



# Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 4 Number 12

December 2008

## *Skate Park: Fulfillment of a Vision*

### **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 new skate park opened to visitors with wheels on Thursday, October 16. The official grand opening ceremonies were held on November 1 with more than 150 people - young and old - attending.

Located adjacent to the Mooresville Police Department on West Iredell Avenue, the skate park offers ramps, half-pipes, quarter-pipes, grind boxes, stairs, rails and more. The park is open to skaters of all abilities from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Helmets and pads are required for all park users.

"Skate parks appeal to kids not interested in traditional sports, as well as those who play every sport available," said Town Manager Steve Husemann. "The parks are a good example of how communities can address a wider variety of recreation needs. We have to recognize that our youth want multiple opportunities."

The opening of the skate park is the fulfillment of a vision developed by community residents and the Town of Mooresville. Park & Recreation Bonds approved by voters in 2005 were used to build this park on land owned by the Town.

Town officials and staff hope this park will offer a fun and challenging experience for everyone who uses it. "There are kids out there with athletic talent - but not in traditional sports," said Recreation Director Wanda McKenzie. "This park gives them a chance to showcase their talents."

Below are a few safety tips for an enjoyable skating/skateboarding experience.

- Always wear a properly fitting helmet with a chinstrap. It should meet or exceed the safety standards of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Other essential protective equipment includes wrist guards, knee and elbow pads.

- Wear slip resistant shoes.
- Use a quality skateboard and make sure that it is well maintained.
- Remove sharp objects from pockets before skateboarding.
- Always inspect skating surfaces to make sure they are free of rocks and debris.
- Never put more than one person on a skateboard at a time.
- Do not use headphones while skateboarding.
- Know your skill level and do not attempt tricks and jumps that exceed your skills.
- Do not skateboard in the street.
- Obey all laws and ordinances.
- Learn how to fall properly and practice your technique on a soft surface.
- Never hitch a ride from a motorized vehicle or a bicycle while riding a skateboard.

Respect for other skaters and the facilities will make this new park a great place for all skaters. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

## **Holiday Sanitation Schedules**

There will be no curb-side sanitation pick-up on Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25 because of observed holidays. Service will be delayed TWO days for Wednesday and Thursday customers. Customers with regular Wednesday service will be picked up on Friday. Customers with Thursday service will be picked up on Saturday.

There will be no curb-side pick up on Thursday, January 1 because of the New Year's holiday. Service will be delayed until Friday for regular Thursday customers.



## 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...

# Happenings Around Town

I was somewhat embarrassed with all the attention I received when I came to town in September. Now I am settling in to get projects and improvements accomplished. Below is a review of a few of the happenings around Town.

### A Financial Update

People are very concerned about the town's finances in view of the current financial situation. To be brief, we are OK. The Town's General Fund runs primarily on property and sales tax revenues. It would take a lot of downturn in the real estate market to have a big impact on property taxes. However, sales tax revenue is another matter. Mooresville is fortunate to have added new retailers this year and most of our retailers sell products that everyone needs. At the end of September, our sales tax revenues were still 4.7% ahead of last year.

### Sense of Community

One of the things that makes Mooresville special is the "sense of community" that we share. It is our Friday night football games, Saturday afternoon car shows, and that everyone seems to know which church is having the barbecue of the week. As our community continues to grow, we need to be careful to make sure that we preserve that sense of community.

### New Facilities

If you haven't been to the new skate park or walked the new trails in Bellingham Park, you are missing some opportunities. Both are getting a lot of use and are good examples of the Recreation Bond money being put to good use.

### Apology

I am sorry about the recent water bill printing error. Our Finance Department is working hard to simplify your bill paying process and present important information to you on the bill. I believe they did a good job of quickly responding to the problem and I appreciate the patience demonstrated by most of our citizens.

### Downtown

The downtown projects are wrapping up and we are starting to see the results. One change is not replacing the signal at Moore Avenue and Main Street. We are watching to see if that signal is essential for safe pedestrian access.

Also, the Town is tearing down the building beside Town Hall. The cleared property will add green space downtown and might make additional arts or recreation programming possible.

### Recycling

The pilot recycling program has been very successful and we were hoping to expand it soon. Unfortunately, the changes we were forced to make (see page 4) have delayed that effort.

We still encourage as much recycling as possible by all Town residents and suggest using the Iredell County Transfer Station just off Highway 150. Also, we are pursuing the placement of a paper/ cardboard recycling site on the east side of the community.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these or any other topic, please e-mail me at [shusemann@ci.mooreville.nc.us](mailto:shusemann@ci.mooreville.nc.us). I would enjoy hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Steve Husemann  
Town Manager

# Winter Fires

Did you know that 82% of all fire deaths occur in the home? Electrical fires are a special concern during the winter months, which call for more indoor activities and increased use of lighting, heating and appliances. The deaths caused by winter fires are particularly preventable.

Following simple fire safety tips from the U.S. Fire Administration can increase survival rates dramatically. Knowledge is the best fire protection so share these with family and friends.

