



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 9

September 2008

New Downtown Master 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

Steve Husemann
Town Manager

N. Erskine Smith Jr.
Assistant Town Manager

Stephen P. Gambill
Town Attorney

Janet Pope
Town Clerk

The Town of Mooresville has completed the first phase of a new Downtown Master Plan. Led by the urban design firm of Sottile & Sottile, local architects and designers from Burgess Design Studio, Narmour Wright Creech, and ColeJenest & Stone have completed the first phase of a new master plan for the historic town center of Mooresville. This new master plan will replace the previous plan approved in 2001.

"Many of the original plan's recommendations for the downtown area have been implemented," said Tim Brown, Planning Director for the Town of Mooresville. "This new plan will build upon the previous plan and capture fresh and innovative ideas for the downtown area." The plan will also include areas to the north and south of the downtown core including the historic Mooresville Mill and surrounding mill village.

The planning process began with a week-long design workshop in August that involved the public in defining key elements in creating the plan. These include strengthening the core, expand-

ing green space and identifying infill, renovation and redevelopment opportunities for the downtown study area. The team also studied ideas to improve the appearance of the gateway corridors into the town center, enhance pedestrian access and integrate redevelopment of the Mooresville Mill site.

"The kick-off meeting, hands-on design session and progress presentations were well attended and I was pleased to see such great participation from our citizens, downtown merchants and property owners," said Mayor Bill Thunberg.

Christian Sottile, who is leading the team, has been practicing urban design for more than fifteen years in Savannah, Georgia, one of the oldest planned cities in the country known for its compact, walkable streets and beautifully-landscaped historic squares.

For more information on the development of the Downtown Master Plan, contact the Town's Planning Department at 704-662-7040.



MOORESVILLE, N.C.

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Downtown Master Plan
MOORESVILLE
NORTH CAROLINA

Town of Mooresville
Sottile & Sottile, Urban Design
ColeJenest & Stone
Narmour Wright Creech
Burgess Design Studio



**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...

Thank You & Welcome

After almost eight months serving as interim manager, I look forward to a transition back to my regular duties and welcome Steve Husemann to the helm in Mooresville government.

While in transition, the Town continued meeting citizen demands for services, responding to emergency situations and taking care of the day-to-day service delivery. Over the past months, the town adopted a balanced budget, began a new recycling pilot program, continued new park development and worked toward purchasing land for a new public services facility. Even in transition, the business of government continues.

Last month, the Town Board appointed Steve Husemann as the new Town Manager. He officially begins his duties on September 2. Husemann brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Town. He spent most of his career in city management in Ohio and retired with over thirty years of service. Although retired, Husemann spent the last few years in an interim position in Middleton, Ohio, as well as serving as Executive Director of Miami Valley Communications Council. The lure of a challenge and wanting to continue his public service led him to Mooresville.

His management style will be patterned after the Boy Scout law - trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. He has been active in professional associations and his community. I know the citizens of Mooresville will welcome him with "southern hospitality."

I appreciate the support from Town staff, Town Board and the citizens of Mooresville during my time as interim manager. I look forward to working with the new manager. There is so much opportunity and promise in our community!

Sincerely,

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



More on Grill Safety

As a follow-up to last month's information about gas grills ... What do most homeowners do wrong in handling, storing and using their gas grills?

According to Mooresville Fire Marshal Gary Styers, the majority of homeowners (or grill owners) are careless with their grills and propane tanks.

"Most fires that we see with grills are the result of using the grill too close to combustible items, such as the side of their house (vinyl siding will melt), and from not properly cleaning the grills which leads to grease build up," says Styers.

What should they be doing?

- Watch where you cook! Grills produce intense heat that can ignite nearby items.
- Always clean grills as suggested by the manufacturer.
- Never grill indoors.
- Store all propane tanks outside - not in your home!

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

comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

Small Area Planning

The Town has hired the Charlotte-based firm of LandDesign to lead a multi-disciplinary team to develop small area plans for the Brawley School Road / I-77 interchange and the proposed Cornelius Road / I-77 interchange. When complete, each plan will provide specific planning and design proposals for each study area. Over the next five months, LandDesign and its assembled team, including Kimley-Horn Associates and Warren & Associates, will facilitate a process through which the town and its citizens can determine a vision for the future of both study areas.

Each plan will include a conditions and needs report detailing population, housing, economic development, environment and natural resources, land use, historical and cultural resources, transportation, utilities and community facilities in each study area.

The Town seeks to generate plans that reflect the feedback and participation of residents and business owners. More than 100 interested citizens attended the first community open house in August and helped create the priority lists of issues and opportunities important to the areas.

A multi-day planning charrette, or design workshop, will be held September 9 - 11 at the Charles Mack Citizen Center. The charrette is a collaborative workshop organized to develop real, creative solutions in focused sessions. It is an opportunity to be engaged in reviewing, improving and validating / rejecting ideas and concepts for the two study areas.

Also, two more open house events are scheduled for September 17 and October 22 to keep the public informed and gather feedback. These events are scheduled from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizen Center.

