



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 11

November 2008

Making A Difference In Traffic

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

It is apparent that residents are concerned with traffic congestion. Two key areas that contribute to motorists' frustration are intersections along NC Highway 150 and areas around the local schools. Although unprecedented growth has led to the crowded roads, drivers can still make a difference in alleviating some of the adverse traffic conditions including gridlock.

First, drivers should obey all traffic laws that address the congestion and clogged intersections. "No Turn on Red" and "Do Not Block Intersection" signs are in place at selected intersec-



tions along NC Highway 150. These signs are designed to deter drivers from clogging the intersections. Vehicles stopped in

intersections create public safety concerns for emergency vehicles (such as fire engines or ambulances) trying to respond to emergencies. Plus, they make a bad situation even worse!

In another step to reduce congestion, residents and visitors could patronize local businesses and restaurants at non-peak times. Supporting our local businesses is a must for our economic well-being but, if possible, drivers should use alternative routes and combine trips when shopping or dining out. Also, when traveling through the congested area, leave early, be patient and be courteous to other drivers.

In addition to traffic on NC Highway 150, another concern for drivers is the congested areas around local schools. When possible, drivers should adjust their schedules and travel alternate routes to avoid school traffic. For parents

of students, buses are the best form of transportation to reduce congestion around the schools. If buses are not an option, carpooling is a viable alternative in helping to improve traffic flow.



If the school uses staggered times for drop-offs, it is important to strictly adhere to that schedule. Arriving 15 minutes early during a staggered schedule simply negates any positive effects of the staggering efforts.

Drivers can make a difference in their efforts to alleviate some of the congestion and gridlock in Mooresville. Below are some basic tips to keep drivers safe and traffic moving.

- All passengers should buckle up every trip... every time!
- Driving requires your full attention - especially in congested areas. Do not use your cell phone while driving.
- A green light does mean GO...but first make sure the intersection is clear!
- Don't tailgate—it won't get you to your destination any faster.
- Watch your speed. Speeding is one of the main factors contributing to traffic crashes.
- Watch out for road rage. If you see an aggressive driver, back off.

Respect for our traffic laws, patience and courtesy are important factors for drivers to remember when traveling anywhere, especially along NC Highway 150 or in the areas of our local schools. Do your part to make a difference!



**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 TOWN MANAGER...

Economic Planning

Although the Town of Mooresville is in a strong financial position to weather this current economic situation, we will remain pro-active in our planning and assessment of the revenues that impact the Town's budget and our ability to provide services.

Property tax revenues (the Town's largest source of revenue) are generally stable and do not fluctuate in the short term. However, sales tax revenues could experience sharp declines.

Mooresville's sales tax revenues set a record high in July 2008 and the August revenues continued to be strong. Because Mooresville retailers generally sell essential goods (food, household items, etc.) the sales tax revenues on these items will not be as affected as those on luxury items.

Whether you spend less because you have less money or you are just being more cautious, every reduction in spending results in less sales tax dollars.

The Town of Mooresville is taking a common-sense approach to spending that many of you are taking with your household finances.

- We are looking closely at expensive decisions which are difficult to reverse. In the case of the Town, this means employees. While some positions are in the process of being filled and some are essential to public safety, other positions are not being filled at this time.
- We are looking at major purchases. The Town is reviewing all expenditures in excess of \$5,000. Even routine purchases will be examined to determine whether they can be eliminated or deferred.
- We are planning for the future. Department managers have developed contingency plans to cut 2%, 4%, 6%, or 8% from departmental budgets, if needed.
- We are looking for opportunities. This may be a very good time to get a low price on equipment or projects that we will need.

While we will continue to study the financial conditions, we have no guarantees about future situations. Please know that we are watching the budget and attempting to keep our options open.

Respectfully,

Steve Husemann
Town Manager



Recycling Update

What kind of participation is the pilot recycling program receiving?

We have been tracking participation in four different areas for the 14 weeks the program has been running. Below are the averages of participation:

- Original Mooresville (houses not in a subdivision) 48% of the 545 households
- Harris Crossing 73% of the 38 households
- Harris Village 76% of 162 households
- Linwood Farms 73% of 318 households

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

comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

Recreation News

Basketball & Wrestling Registration

It is time to register boys and girls for Basketball and Wrestling with the Town's Recreation Department. Basketball practices begin in December for boys (ages 5-17) and girls (ages 5 -16). Wrestling also begins in December for boys and girls (ages 5 - 13). Games and matches will be held in January and February 2009.

Registration for both sports are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

November 3 - 25

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Recreation Department (418 Carpenter Avenue)

Saturday, November 15

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Play It Again Sports (Mooresville Store Only)

Saturday, November 22

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dick's Sporting Goods (Mooresville Store Only)

Parents must bring a birth certificate and the registration fee of \$30 to register children for these winter sports. For more information, contact the Mooresville Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

Children's Holiday Party

The Recreation Department will host their first Children's Holiday Party at the Charles Mack Citizen Center on Saturday, December 6 from 1 - 5 p.m.