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a ten-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, away from combustible surfaces, have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation. Never use flammable liquids (such as gasoline) to start or accelerate a fire in a wood stove.
- Make sure your space heaters have an emergency shutoff in case they tip over. Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. ONLY use the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel outside, away from the house.
- Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. Chimney tar buildup is a common cause of chimney fires.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks igniting nearby carpets or furniture.
- Never thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame. Use hot water or a device, like a hand-held dryer, evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- Dispose of hot ashes in covered metal containers placed away from the house.
- Never use the range/oven to heat your home.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow or debris for easy access.

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

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Workshop for Mooresville Mill Village.** The Town of Mooresville will conduct a workshop for the Mooresville Mill Village property owners regarding the Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District for the Mooresville Mill Village. The workshop is scheduled for December 9 in the Fellowship Hall of Southside Baptist Church (525 South Broad Street) from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

There will be a presentation on how conservation overlays work and the benefits of an overlay for the community, followed by a public work session to explore alternatives/refinements to the current zoning provisions. For more information, contact the Planning Department at 704-662-7040.

**Brawley School Road Construction.** The widening of Brawley School Road will begin in late November/early December. Phase A construction involves work between Chuckwood Road and Williamson Road with projected completion by April 2011. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is in charge of this project.

**Free Family Movie.** Movies on Main is proud to present “The Polar Express” on Saturday, December 13 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](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us) or call 704-662-3334.

**Planning Scholarships for Students.** The Town’s Planning Department encourages high school seniors interested in a career in Planning to submit an essay to the American Planning Association concerning critical planning issues facing their communities. The essay contest encourages students to “explore your community’s history and develop an historic preservation plan to preserve the most significant historic areas, buildings, elements, and features of your community.” The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2009. For more information, visit [www.planning.org/essay](http://www.planning.org/essay).

**Mooresville Concerts.** The Mooresville Concerts Series continues with a Celtic Christmas performance by The Beggar Boys on Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizen Center. 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. A “Meet The Artists” reception will follow the concert.

**Children’s Holiday Party.** The Recreation Department will host their Children’s Holiday Party at the Charles Mack Citizen Center on Saturday, December 6 from 1 - 5 p.m. There will be snacks, a local storyteller, a holiday movie and time for visiting with Santa 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.

## Help Us Help You: Recycling Program Changes



The Town has made significant changes to the pilot recycling program that started this summer. The company which purchased the Town's recyclable material will no longer accept non-paper materials due to market conditions.

In order to continue the popular recycling program, the Town now takes recycled materials to a different company in Charlotte. However, the new facility cannot accept co-mingled recyclable items at this time.

The Town decided that recycling the glass, plastics and metals was more environmentally significant and that transporting paper products would be easier for customers. Residents participating in the pilot recycling project can no longer place paper or cardboard in their recycling containers and only type 1 and 2 plastics can be accepted.

Iredell County operates a transfer station near the interchange of Highway 150 and Highway 21. The facility accepts all plastics, glass, aluminum, steel cans, brown and clear glass, mixed paper and cardboard. An additional location for paper recycling will be added for convenience.

Although the Town will no longer receive payment for the recycled materials, the distance necessary to transport the material will be reduced significantly. Financially, this will create no significant change for the Town.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 704-664-4278.

## Billing Software Upgrade

### New Software Challenges & Benefits

In November, Town staff began using new utility billing software. This is the first upgrade of the software since 1998. As with anything new, it will take a little time to become proficient with the new system.

The first thing customers will notice is the new water/sewer invoice. There is a lot of information on one page. If you have questions about the new invoices, give us a call. We do expect a high volume of calls when the new invoices arrive in the mail so please be patient when calling. We will answer/return calls as quickly as possible.

The next step will be allowing for on-line bill presentation and payment but that phase of the project has not yet started.

### Sorry for the Confusion

Last month, there was an error in the printing of the November water/sewer bills. As we closed our old utility billing software, we had a glitch in the printing. While both the old and new software maintained the correct "amount due," the bills printed incorrectly - with most customers receiving a bill with the amount due being doubled. The incorrect amount was ONLY listed on the mailed invoices. The software program showed the correct balance. We apologize for the confusion this caused our customers!

## Town Employee Returns from Active Duty

The Town's Public Services Department welcomes Gene Readling back home from his deployment



with the North Carolina Army National Guard. Readling was in Djibouti, Africa from October 2007 through October 2008.

Readling has 21 years of service and holds the rank of an E-5 Sergeant with the 1133rd Engineer Detachment - known as the "Well Drillers." His unit's responsibilities included the drilling and repairing of water wells.

Back home, Readling is a crew leader with the Town's Utilities Water & Sewer Maintenance Department. He directs his crew in installing, repairing and monitoring the Town's water and sewer lines and equipment. Readling has been employed with the Town for 17 years.



### December 1

Board of Commissioners  
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

### December 10

Water Bills Due

### December 11

Planning Board  
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

### December 24, 25 & 26

Christmas Holidays  
Town Offices Closed

### December 30

Water Service Disconnected  
for Non-Payment

### January 1

New Year's Day Holiday  
Town Offices Closed