For more information, call the Town's Planning Department at 704-662-7040 or visit www.ci.mooreville.nc.us.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pumpkin Run. Mooresville's Recreation Department will host its 9th Annual Pumpkin Run 8K Road Race on Saturday, October 25. There also will be a 2K Fun Run/Walk for ages 7 and up. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. on race morning at the War Memorial Building. The 8K Pumpkin Run begins at 9 a.m. The 2K Fun Run/Walk begins at 9:15 a.m.

Registration forms are available at the Recreation Office at 418 Carpenter Avenue or on the Town's web site at www.ci.mooreville.nc.us/recreation under "Documents." Entry fee for the 8K Pumpkin Run is \$30 (\$25 prior to October 17). Entry fee for the 2K Fun Run/Walk is \$15. Make checks payable to the Mooresville Recreation Department. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

Free Movie in September. On Saturday, September 27 at 2 p.m., the Town of Mooresville will present "Movies on Main," a free monthly movie event for families in the auditorium of the Charles Mack Citizen Center. This month's movie is "Herbie: Fully Loaded." For more information, visit www.ci.mooreville.nc.us or call 704-662-3334.

Bellingham Park Celebration. Phase Two of Bellingham Park is now finished. To celebrate, the Town invites residents to come out and enjoy the expanded park amenities during the grand opening on Saturday, October 4 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Recreation Department will be offering free youth tennis clinics on the new tennis courts and various other activities throughout the park. Refreshments will be served.

Bellingham Park is a 40-acre park located at 1600 Bellingham Drive. New park additions include two lighted tennis courts, two ball fields, two additional picnic shelters, an extended playground and walking trails that connect the park to adjoining neighborhoods. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

Utility Rates Increase. In this month's water bills, you will notice an increase in your water/sewer rates. Water rates for residential customers using less than 5,000 gallons of water per month will increase by an average of 1.2%. Commercial customers will see a rate increase of 5%.

However, residential customers using more than 5,000 gallons per month will see rate increases of 5% or more – higher water usage results in higher rates. Governor Easley and the General Assembly encouraged municipalities/utilities to institute "conservation water rates" to promote year-round water conservation.

Sewer (wastewater) rates will increase by 15% for all customers regardless of the amount of water used.

MFD Retirement. On July 29, Battalion Chief Melvin Rogers retired after a three-decade career with the Mooresville Fire Department. We wish Melvin well in his retirement.

Steve Husemann, *New Town Manager*



profile

On August 1, the Mooresville Town Board announced the selection of Steven Husemann to serve as Mooresville's new Town Manager effective September 2, 2008.

"We're excited about the opportunity of having someone with Mr. Husemann's experience and qualifications to guide Mooresville into the future," said Mayor Bill Thunberg. "We're confident that Mr. Husemann will provide the leadership that the town employees and the citizens of Mooresville expect."

Husemann has more than 30 years of municipal managerial experience, including numerous city manager positions. Most recently, Husemann served as the Executive Director of the Miami Valley Communications Council, a council of governments that includes eight full member cities and 16 affiliate members.

"I am really honored to have been selected as Mooresville's new Town Manager and I will work hard to prove worthy of the confidence that the Board has placed in me", said Husemann. "I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities involved and will work closely with the Commissioners to start serving the residents as effectively as possible."

On a personal note, Husemann is married and has two adult children and two grandchildren. "My wife and I are eager to get deeply involved in the community," said Husemann.



September 1

Labor Day Holiday
Town Offices Closed
No Sanitation Pick-up

September 2

Board of Commissioners
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

September 4

Historic Preservation
Commission
Public Library @ 6 p.m.

September 10

Water Bills Due

Environmental Protection
Commission
Town Hall @ 7 p.m.

September 11

Planning Board
Town Hall @ 7 p.m.

October 1

Water Service Disconnected
for Non-Payment

MPD Starts Citizens Police Academy

Beginning Tuesday, September 30, the Mooresville Police Department will offer a Citizens Police Academy. The mission of the Academy is to build understanding and communication between the police and Mooresville citizens.

Participants will learn the philosophy of policing and will receive an overview of police administration, patrol operations, communications and criminal investigations. Attendees will become involved in hands-on activities such as working on a crime scene, testifying in court and learning how to multi-task as a police dispatcher.

The Academy is open to Mooresville residents and business owners who are at least 18 years old. Classes will meet on eight consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30 - 9 p.m. There is no fee to participate but class size is limited to 20 participants. Applicants must provide a certified copy of their criminal history from the Iredell County Clerk of Court.

Applications are available at the Mooresville Police Department or on-line at www.ci.mooresville.nc.us/police. For more information, call Captain John Brammer at 704-658-9044 or Major Carl Robbins at 704-658-9008.

Skate Park Opening Delayed Due to Theft

Skate park equipment valued at approximately \$15,000 was stolen from the park construction site in July. Custom panels used in the construction of half-pipe ramps were taken from the site.

"It appears that someone knew exactly what they were looking for and how this equipment could be used," said Wanda McKenzie, Recreation Director.

The skate park was nearing completion and the theft delayed the project for several weeks. Stay tuned for a revised completion date and grand opening.

Anyone with information about this crime should contact the Mooresville Police Department at 704-664-3311 or Crime Stoppers at 704-658-9056. Crime Stoppers offers a reward for information leading to an arrest or the recovery of stolen property.