

# TownVoice

## Committed To Protect And Serve

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

MILES ATKINS  
MAYOR

EDDIE DINGLER  
WARD I COMMISSIONER

THURMAN HOUSTON  
WARD II COMMISSIONER,  
MAYOR PRO TEM

DANNY BEAVER  
WARD III COMMISSIONER

LISA QUALLS  
WARD IV COMMISSIONER

DAVID COBLE  
AT-LARGE COMMISSIONER

BOBBY COMPTON  
AT-LARGE COMMISSIONER

### TOWN OFFICIALS

DAVID TREME  
INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

STEPHEN P. GAMBILL  
TOWN ATTORNEY

JANET POPE  
TOWN CLERK



Public safety officials are often called to go beyond their normal calls for service. Over the last three months, members of the Town's Fire-Rescue and Police departments were involved in several instances of additional service.

In October, members of Mooresville Fire-Rescue's Swift Water Rescue Team were deployed to eastern North Carolina for flood relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Crews were stationed briefly in Calabash before being sent to Sampson County for the majority of the deployment.

While in Sampson County, the twelve man crew was involved in multiple rescues of trapped residents and pets. Deployed for six days, the team worked 16 - 18 hour days with little down time. Through their efforts, a dozen rescues were performed.

Less than a month later, Mooresville Fire-Rescue crews were again asked to assist part of North Carolina. Devastating wildfires damaged thousands of acres of forest and hundreds of homes and businesses in early November. These fires spread so quickly many were forced to leave personal belongings behind.

Sixteen firefighters were deployed to the Chimney Rock area of western North Carolina for a span of 12 days. While there, crews worked alongside approximately 200 firefighters from other departments in North Carolina and the southeast. Encompassing over 7,000 acres and at a cost of nearly \$8 million, the Party Rock Fire was one of the largest and most costly in North Carolina history.

In early December, members of the Mooresville Police Department joined Target and The Salvation Army in a "Heros & Helpers" event. Twenty disadvantaged children were paired with police officers to participate in a Christmas shopping spree for gifts including clothing, shoes and jackets.

The children were selected with the assistance of counselors from elementary schools within the Mooresville Graded School District. Twenty five officers took part in the event and helped the kids shop for their items.

Whether along the coast, in the mountains or in Mooresville, the Town's police and fire-rescue staff have displayed the commitment to protect and serve.



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## Town Manager Leaves A Lasting Legacy



### DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

BUSINESS OFFICE  
704-663-3800

CHARLES MACK CITIZEN  
CENTER  
704-662-3334

CULTURAL & RECREATION  
SERVICES  
704-663-1026

EMPLOYMENT/HUMAN  
RESOURCES  
704-799-4070

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)  
704-664-1338

GOLF COURSE  
704-663-2539

LIBRARY  
704-664-2927

PLANNING  
704-662-7040

POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)  
704-664-3311

SANITATION  
704-664-4278

SELMA BURKE CENTER  
704-799-4035

TALBERT RECREATION  
CENTER  
704-799-4281

WAR MEMORIAL CENTER  
704-663-2670

WATER  
704-663-3800

WINNIE HOOPER CENTER  
704-663-0033

ZONING  
704-662-7040

Looking forward to the beginning of a new year is a tradition in and of itself. We welcome each New Year with great fanfare and anticipation! As 2017 begins, so does a new era for the Town. Town Manager Erskine Smith is now officially retired. Erskine started working for the Town in 1987, and during his tenure he has witnessed many changes in the Town. One of the biggest changes is the significant growth Mooresville has seen in 30 years, growing from 8,000 citizens to nearly 38,000.

Erskine started his career in code enforcement, one of those positions everyone loves to hate. He then worked his way up the ladder to become the Planning Director, Assistant Town Manager and, for the last five years, Town Manager. As he said during his retirement celebration, "I never would have imagined the great-grandson of John Franklin Moore, founder of Mooresville, would've been able to serve his hometown as Town Manager." And serve the Town he has!

