



Town Voice

Newsletter from the Town of Mooresville

Volume 5 Number 8

August 2009

Safety Tips for Sharing the Road

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

Who has the right-of-way on a busy street? Can a cyclist cross into a car lane to turn? There are many tips for keeping both the motorist and the cyclist safe while sharing the road. The Mooresville Police Department offers the following guidelines.

TIPS FOR CYCLISTS

- Protect your head. Wear a helmet that has a snug but comfortable fit. Studies have shown helmets reduce head injuries by up to 85%.
- Wear clothes that make you more visible. Clothing should be light in color and close-fitting to avoid being caught in the bicycle's moving parts. Wear reflective clothing when riding at night and make sure your bicycle has front and rear reflectors.
- Go with the flow of traffic. When riding your bicycle on the street you must obey the rules of the road. These include traffic signs, signals and road markings. Ride on the right side of the street in single file.
- Be aware of traffic around you. Before you enter an intersection, check for traffic and always look left-right-left. Also, watch for cars coming out of driveways.
- Always keep watch for obstacles in your path. Potholes, storm drains, railroad tracks and loose gravel are some obstacles to avoid.



- Before going around any object, look ahead and behind you for a free gap in traffic. Plan your move and then signal your intentions.
- Before using your bicycle, check to make sure all parts are secure and working. The

handlebars should be firmly in place and turn easily. The wheels should be straight and secure. The brakes should be operating properly.

- Beware of riding too closely to a large truck. Large trucks have blind spots in the front, back and on the sides which make it difficult for the driver to see around them. If you ride in these blind spots, truck drivers cannot see you and your chance for a crash are greatly increased.

TIPS FOR MOTORISTS

- Look for cyclists before turning or opening doors.
- Do not overtake a cyclist before making a right turn. Instead, slow down, merge and then turn.
- Do not assume that a cyclist will ride as far to the right as possible. Good cyclists ride about three feet from the edge of the road which makes them more visible to motorists and gives them space to maneuver around road hazards.
- Allow cyclists to enter your lane to make a left turn. Remember, bicycles are vehicles and are allowed to ride on the roads. Do not drive or park in bike lanes. However, you may cross them when turning or exiting a legally-assigned parking space.
- A cyclist staying to the right in their lane is accommodating the following drivers by making it easier to see when it is safe to pass and easier to execute the pass. Drivers wishing to pass a bicyclist may do so only when there is abundant clearance and no oncoming traffic in the opposing lane. When passing a cyclist, always remember the cyclist is entitled to the use of the full lane.



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...

Summer at Town Hall

I saw “back-to-school” advertisements on television last night and remembered how much I hated that when I was a kid. I am not ready for summer to be over yet!

Meanwhile, it is not vacation time in Town Hall. We have a new budget in place, work has started on Church Street, construction is continuing at Mazeppa Park, and design work is underway on Cornelius Park and a new Public Works facility. Some other summer happenings include:

CMAQ Update

The Town is anticipating notices to proceed for two Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) grants from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The projects include the construction of a northbound left turn lane at the intersection of NC 150 and Talbert Road and the construction of a park and ride lot for the 83X commuter bus in the Legacy Village development. CMAQ grants are intended to improve air quality in metropolitan areas with air quality issues. Both projects can be fully-funded by NCDOT if plans are submitted by the end of August.

Midnight Lane/Oates Road Overpass Study Public Workshop

The Planning Department will hold a public workshop to discuss the Midnight Lane/Oates Road Overpass on Thursday, August 6 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizen Center, 215 N. Main Street. The bridge connection of Midnight Lane and Oates Road over Interstate 77 was a recommended connection in the Mooresville Comprehensive Transportation Plan adopted by NCDOT in June, 2008. This proposed connection should reduce traffic congestion near the Exit 36 interchange by providing an alternative thoroughfare to the NC 150 corridor. The purpose of the public workshop is to solicit public opinion on the traffic operations analysis and proposed roadway alignment as well as explain the funding for the project. The public is invited to attend and make their views known.

East-West Connector Alignment Study Public Workshop

The Town and NCDOT will hold a Citizens Informational Workshop for the East-West Connector Alignment Study (and the associated railroad crossing analysis) on Thursday, August 20 from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizen Center, 215 N. Main Street.

There is a lot of work to be done before this summer is over!

Respectfully,

Steve Husemann
Town Manager



Why doesn't the Town fix the timing of the traffic signals on Highway 150?

We repeatedly get comments about changing the sequence of the traffic lights on Highway 150. Unfortunately, Highway 150 is a State-maintained highway and is the responsibility of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The signal timing along this corridor is set by the signal engineers in Raleigh and maintained by the signal engineers in Shelby.

To contact the NCDOT regarding the signal timing, call Sam Nichols at 704-480-5470 or e-mail him at snichols@dot.state.nc.us.

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

comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

Library Celebration



The Mooresville Public Library recently celebrated its first year of over half-million circulating items. Since the “new” library opened its doors in 2005, circulation and use have increased steadily.

In 2005, circulation at the library was 229,072 items with 54,332 visitors. In 2009, the library has circulated more than 500,000 items and enjoyed more than 300,000 visitors.

