideas, concepts, programs, policies and procedures.

For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.



August 4
Board of Commissioners
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

August 10
Water Bills Due

August 14
Planning Board
Town Hall @ 7 p.m.

August 28
Water Service
Disconnected for
Non-Payment

September 1
Labor Day Holiday
Town Offices Closed
No Sanitation Pick-up

September 2
Board of Commissioners
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

Recycling Pilot Program Started

The Town began its Recycling Pilot Program on Monday, July 7 with approximately 1,100 homes and apartments as potential participants. The program follows the Monday sanitation route and includes the area between Main and Center streets from Downtown to Linwood Road. Harris Village and Linwood Farms are also included.

The Town is using "single stream recycling" where all recyclable materials can be deposited into one container. Materials that are accepted include glass, aluminum, plastic, paper and cardboard. After collection, the materials are sent to Charlotte for separation and recycling.

Initial participation rates are meeting expectations. The pilot program will be tracking time, tonnage and participation rate to determine the feasibility of adding more routes in 2009.

Keeping Families Safe

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Homeowners should follow these guidelines:

- Set grills on a smooth flat surface at least TEN feet away from all structures.
- Keep grills away from ALL combustible materials such as pine needles, mulch, grass and leaves.
- Never use lighter fluid on a burning fire.
- Leave the grill hood open until ignition occurs when lighting gas grills.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended. Make sure charcoal ashes are out before discarding them.
- Keep a fire extinguisher or charged garden hose accessible.
- Do not deep-fry foods on combustible decks or within TEN feet of grass, shrubbery or pine straw.
- Always shut off valves to propane tanks when not in use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning and maintenance of grills.
- Do not store or operate gas grills inside your residence.
- Do not store propane cylinders near a furnace or water heater.