Mooresville Fire-Rescue wishes to remind everyone of National Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11. This year’s theme is “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Test Yours Every Month!”

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Since that time, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration’s Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire. That’s the message behind this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Test Yours Every Month!”

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, Mooresville Fire-Rescue is joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association during Fire Prevention Week to remind local residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home and testing them monthly.

In a fire every second counts. Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

• Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

• Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

• Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don’t respond properly.

• Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

During Fire Prevention Week, Mooresville Fire-Rescue will be working with schools, day cares and community groups to provide life-saving fire safety tips. Mooresville Fire-Rescue also will provide residents with a working smoke alarm free of charge, if needed.

For more information, call Mooresville Fire-Rescue at 704-664-1338.
“What a long strange trip...”

With apologies to the Grateful Dead, this late summer and early fall has been one long trip. My youngest son had a health issue addressed through open heart surgery, my second granddaughter was born, and I’m about to celebrate my 40th high school reunion!

As we journey through life, we constantly experience new challenges. We are impacted by local, regional and national events. We are influenced by family members, friends and mentors. The circle of life is evident by the loss of loved ones, mentors, leaders and others who have impacted us. However, we are constantly blessed with many new friends, business associates, mentors and family celebrations.

The life of a town or city is much the same. Mooresville has been impacted by a number of factors, with location being one. The growth in our community can be attributed to our proximity to Charlotte, the adjacent interstate, Lake Norman and the climate in North Carolina.

Our proximity to Charlotte has provided access to a tremendous job market, international airport and recreational events. Ease of transportation is accessed by three interstates near our community. Our quality of life, great weather, parks & recreational activities, affordable housing, diversified employment opportunities, nationally-recognized schools and lake access make Mooresville a great place to live, work and play.

As much as location has played a part in the growth of the town, it is not the sole driving factor. As I get ready to celebrate year 27 of my employment with the Town, I am reminded of the many business, civic and community leaders who have given such dedication to the growth of Mooresville. Many former Town officials and business and industrial leaders realized that change was needed. They understood that a textile based economy would not be sustainable for their community in the future. They took steps over thirty years ago to build new infrastructure, acquire land for industrial parks, and begin the steps to a modern, diversified job based local economy.

As a community we cannot “stop” growing. We are a pro-growth, personal property rights based community. With that comes challenges of managing development of a person’s property, increases in infrastructure needs and financial constraints. In a growing community, first comes the growth, then comes the tax money to deal with the growth issues like traffic, congestion, recreation, schools and open space. We are fortunate to have people who come forward to be elected leaders that are tasked with dealing with these complex issues.

This is 2014. It’s been a long strange trip from 1980. During that time our population has grown from about 8,000 to nearly 35,000. The challenge today is what will Mooresville be in 2030 when it is a community of 70,000 people? I hope you will spend time thinking about the future. I encourage you to get involved. This isn’t about me or you. It’s about what this community will be for your children and grandchildren. If you think the last 40 years was exciting, buckle up and hold on for another long strange trip in the future!

– N. Erskine Smith, Jr., ICMA-CM, AICP
Town Manager

Reader Mail

Where can I find contact information for the Town’s elected officials?

Contact information (phone and e-mail addresses) for the Town’s Board of Commissioners can be found on the Town’s website at ci.mooresville.nc.us/202/Board-of-Commissioners.
More About Backflow

To protect the public water supply, the Town of Mooresville follows a backflow prevention and cross-connection process. This process protects against contaminants and hazards to ensure safe drinking water throughout the Town. This is part two of backflow/cross-connection education.

Must my home or business have a backflow prevention device?
All commercial water users must install and maintain backflow prevention devices. Usually residential homes are exempt from the rule unless a specific cross-connection is identified. For example, single family residences with lawn irrigation systems require backflow prevention. Single family residences with swimming pools with a fixed water connection also require backflow prevention.

How would a backflow issue occur with a lawn irrigation system?
A backflow issue exists if a lawn irrigation sprinkler malfunctions and a Town water main breaks at the same time. When the water pressure drops it creates a vacuum that pulls water. This water may then be contaminated and flow into the Town’s water supply.

Why does a soft drink/soda machine require a backflow preventer?
Soft drink dispensers use carbonated water mixed under pressure with syrup and water to provide soft drink beverages. Many if not most internal water pipes are made of copper. When carbonated water comes into contact with copper it chemically dissolves the copper from the pipe.