There will be snacks, coloring pages, a local storyteller reading holiday stories, a showing of "Alvin and the Chipmunks Movie" on the big screen and, of course, time for visiting with Santa.

Santa will be available for visits from 1 - 3 p.m. Parents must accompany their children to the festivities and are invited to bring cameras to capture photos of their children with Santa.

For more information, call the Mooresville Recreation Department at 704-663-7026 or the Charles Mack Citizen Center at 704-662-3334.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mooresville Concerts. The second season of Mooresville Concerts continues with a performance by The Boys of Buncombe on Saturday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizen Center in downtown Mooresville. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 10. Tickets can be purchased at the Mack Center, the Mooresville Recreation Department office, or by calling 704-662-3334.

Led by Charlotte-based fiddler, banjo player and jaws harp virtuoso Jon Singleton, the Boys of Buncombe features the fiddle wizardry of Asheville's Steve Trismen and Black Mountain's Steve Burnside on guitar, fiddle and mandolin. From old time songs and fiddle tunes to high energy Bluegrass and Appalachian music, The Boys of Buncombe deliver a great show for the entire family. A "Meet The Artists" reception will follow the concert.

Fire Department Raises Money for MDA. The Mooresville Fire Department raised \$11,968 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association during their recent Fill the Boot campaign. Thanks to all who participated.

Phone Book Confusion. The new phone books published by Windstream Communications only list the Town's phone numbers in the "Government Offices" section on page 23. The Town is not listed in the White Pages.

Flu Shots. The Iredell County Health Department will be offering flu shots at the Charles Mack Citizen Center in Downtown Mooresville for two days in November. Medicare and some insurance will be accepted, otherwise injections are \$30. On Tuesday, November 4, shots are offered from 8 a.m. - Noon. On Thursday, November 6, shots are offered from 3 - 7 p.m. No appointment is needed. For more information, contact the Iredell County Health Department at 704-664-5281 or 704-878-5300.

Free Family Movie. Movies on Main is proud to present "Home Alone" on Saturday, November 22 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Charles Mack Citizen Center. This free monthly event for families is presented by the Town of Mooresville and sponsored by MI-Connection. For more information, visit www.ci.mooresville.nc.us or call 704-662-3334.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule. There will be NO change in sanitation service on Veterans Day, November 11. During the Thanksgiving holidays, Thursday's residential pick up will be Friday, November 28.

Planning Board. The Mooresville Planning Board voted to move their monthly meeting time to 6 p.m. The meeting dates (second Thursday of each month) did not change. The Board approved this change at their September meeting. For more information, contact the Planning Department at 704-662-7040.

Help Us Help You: Construction Bonds

Maintenance agreements between the Town of Mooresville and two community developers have been approved by the Town Board of Commissioners at the last two Board Meetings. The two developments affected by these agreements are Cherry Grove and the western half of Morrison Plantation.

In each case, the Town worked with the developer and his associated contractor to determine a punch list of infrastructure items that must be completed by December 31, 2008. The developers agreed to correct these items in lieu of the Town "pulling" their maintenance bond for the projects.

A developer is required to post a bond with the Town that covers the value of the infrastructure the Town requires the developer to build. The bond must cover the construction and warranty time period. The bond is essentially an "insurance policy" for the Town should the developer default in his responsibilities.

Once the punch list items have been completed - and approved by the Board of Commissioners - the maintenance for the infrastructure in these two communities will become the responsibility of the Town.



November 3
Board of Commissioners
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

November 4
Election Day

November 10
Water Bills Due

November 11
Veterans Day Holiday
Town Offices Closed

November 13
Planning Board
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

November 27 & 28
Thanksgiving Holidays
Town Offices Closed

MFD Receives Award

The Mooresville Fire Department received a Life Safety Achievement Award for 2007 from the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI). The award recognizes the Mooresville Fire Department for fire prevention efforts. The department qualified for this award because it recorded zero fire deaths in structures during 2007.

"Fire prevention activities and public education significantly reduce the loss of life and property from residential fires," said Gary Styers, Mooresville's Fire Marshal.

For 15 years, the Life Safety Achievement Award has recognized local fire prevention activities that contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential fires. Although residential fires in the U.S. account for only 20% of all fires, they result in 80% of all fire deaths.

The RFSI is a public interest group whose mission is to reduce residential fire deaths and injuries. The RFSI advocates the use of residential fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and teaching people fire-safe behavior.

Voting Information

Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day. Before you head to the polls, visit the Iredell County Board of Elections web site for important information on voter registration, polling places, precincts, candidates and sample ballots.

Did you know:

- Iredell County has ten different ballot styles for the November election. To view a sample ballot for your precinct, click on the web site listed below.
- Iredell County has 29 polling places - eight of them are in Mooresville. Check your polling place information and directions BEFORE you head out the door on November 4.



For complete listings of voting locations, sample ballots, precinct/district numbers and an Election Day schedule, contact the Iredell County Board of Elections at 704-878-3140 or visit www.co.iredell.nc.us/departments/elections.