



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 5 Number 7

July 2009

Water/Sewer Rates Increase

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's 2009-2010 budget was approved by commissioners on June 15.

The good news is there is NOT a tax increase budgeted to maintain levels of service ~ and that was no small accomplishment given the current economic conditions. However, the water/sewer rates will be increasing and that is an area of concern for many citizens.

The price of utility services will increase for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. The Town Board approved a budget which included rate increases of 5% for water users and 10% for sewer users. These rate increases will offset debt payments to expand the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and to build a new regional sewer lift station in the Presbyterian Road area of southern Mooresville.

The Rocky River WWTP expansion is required to meet current laws regulating water discharged from the plant. Also, it helps the Town continue attracting businesses to the area. The new lift station will replace one at Faith Road that is operating at capacity. Cost estimates for these projects are nearly \$55 million. The Town will issue revenue bonds to build these improvements.

When the Town issues revenue bonds (debt) to finance the construction of projects, it must demonstrate to bond holders that it will earn a minimum of 1.2 times the revenue required to make the debt payment after all other expenses have been paid. If you translate that to your personal budget, you would have to pay all of your household and personal expenses and still have 1.2 times your mortgage payment left over.

The Town has issued \$66,580,000 in debt for the utility fund since 2003 to rebuild much-needed infrastructure. Our annual debt payment is \$5,141,823. After all other bills are paid, the Town must collect \$6,170,187 - 1.2 times the debt payment.

Currently, the Town has 12,170 utility customers. In years past the Town has seen that number increase by as many as 600 customers per year. This year it increased by 180. There are fewer people to help bear the financial burden.

Required water conservation also impacts water rates. It actually costs customers more to treat less water for human consumption than to treat more. When we are required to conserve/limit the amount of water used by customers, we are, in effect, reducing the ability to pay our bills.

Chemical and energy prices in the past two years have been very volatile and have greatly affected the Town's ability to keep prices down. The Town will spend \$125,000 on chemicals at the water treatment plant to provide safe drinking water this year. The electric bill for the WWTP averages \$22,000 per month.

No official (paid or elected) wants to burden the citizen with increased rates or taxes. However, the Town Board has a responsibility to demonstrate fiscal accountability to the bond holders and future utility customers, as well as fund federally-regulated or mandated capital projects.

Town offices will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

There will be NO change in sanitation service for residential customers due to this holiday.



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

War Memorial
704-663-2670

Water
704-663-3800

Zoning
704-662-3191

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER...

Budgets & Numbers

Most of the information I wish to share is listed elsewhere in this publication. Let me add just a few other tidbits of information.

No Tax Increase

The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget was approved on June 15 with no changes to the municipal tax rate. Projects like the Mazeppa Park construction, White Oaks culvert replacement, Church Street repaving, and Magnolia/Iredell sidewalk construction are funded and will be completed.

Water/Sewer Rates Increase

Read about this issue on page one. There are far too many details to cover in this small space.

Road Improvements

The Town recently approved an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to construct a turn lane on northbound Talbert Road at NC 150 (Plaza Drive). The Town has two years to complete the project after receiving approval from the NCDOT. The Town will be responsible for any project expenditures in excess of \$625,000.

Annexations

On June 1, the Town Board approved 16 applications for voluntary annexation into the Town limits. These properties officially become part of our Town limits on July 1.

There is a lot of great things happening around Mooresville ~ summer library programs, free concerts & movies, great parks and much more. Let's continue to work together to keep Mooresville a wonderful place to live, work and play. Support your local merchants. Bring your neighbors (and a chair) to a free concert. Take a stroll downtown. Mooresville is a great place to be!

Respectfully,

Steve Husemann
Town Manager



Where should I place yard debris for pick-up by the Town's vacuum truck?

Leaves and grass should be placed loose (not bagged) just BEHIND the curb so they can be vacuumed. Limbs and brush should be placed behind the curb in a SEPARATE pile because they will clog the vacuum. They are picked up by different truck.

Limbs or other yard waste should **NOT** be placed in the road. This creates a transportation hazard. A homeowner is responsible for any debris placed in the street that causes damage to a passing vehicle.

Did You Know?

- Mooresville is one of just a few towns offering this level of curb-side service.
- The Town does not require property owners to bag grass clippings ~ others do.
- The Town picks up loose leaves year-round. Other communities offer this service only 4-6 weeks during the Fall.
- If you want free wood chips, the Town will deliver wood chips accumulated by the chipper truck after grinding limbs that property owners put out for pick up. Now that is recycling!

If you have questions, contact the Public Works Division at 704-664-4278.

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

comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

Library Fun

The Mooresville Public Library offers much more than just stacks of books and internet access. Check out the activities below for summer fun with the younger ones.

Movies @ 2 (all ages)

Friday afternoons @ 2 p.m.

July 3: Library Closed for Holiday ~ No Movie

July 10: Bedtime Stories

July 17: Madagascar Escape to Africa

July 24: Inkheart

Let's Get Creative! (5 - 12 years old)

July 2 @ 11 a.m.

Decorate wind chimes with your own personal flair. Registration is required.

Boxful of Stories (all ages)

July 11 @ 11 a.m.

Karen Abercrombie will "wow" the young audience with her stories.

Young Readers Book Club (Grades K - 2)

July 16 @ 3 p.m.; "Who is the Beast"

Registration is required.

Bookworms Book Club (Grades 3 - 4)

July 23 @ 3 p.m.; "Love That Dog"

Registration is required.

Summer Reading Finale (all ages)

July 26 @ 11 a.m.