I first met Erskine during my interview for the Deputy Town Manager position in June, 2015. Erskine and his team grilled me with questions during the interviews, but I wasn't nervous. They made me feel very comfortable during the process, and although the interviews were formal, I could already tell from the initial meeting I could work well with Erskine.

During my interview, Erskine set a vision for what he wanted his new Deputy Town Manager to accomplish. One prominent item he laid out was a desire to update the Town's Strategic Plan. He wanted to also move forward with a new way to handle information in an environmentally friendly manner and reduce the need for paper. In response, earlier this year we implemented a new Information Governance Policy.

He also had a vision for hiring a new Planning Director for the first time since the downturn in 2008. Our Planning & Community Development Director has been in place now for six months. Finally, he asked me to pick up the task of developing a Comprehensive Housing Strategy. Over the course of the last year, Town Board members, Town staff and staff from the Centralina Council of Government conducted 13 focus

groups throughout the community and collected more than 600 surveys to help form the Town's new Housing Strategy. This strategy was adopted by the Town Board in October, 2016. All of these projects came as a result of the vision set by our Town Manager.

Erskine's passion/love for local government has never waned. One of the many things I can say about Erskine is I've never seen a more voracious reader. He is a brilliant man. His paper for the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) was referenced by my ICMA mentor as one of the best of its kind! Almost every day as I entered my office I have received a new article from Erskine. I still don't know where he gets all of this stuff!

Erskine, as you enter your next phase of life, I want to thank you for hiring me and for believing that together we could make an impact on this community...and we have! The Town of Mooresville is better because you were here. As I move forward with my career, I will remember our update sessions and the many times I interrupted you to ask my burning questions! I will endeavor to work in a manner that makes you proud. Thank you for casting the vision and allowing me to work alongside you to implement it.

Angel Wright-Lanier  
Deputy Town Manager

Please send any questions or suggestions for a future issue to the address below:

*Town Voice*  
c/o Public Information Office  
P.O. Box 878  
Mooresville, NC 28115  
comments@ci.mooresville.nc.us

# Winter Weather Safety Tips

Being prepared before, during and after winter weather is vital. Winter weather affects many aspects, from home to vehicles, so knowing what preparations to take is important to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Winter storms can range from brief periods of extreme cold temperatures to days of snow. Two of the biggest safety issues as winter approaches is knowing how to deal with power outages during cold weather and understanding how to drive (or when not to drive) in conditions of snow or ice.

## Winter Tips for Home

- \*Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- \*Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected.
- \*Allow faucets to drip during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- \*Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a water pipe leaks or bursts).
- \*Never use a generator, grill or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement or any enclosed area.

## Winter Tips for Vehicles/Traveling

- \*Check your vehicle's anti-freeze, thermostat, brakes, windshield wipers and tire pressure to make sure all are at the appropriate level and working.
- \*Before traveling, clear your vehicle's windows, mirrors and lights of snow and ice.
- \*While driving, apply the brakes early and slowly and avoid slamming on the brakes.
- \*When driving on ice and snow, do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- \*During winter weather months maintain at least a half tank of gas in your vehicle.

It's also important to always keep an emergency kit of supplies in your home as well as your vehicle during winter weather. Kits should include snow shovels, non-perishable food, water, salt or sand for melting snow, a box of matches, ice-scrapers and warm blankets, hats and gloves.

For more information on winter weather safety, call Mooresville Fire-Rescue at 704-664-1338.

# News in Brief



**Kids' Night Out – January 6** The Town's Cultural & Recreation Services is offering "Kids' Night Out," an evening of fun created just for children ages 5-13, on Friday, January 6. Hosted at the Selma Burke Center from 5:30 – 9 p.m. and for \$5 per child, Kids' Night Out offers food, drinks, snacks, gym activities and more for all to enjoy.

For more information, call 704-663-7026 or visit [www.MooresvilleRecreation.org](http://www.MooresvilleRecreation.org).