“This usage is a testament to the hard work of a team of staff members ranging from technical services staff processing and preparing the items for circulation, to public services staff assisting library users in the selection of materials, to circulation staff who greet and speak to almost every one of the 300,000 users,” said Library Director John Pritchard.

The celebration in July was a celebration of staff who serve a community of library users. But it was also a celebration of the library users and their support and patronage of the Mooresville Public Library.

The Mooresville Public Library is located at 304 South Main Street. Library hours are Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, 2 - 6 p.m.

For more information, call 704-664-2927.

NEWS IN BRIEF

“Movies on Main” Outdoor Series is Going to Bellingham Park.

“Movies on Main” is traveling to Bellingham Park in August for a special showing of “The Wizard of Oz.” This free, family-friendly movie will be shown on a 25’ inflatable screen on Friday, August 21 at 8:30 p.m. Bring your friends and join us at the park for this great movie classic. For more information, call 704-662-3334 or visit www.ci.mooreville.nc.us.

Track & Field Winners. In June, three students from the Winnie Hooper Center qualified for the state finals of the Hershey’s Track & Field Event. All three athletes ran in the final heats of their events. Congratulations to Shirley ‘Lizzy’ Johnson who placed fifth in the 12-13 years old division in the 100 meter dash; Kirk Lovell, Jr. who placed second in the 9-10 years old division in the 200 meter dash and third in the 50 meter dash; and Taylor Doedtman who placed fifth in the 9-10 years old division in the 400 meter dash. Congratulations to all of these young athletes!

Fun @ Five Outdoor Concerts. On Thursday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m. “catch the wave” to a free outdoor concert featuring the Tsunami Wave Riders. Winner of the Gigmasters Rising Star Award for Top Beach Band in North America and winner of the 2008 Hawaii Music Award for Single of the Year, the Tsunami Wave Riders are one of the most popular tropical bands on the east coast! With a combination of trop-rock, calypso & steel drums, Hawaiian, beach, oldies, reggae and popular original songs, the Wave Riders put you right in the middle of paradise - whether it’s Hawaii, the Caribbean or Key West! Performances often include a conga line, limbo contest, hula demos, audience participation and other tropical activities. So bring your family and friends to Mooresville Town Hall, 413 North Main Street and enjoy a free, outdoor concert sponsored by the Mooresville Recreation Department. Music starts at 5:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 704-663-7026.



Rain Barrels For Sale. In an on-going effort to help conserve water, the Town has rain barrels for sale. Rain barrels collect runoff from rooftops for irrigation and provide a way to sustain landscaping during times of drought and water restrictions. Sale prices are \$90 for a 60 gallon rain barrel and \$100 for a 80 gallon rain barrel. For more information or to place an order, call the Town’s Business Office at 704-663-3800.

Help Us Help You, *Beware of Utility Worker Imposters*

What Happened

In June, two male suspects approached a female at her residence on Talbert Road and identified themselves as Duke Energy employees. They told her they would be doing work on the following Monday in her yard and wanted to show her what they would be doing. One male escorted her around to the back yard while the other male stayed in the front yard. They were there for a short time and left in a white van with no markings. The woman contacted Duke Energy and was told they had no one working in the area. Later, the female noticed she was missing cash from her residence.

If you have any information about this incident, call the Mooresville Police Department at 704-664-3311.

What You Can Do

Unfortunately, this is not the first time someone has falsely presented themselves as an employee of a service company in order to gain access to a private residence. If you are faced with a similar situation, contact the Mooresville Police Department immediately.

Occasionally, Duke Energy employees or authorized contractors are near your home to perform

meter work or other service. Follow these safety tips to protect yourself and your family.

- Always ask for identification. Representatives from private companies may be working in your area on behalf of Duke Energy. If they do not have an official identification card, ask for their name and reason for their visit. Then call Duke Energy to verify the information.
- Do not let anyone in your home unless you have verified his/her identity or you have scheduled the visit in advance.
- Call the Mooresville Police Department immediately if you believe the person is an imposter.
- Duke Energy does not sell products or services door-to-door and does not charge customers for tree trimming work performed in your area.

For more information on crime prevention, contact the Mooresville Police Department at 704-664-3311.



August 3

Board of Commissioners
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

August 10

Water Bills Due

August 13

Planning Board
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

September 1

Water Service Disconnected
for Non-Payment

Retirement at the Library

Brenda Scoggins retired on June 30 after five years of service as the first Reference Librarian for the Mooresville Public Library.

"She and her staff worked diligently to build a reference department worthy of the patrons to the library and one that exemplified the history and service the library has provided for the past 110 years," said Andy Poore, Curator of Special Collections at the Mooresville Public Library.

Scoggins worked for the Town as a part-time employee at the library during the 1990s before retiring in 2004 after 33 years as the librarian at Mooresville Junior High (now Mooresville Middle School).

Church Street Upgrades

The Church Street Project began construction in July and will continue until February, 2010. The project boundaries are Church Street from Wilson Avenue to McLelland Avenue and Catawba Avenue from Church Street to Main Street.

The project includes a new road with curb and gutter and sidewalks. Project manager for the Town is Allison Kraft and the inspector for the project is Matt Wallace. Both can be reached at 704-663-4510.

The contractor for the project is Bell Construction Company of Statesville.