Who can I call to have my backflow device tested?
All backflow devices are required to be tested once a year. Any certified backflow prevention assembly tester who is registered with the Town of Mooresville may be called to test the device. The Town maintains a list of certified testers. You may call 704-799-8995 to request a list of certified testers. The tester will return the report of the test to the Town, and will give the customer a copy. If the tester does not provide you with a copy, be sure to request one.

For more information, contact Angie Boliek at 704-799-8995 or mbolie@ci.mooresville.nc.us.

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News in Brief

**Music on Main – October 3** Bring your family, friends and neighbors to the free “Music on Main” concert series. On Friday, October 3, “The Catalinas” will take the stage for the final concert of the summer. Since The Catalinas formed in Charlotte in late 1951, over 60 accomplished guitarists, keyboard players, trumpet players, drummers, bass players and singers have been a part of the band. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn beside Town Hall. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

For more information, call 704-663-1026 or visit www.MooresvilleRecreation.org.

**Walkability Event** The Town of Mooresville is partnering with the Mooresville Graded School District to promote International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 8. International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. Beginning in 1997, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration each October.

On the morning of October 8, students at South Elementary School will be encouraged to walk to school. Members of the Mooresville Police Department will be on hand to provide safety for the event. Between 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. travelers along Fieldstone Road, Hampton Place and South Magnolia Street should expect small delays.

For more information, call Joseph Shook at 704-799-4232.

**Stay Informed** The Town uses the Blackboard Connect notification service to send residents and businesses important information affecting our community. Examples of these notifications are utility problems, missing persons, sanitation delays and severe weather alerts. The system allows the Town to send messages via phone calls and text messages. We encourage residents to register your contact information with this service – and keep it updated. Participation is free, voluntary and you can choose how to receive notifications.

To register or update your information, visit ci.mooresville.nc.us and click on the “Blackboard Connect” icon or contact Joseph Shook at 704-799-4232 or jshook@ci.mooresville.nc.us.
Fireproof Your Home

Mooresville Fire-Rescue offers ways every citizen can reduce the risks of a fire in their home. This is part one of the series on simple ways everyone can fireproof their home.

**Step 1:** Get Rid of Excess Stuff. The more you have, the more quickly even the smallest fire can spread. This doesn’t mean throw away everything, but be sensible in deciding what is used in your home.

**Step 2:** Double Check Smoke Alarms. Each home should have a smoke alarm that is working. Smoke alarms should be checked monthly and replaced if there is any faulty wiring or glitch. Also, replace the batteries in your smoke alarm every six months.

**Step 3:** Do Not Overload Your Wires. A sign you are overloading wires is continuously blown fuses when turning on a particular light or using a certain outlet. Do not use a light bulb with higher wattage than what’s designated on the lighting fixture.

**Step 4:** Keep a Fire Extinguisher on Each Floor of the Home. Fire extinguishers are only good for putting out small fires. Be sure everyone who lives at the home is aware of where the fire extinguishers are and how to use them.

**Step 5:** Keep a Fire Extinguisher Outside. Having a fire extinguisher outdoors is great if you grill a lot. A fire extinguisher is more reliable than a water hose, and is also easier to handle and access during an emergency.

**Step 6:** Move the Recycling Outside. Designate an area outside where all of your recycling bins are stored.

**Step 7:** Patio Furniture. When purchasing new patio furniture, make sure the furniture has been treated to become fire retardant.

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

Stormwater: Surface Water Hazard

Surface water is the water that is on the surface of the ground, such as streams, creeks and rivers. Surface water can be as a result of stormwater runoff or groundwater seepage. In addition to Lake Norman, there are ten creeks and their tributaries in or around the Mooresville area: Back Creek, Dye Branch, Rocky River, South Fork Withrow Creek, and West Branch Rocky River in the Yadkin Pee Dee River Basin and Byers Creek, Davidson Creek, McCarry Creek, Reeds Creek, and Wolf Creek in the Catawba River Basin.

Surface water can be a hazard when it results in surface runoff. Runoff comes from excess rain water, meltwater or other water sources along earth’s surface. In addition to causing soil erosion and pollution, surface water runoff in urban areas is a primary cause of flooding. This results in property damage, mold in basements and frequent street flooding.

For more information, visit ci.mooresville.nc.us/500/Stormwater or contact Tara Groner, Stormwater Program Specialist, at 704-799-4068 or tgroner@ci.mooresville.nc.us.