



FROM THE TOWN OF
Mooreville
NORTH CAROLINA

TownVoice

www.ci.mooreville.nc.us

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May 2010

Elected Officials

Chris Montgomery
Mayor

Mitchell Abraham
Ward I Commissioner

Thurman Houston
Ward II Commissioner

Mac Herring
Ward III Commissioner

Chris Carney
Ward IV Commissioner,
Mayor Pro Tem

Miles Atkins
At-Large Commissioner

Rhett Dusenbury
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

Fire Department Marks 100 Years

This May, the Mooreville Fire Department celebrates 100 years of service to our community. To celebrate a century of saving lives and fighting fires, the department is hosting a Centennial Celebration on Sunday, May 9 at 2 p.m. at Fire Station One (see invitation at right). The public is invited to attend.

“The Mooreville Fire Department has been a part of this community for 100 years. We are proud of our history and excited about our future,” said Fire Chief Wes Greene. “We invite the community to celebrate with us as we enter our second century of service.”

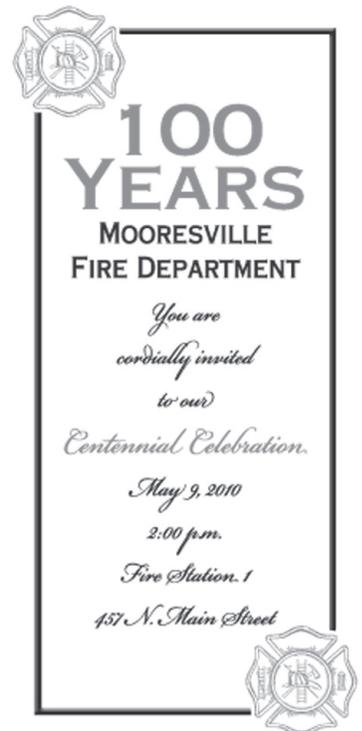
To commemorate the centennial anniversary, Senior Firefighter Eric Pope wrote “Mooreville Fire Department: History in the Making.” Excerpts from this publication are featured below.

“The fire service in Mooreville began when the citizens of the small railroad town realized the growing need to be protected from the ravages of fire and other disasters. On December 12, 1885 the Town purchased a hand pump, fire hose, a hook, and a ladder at the cost of \$275. When fires occurred it was the townspeople who responded, with buckets and muscle. It was a time when people truly depended on one another. Several years later the Town purchased lanterns and large chemical extinguishers to add to the fire equipment, all of which was eventually stored at McLean’s Store.

“It was almost a quarter-century later when the first pressurized water mains suitable for fire fighting were installed in town. With the population growing and the need for more organized fire fighting becoming evident, it was decided that a group of citizens should be set aside for

the purpose of fire fighting. This group of people was to regularly meet for drills and conduct other business as needed to keep up with the latest fire fighting practices and methods. So, on May 10, 1910 the Mooreville Fire Department was organized under the direction of J.H. McLelland.

“As the new formed fire department began taking shape, it wasn’t long before the need for better fire fighting equipment needed to be addressed. About four years after the beginning of the department, through ice cream suppers, hot dog roasts, and other fund raising efforts, the fire department was able to purchase a horse and hose wagon. The horse was boasted by many in the town to be “the fastest fire horse in the state.” A few years later, the first motorized fire apparatus was purchased, which was used to haul 3-inch fire hose to be used with the fire hydrants. By 1920, Mooreville Fire



(MFD Anniversary continued on page four)



DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Engineering
704-663-4510

Employment
704-799-4070

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'S OFFICE...

Recycling & Wastewater

Recycling

The Town's recent web survey on recycling showed that the majority of respondents believe all residents should pay for recycling (not just those who participate) and that it should be paid for with an annual charge. Of the 636 respondents, 86.6% said they would participate on a regular basis and the majority favor a tax increase or annual fee to support the program.

Despite these positive results, the Town is not planning to rush into recycling on a fee-based system. We are still exploring options to keep the costs to a minimum. Since the Town's General Fund is unable to absorb any additional costs, we want to explore every opportunity to seek grants and reduce costs. We want to price any recycling fee as low as possible. We are continuing to research this topic as we finalize next year's budget.