A magical performance by "Magic's Royal Duke" Sammy Cortino.

Weekly Story Times in July include:

Cruisers (12 - 24 months with caregiver)

Mondays @ 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Playtime (12-24 months with caregiver)

Mondays @ 11 a.m.

Side by Side (2-3 years old with caregiver)

Wednesdays @ 10 a.m.

Just for Me (4 - 5 years old)

Wednesdays @ 11 a.m.; Class size limited to 15.

Pajama Story Time (all ages)

Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.

For more information or to register, call the Library's Youth Services at 704-664-2927.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fun @ Five Outdoor Concerts. On Thursday, July 16, bring your families,



friends, co-workers, blankets and lawn chairs to the bandstand at Mooresville Town Square Shopping Center (Corner of Brawley School and Williamson Roads) to enjoy the sounds of The Vision Band. Song selections will appeal to all age groups and include styles of music such as Jazz, Beach, Rock, Country, Disco and Swing.

Music starts at 5:30 p.m. but come early to claim your spot on the lawn. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.

Outdoor Movies on Main. "Movies on Main" continues outside this month with two free movies on a 25' inflatable screen. Bring your blankets and your friends and join us on Friday, July 17 for "Twilight" (PG-13) and Friday, July 24 for "Dark Knight" (PG-13). Movies begin as the sun goes down ~ approximately 8:30 p.m. Presented by the Town of Mooresville and sponsored by MI-Connection, Movies on Main offers free movies on the lawn beside Town Hall. For more information, call 704-662-3334 or visit www.ci.mooresville.nc.us.

Fall Sports Registration. Registration for Fall Baseball (ages 7-12) and Flag Football (ages 5-7) will take place during July from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Recreation Department, 418 Carpenter Avenue. The registration fee is \$30. First-time players must bring a birth certificate to register.

Hot? Don't Forget the Pool. The War Memorial Pool is open daily from 1 - 5 p.m. Cost is \$3 per person. Family Swim is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. for \$2 per person. Swim lessons and teams are available for a fee. Call the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026 for more details.

Construction Debris Removal. Building materials such as lumber, bricks, plaster, sheetrock, roofing shingles, carpet padding, linoleum and other materials that accumulate during renovation, demolition or construction are not picked up by the Town as part of regular garbage collection. The property owner is responsible for removing these types of construction debris from the property. The Town does provide a "dial-a-truck" service for a fee. For more information on this service, contact the Public Works Division at 704-664-4278.

Track & Field Winners. Fifteen students from the Winnie Hooper Center participated in a local Hershey's Track & Field Event in May. Five of them advanced to the regional competition in June. At the regional event, three students qualified for the state finals in Raleigh.

Carl Robbins, *New Police Chief*



profile

On June 1, Town Manager Steve Husemann announced that Carl Robbins, a fifteen-year veteran of the Mooresville Police Department, had been selected as Mooresville's new Police Chief. Robbins had served as Interim Chief since July 2008.

"Major Robbins has done a great job as Interim Chief," said Husemann. "Since last summer Robbins has been managing the department, implementing property room improvements and initiating a national accreditation process. He did not come into the interim position under the best of circumstances but his integrity and strong leadership earn him respect throughout the department and the community."

Under Robbins' leadership, the Police Department began the Citizens Police Academy in an effort to build understanding and trust between the community and the Police Department. The Department also began the initial stages of pursuing accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

"Everyone who describes Robbins uses terms like 'integrity' and 'strong leader.' Those are the

qualities that members of this community and the police department have been telling me are most important for our next police chief," said Husemann. "Robbins is exceptionally humble, well-respected in the community, and has all the professional credentials necessary to be a highly effective chief."

A Cornelius native, Robbins received an undergraduate degree from Presbyterian College in South Carolina and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Alabama. Prior to service in Mooresville, he worked for the Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's office and the Cornelius Police Department.

The Mooresville Police Department has 62 sworn officers and 20 civilian personnel. The Department provides a complete range of services including School Resource Officers, DARE instruction in the intermediate schools, and various crime prevention services including community watch and self-defense classes for women.



Mark Your Calendar

July 3
Independence Day
Holiday Observed
Town Offices Closed

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

July 9
Planning Board
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

July 10
Water Bills Due

July 29
Water Service Disconnected
for Non-Payment

Connect-CTY

The Town of Mooresville uses the Connect-CTY notification service to send residents and businesses important information affecting our community, such as a road closures, utility problems or missing persons. With this service, the Town, local law enforcement or fire safety officials can reach you by phone or e-mail within minutes. Participation is free and voluntary.

If you are not participating in this service or want to provide additional contact information, visit the Town's web site at www.ci.mooresville.nc.us and click on the Connect-CTY icon or contact Fire Marshal Gary Styers at the Mooresville Fire Department, 704-664-1338.

Your personal information will not be shared with anyone.

Promotions & New Firefighters

Retirements, promotions and new hires ~ the staff of the Mooresville Fire Department (MFD) has been undergoing some changes.



Gene Caldwell worked for the MFD from 1980 to 1986. After eight years with the Iredell County Emergency Medical Services, Caldwell returned to the MFD in 1994. He is retiring on August 1 with the rank of Engineer.

With several recent retirements, the department has hired six new firefighters: Travis Cornelius, Wesley Harrington, Edward McCormick, Bradley Moore, Russell Smith and Dustan Williams.

More changes occurred during recent promotions: Greg Parsons was promoted to Captain; Heath McCormick and Jerry Starr were promoted to Engineer; and Eric Pope and Adam Dellinger were promoted to Senior Fire Fighter.