**Holiday Schedule** Town offices & facilities will be closed for the New Year's holiday on Tuesday, January 2. Sanitation and recycling services will be delayed one day for all residential customers.

Also, Town offices & facilities will be closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 16. Sanitation and recycling services will be delayed one day for all residential customers that week, as well.

**Mooresville Community Children's Theatre** The Mooresville Community Children's Theatre will bring "The Knight at Dawn" to the stage of The Charles Mack Center in early February 2017. Performances will be held two consecutive weekends, February 3 - 5 and February 10 - 12. Friday and Saturday performances are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 3:00 p.m.

Visit [www.MooresvilleChildrensTheatre.org](http://www.MooresvilleChildrensTheatre.org) for more information.

**2017 Recycling Calendars** Recycling calendars are available online for downloading or reference from the Sanitation page on the Town's website. If you would like a calendar mailed or delivered to your home, customers may call 704-664-4278. Also, customers may stop by Mooresville Town Hall, 413 North Main Street, or our Operations Center, 2523 Charlotte Highway, to pick up a recycling calendar.

**Volunteer Spotlight** Each month, one individual is highlighted for his/her service to the Town through our volunteer program. This month's spotlight is Rachel Bailey, who volunteers at the Winnie Hooper Center.



"I've had so much fun becoming friends with the children at the Winnie Hooper Center. This volunteer experience has been such a blessing for me, and the children always put smile on my face!"

# Smoking Materials

With the recent devastating wildfires, citizens are reminded to be mindful of the fire dangers resulting from discarded smoking materials.

- Smoking materials such as cigarettes, cigars, and pipes are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.
- If you smoke, smoke outside. Most deaths result from fires started in living rooms, family rooms and dens, or in bedrooms.
- Dispose of used smoking materials in deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table. Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.



- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- Keep matches and lighters stored in a high place, out of children's sight and reach.

For more information, call Mooresville Fire-Rescue at 704-664-1338.

MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR

**JANUARY 2**  
NEW YEARS DAY HOLIDAY  
TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

**JANUARY 3**  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN HALL @ 6:00 P.M.

**JANUARY 12**  
PLANNING BOARD  
TOWN HALL @ 6:00 P.M.

**JANUARY 16**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
HOLIDAY  
TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

**JANUARY 17**  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN HALL @ 6:00 P.M.

**JANUARY 20**  
WATER BILLS DUE

## January Events at the Library

The departments of Youth Services and Adult Services at the Mooresville Public Library have a full calendar of events for January. Listed below are just a few of the opportunities this month. For a full list of activities, visit [MooresvilleLibrary.org](http://MooresvilleLibrary.org).

### Youth Services

*Tween Art Club* - January 11 @ 4:00 p.m.

Use your creativity to make an art project while spending time with other tweens! For tweens in grades 4th-7th. Registration required.

*Snowflake Fun* - January 13 @ 11:00 a.m.

Listen to snowmen stories, make a handprint snowflake, and create a fluffy snowman to bring home! For ages 3-5. Registration required.

*Icy Fun Penguins* - January 20 @ 11:00 a.m. OR  
January 24 @ 1:00 p.m.

Have an icy time making a snow penguin and creating an ice painting. For ages 3-5. Registration required.

### Adult Services (No registration required)

*Coffee & Coloring* - Every Tuesday @ 2:00 p.m.

Relieve stress by enjoying coffee and coloring for adults of all ages.

*Knitting Group* - January 5 @ 2:00 p.m. OR  
January 19 @ 2:00 p.m.

All skill levels welcome. Drop in for a relaxing time to work on current projects or start a new one!

*My Life Under Hitler* - January 9 @ 10:00 a.m.

Hear from Frederick Folkerts speak about growing up in Wuppertal, Germany during WWII.

*Create & Learn* - January 24 @ 10:00 a.m.

Have fun and make new friends exploring different creative activities. Designed for adults with special needs or learning disabilities.

For more information about these programs or any event at the library, call 704-664-2927.