Wastewater Improvements

Years of study and engineering will soon result in some major improvements for the Town's Wastewater Treatment systems. Currently, the Wastewater Treatment Plant has a rated capacity of processing 5.2 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater. However, the plant is considered "near" its treatment capacity because of development projects that have been approved but not yet completed.

Also, on days with heavy rainfall the plant receives excess flow due to the amount of storm water and ground water that enters the collection system. This condition can lead to a violation of discharge limits if not addressed.

It is necessary to expand the treatment plant to provide capacity for growth as well as increase the maximum hydraulic capacity to address the rainy days with heavy inflow.

In 2007, the Town Board voted to proceed with engineering for the design of an interim plant expansion. This is a 2.3 MGD expansion of the existing plant for an estimated cost of \$17.5 million rather than construction of a new plant

which was expected to cost \$150 million. The life of this interim improvement will depend on the growth of the community as well as the Town's ability to eliminate rain water and ground water from entering the sewer system.

Because of the current economy, the Town has received excellent construction bids. Bids for plant construction were \$10.3 million, which was 38% below projections. Similarly, the Presbyterian Road Pump Station & Sewer Line bids were \$9.8 million or 32% below projection. These savings help offset the state-mandated Wet Weather Equalization Basins which will extend the practical life of the treatment plant.

An American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (or "economic stimulus") provision allowed the Town to receive Recovery Zone Economic Development bonds. Through this program, the Town will issue taxable bonds but receive a 45% rebate from the federal government on the interest paid. This is expected to save the Town approximately \$2 million over the life of the bonds.

Unfortunately, even though this is a great time to take on such a project, these projects must be paid for from the town's Utility Fund. The rates necessary to operate that fund and meet the financial covenants we have with the bond holders is determined annually by a rate study.

All this additional work will necessitate a rate increase in 2010. The actual amount of that rate increase will be presented at the May 17 Town Board meeting. No one wants a rate increase, especially in this economy, but these improvements are needed for the long-term health of our community. Making these improvements now, while the prices are low, will save us all money in the long run.

Sincerely,

Steve Husemann
Town Manager

ABC Board

In 1965, the NC General Assembly ratified a bill allowing the Town of Mooresville to vote to establish its first ABC store. As a result of that election, an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board was created under state regulations to provide independent oversight and distribution of the proceeds of alcohol sales.

The first retail sale of alcohol in Mooresville was made on October 1, 1965. The first sale of “liquor by the drink” to restaurants in Mooresville was made in 1997. The local ABC Board supplies spirits to 56 restaurants in Mooresville.

The ABC Board has three members who serve three-year terms and are appointed by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. Currently, Mitchell Mack, Bob Amon and Ben Goins serve on the Town’s ABC Board. The ABC Board employs four full-time employees and 26 part-time employees.

Distribution of ABC Store profits are split according to requirements outlined in the Town Charter:

- 12.5% to Iredell County for school purposes;
- a minimum of 25% to the Town for public parks and recreation centers;
- a minimum of 27.5% to the Town for the Mooresville Graded School District; and
- the remaining net profits to the Town for Alcoholic Beverage Control law enforcement, any town governmental purpose, public parks and recreation, additional funds for the Mooresville Graded School District, acquisition of sites and construction, maintenance and operation of public hospitals, or acquisition, maintenance, operation, enlargement and improvement of public libraries, public art museums and armories.

In the last five years, the ABC Board has dispersed \$2.47 million dollars to the Town and local school systems, as well as an additional \$150,000 to the Mooresville Police Department.

For more information about the Town’s ABC Board, contact Erskine Smith, Assistant Town Manager, at 704-662-3188.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Water/Sewer Customer Reminder. If you transfer your water/sewer service within the Town to an address that also has the Town’s water/sewer service, make sure to change your account number when you pay your bill online. This will prevent delayed or incorrect payment postings. For more information, call the Business Office at 704-663-3800.



Street Projects Updates. Construction has begun on the East Center Avenue Street Improvements Project and Package III of the Gravel Streets Improvements Project. Both projects are being constructed by Bell Construction Company of Statesville and include new storm drainage, curb and gutter, sidewalk and repaving.

East Center Avenue construction extends from Iredell Avenue to Magnolia Street, with completion of sidewalk up to Rankin Drive. The Gravel Streets Package III construction includes Walnut Avenue, Mackey Street, Logan Street and Dixie Drive between Logan Street and Brookwood Drive. For more information, contact the Engineering Department at 704-663-4510.

Outdoor Concert Series - Music on Main. “Music on Main,” a free outdoor concert series, starts this month with the Grammy Award-winning Craig Woolard Band. Bring your family, friends and blanket to the Town Hall Lawn on Friday, May 14 for this kick-off concert. Music begins at 6:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No coolers are allowed. For more information, call 704-663-7026.

Movies on Main - Outdoors for May. The outdoor season of “Movies on Main” continues on the lawn beside Town Hall on Saturday, May 21 at 8:30 p.m. with the showing of Disney’s “Cars.” Sponsored by the Town of Mooresville and MI-Connection, “Movies on Main” offers free, family-friendly movies for the community to enjoy. For more information or to view the movie trailer, visit the Town’s web site at www.ci.mooresville.nc.us.

Drinking Water Week - May 2 - 8. A safe, reliable water supply is critical to the success of any community. It creates jobs, attracts industry and investment, and provides for the health and welfare of citizens in ways ranging from disease prevention to fire suppression. Yet, we often take water supply for granted until it is threatened, either by drought, water main breaks, or some other event. On May 2- 8, the Town joins with the American Water Works Association to celebrate “Drinking Water Week” – an opportunity for water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. For more information, call the Town’s Utilities Division at 704-663-7282.



Only Tap Water **Delivers**

Drinking Water
Week 2010

Help Us Help You, *New Signal Lights Design*



The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is installing a new style of traffic signal heads as a result of a national study by the Federal Highway Administration. The study sought to improve driver understanding of left-turn traffic signal displays and to reduce accidents at signalized intersections.

The new style left-turn traffic signal head is designed to make it easier for drivers to know what to do when making a left turn. The new design adds a flashing yellow arrow to show drivers that left turns are permitted but drivers must yield to oncoming traffic.

The new style left-turn traffic signal head (shown at left) helps drivers know what to do as the lights change:

- **Solid Red Arrow:** Stop. No turns are allowed.
- **Solid Yellow Arrow:** Prepare to stop.
- **Flashing Yellow Arrow:** Left turns are allowed, but drivers must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.
- **Solid Green Arrow:** Left turns are allowed. Drivers should proceed with caution but do not need to yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

NCDOT has installed several new traffic signals along Highway 150. If you have any questions or comments, call NCDOT at 1-877-DOT-4YOU (1-877-368-4968) or the Town's Transportation Planner, Neil Burke, at 704-663-2891.



Mark Your Calendar

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

May 10
Water Bills Due

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

May 17
Board of Commissioners
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

May 18, 19 & 20
Budget Workshops
Town Hall @ 6 p.m.

May 27
Water Service Disconnected
for Non-Payment

May 31
Memorial Day Holiday
Town Offices Closed

Primary Election - May 4

Take the time to cast your vote during the Primary Election on Tuesday, May 4. Several elected offices are highly contested this season, although not all will have a primary. The following offices will be filled in 2010:

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- N.C. State Senate
- N, C. State House
- District 22A - Superior Court Judge
- District 22A - District Court Judge
- Supreme Court Judge
- Court of Appeals Judge
- Sheriff
- Clerk of Court
- Register of Deeds
- Iredell County Commissioners
- Iredell County Board of Education
- Iredell County Soil & Water Conservation



For more information or to find your polling place, call the Iredell County Board of Elections at 704-878-3140.

MFD Anniversary

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Department's official home was at the Town Municipal Building on Broad Street, and it was this year that the first paid firefighter was appointed."



Currently, Chief Greene and his Command Staff lead the fire department in areas of fire suppression, public safety, training, risk management, fire safety, emergency management, fire prevention and education.

Pope closes his history document with the following, *"Our department has enjoyed the privilege of serving our citizens for 100 years. We have experienced the joys of saving a life, as well as suffered the pain of losing one of our own. We realize that the demands on our local fire service are in many ways much different today than they were for our founding members. We face many new challenges ahead and are expected to manage a wider variety of emergencies and disasters. But as we face a future of uncertainties, one thing is certain: the Mooreville Fire Department will always exist to be a progressive element for change and ingenuity, as we continue our commitment to provide the best service available for our historic town and our citizens."*