

What's Up

Meet UW agencies

Businesses in the area are invited to the Mooresville Citizens Center on Friday, Aug. 3 to meet representatives of agencies that receive money from Mooresville-South Iredell United Way. For more information, call Cathy Adams at 704-664-2284.

Parents' Night Out

A "Parents' Night Out," a fund-raising effort for the Mooresville Family YMCA, will be held Saturday, Aug. 18, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Your children will be cared for by trained staff, and entertained with a movie, snack, crafts and games. The cost is \$20 for the first child of members, \$35 for each additional sibling (\$35 maximum), or \$24 for the first non-member child, \$6 for each additional sibling (\$42 maximum). Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Call 716-4000.

For Special Olympics

The Mooresville Police Department is sponsoring two fund raisers for Special Olympics. On Saturday, Aug. 4, officers will hold a car wash at BB&T on Plaza Drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Sunday, Aug. 12, in conjunction with Golden Corral, the department is sponsoring Special Olympic Day. Part of the proceeds from buffet sales between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. will be donated to Special Olympics. There will be special appearances by Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Dog, as well as fire trucks and police cars on display, and face painting. Torch Run T-shirts and hats will also be available for sale with proceeds going to Special Olympics.

Grants available

The Iredell County Community Foundation is accepting grant applications for non-profit organizations. Priority will be given to "seed grants" for projects that cannot be covered by the normal budgets of existing charitable agencies. The deadline for applying is Sept. 15. Applications can be obtained by calling (704) 872-7671.

Helping schools

For the 2001-02 school year, Kmart is launching the "School Spirit Program." Shoppers enrolled in the program can donate a portion of their sale to a school of their choice. Twice a year, the enrolled schools will be sent checks. The company hopes to donate \$10 million to schools nationwide during this school year. Details are available at the Mooresville Big Kmart.

County gets grant

The Iredell County Health Department has received a grant from the March of Dimes in support of the department's Folic Acid Education and Outreach Program. The program helps advance the health of mothers and babies by promoting the importance of folic acid consumption before pregnancy.

Shaggin' time

The Mooresville Recreation Department will offer five weeks beginner and intermediate-level shag lessons every Thursday, beginning August 16. Beginner lessons will be held from 7 to 8 p.m., and intermediate lessons will be held from 8 to 9 p.m. All lessons will be at the War Memorial. The cost is \$25 per person. For more information, call (704) 664-3758 or (704) 663-7028.

Edher

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his family, made even worse by the fact that they had no medical insurance. But friends of the family began a support group known as "Friends of Edher." They held fund-raising events including car washes, dinners, soccer tournaments, auctions and yard sales to help raise money for Soule's medical expenses. St. Therese has set up a special fund where all donations are acknowledged and tax deductible. Individuals, businesses, churches, clubs and charities have responded to their call for help.

Soule, once a potential soccer superstar, has become a super hero. Doctors had little hope Soule would come out of the coma, yet he awoke within a week and astounded doctors by swallowing independently, sitting

and acknowledging his family in just a few weeks. Soule is a true fighter. He refused to use a wheelchair and with his right leg strapped up he learned to walk. He is receiving physical and occupational therapy to re-learn such basic skills as tying his shoe laces.

"As long as we have money to pay for his medical needs, Edher has a chance," said Lazcano. "We cannot give up on him; he is worth the fight."

Lazcano, who helped form "Friends of Edher" together with Tracy Brown, believes prayer has had a lot to do with Soule's recovery and asks everyone to keep Soule and his family in their prayers, because he is not out of the woods yet. He has not regained his speech to a significant degree and still has a long way to go before

he is back to normal.

Soule underwent extremely sensitive brain surgery Wednesday and donations for his surgery are still needed. The surgeons are hoping the condition in Soule's brain will shrink to the size of a nickel so they can inject it with a solution to prevent the veins from bursting again. Then he will undergo radiation treatment.

"We have had wonderful support. Carolina Digestive Health Associates have waived their fees and even contributed to the fund," said Lazcano. "But we still have so much more to do if Edher is to make a full recovery."

If you would like to help, please send contributions to "Friends of Edher," c/o St. Therese Catholic Church, P.O. Box 4774, Mooresville, N.C. 28117.

Zoning

Continued from page 1A

their property re-zoned from Office/Institutional.

Under that zoning classification, buildings—including those originally built for use as homes—can be used as offices without approval from the town.

The proposed Downtown Development Code would still allow homes in the old hospital neighborhood to be used as offices, but the property owners would have to receive approval from the town before using the property in that manner.

Mooresville Planning Director Tim Brown said he has requested guidance from the town board about how planners should respond to the residents' concerns because "this is a very crucial step," he said, in developing a sound code.

He said he suggested to the town board that there are three courses planners could take: defend the code as it is currently written, hold workshops to help clarify the code to concerned residents, or amend the code to account for the residents' concerns. He has not yet heard back from commissioners as to which course they would prefer.

Although he has not heard from commissioners regarding the matter, he said he does anticipate a public workshop will be held before the town board considers the proposed zoning code next month.

Brown said despite some concern over portions of the plan, he does not believe the entire downtown plan has been thrown into question because of those objections. "There has been little complaint about the bulk of the ordinance," he said.

Brown also said that there may be less concern about the plan than some would be left to believe by the questions some have raised about it. He said roughly 400 residents were mailed letters informing them of the proposed changes, but that only a handful showed up at last month's town board meeting to object to those changes.

The proposed zoning ordinance does not emphasize the use of property in establishing zoning, as has traditionally been the case. Rather, the proposed code emphasizes design criteria and the appearance of buildings, allowing for a mix of uses within the same zoning classification.

Indeed, the future use of property in the area will likely continue to include both homes and offices, as the Iredell County Board of Commissioners earlier this year voted to purchase the former hospital building for use as county offices.

The town board currently expects to consider adoption of the Downtown Development Code at its Sept. 3 meeting.

Shelter optimistic despite setback

By JAIME GATTON

Though the denial of a \$200,000 grant poses a setback for the relocation of Iredell County's only battered women's shelter to the southern end of the county, officials of Fifth Street Ministries and My Sister's House say they have reason to keep the faith.

That's because proceeds will soon be rolling in from two outside fundraisers: Last weekend's rodeo in Troutman and the National Balloon Rally, held at the county fairgrounds each September.

And while Fifth Street Ministries, parent organization of My Sister's House, was recently denied a much-needed \$200,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, Patti West, director of My Sister's House, says she's still confident the new shelter will

open in early 2002.

The existing My Sister's House, located in a crime-ridden section of south Statesville, is a deteriorating church building. Its relocation to a quiet, secluded area in Troutman will make the shelter safer, while providing a centralized site for Iredell County women.

So far, a little more than \$577,000 of the \$1 million project has been raised, West said. Another \$115,000 has been pledged in monetary donations and in-kind donations (bricks, carpet, tiling, furniture). The monetary pledges, over the next two years, include \$10,000 from the Town of Mooresville and \$20,000 from the Mooresville-South Iredell United Way.

As of Tuesday, proceeds from the Troutman rodeo, held last Friday and Saturday at the Iredell County Fairgrounds, were

not available.

Danny Hearn, president of the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce, said My Sister's House can expect a sizable donation from next month's National Balloon Rally.

He said in years past the proceeds from the rally—"usually in the \$10,000 range"—have been donated to Hospice. This year's choice of a beneficiary was My Sister's House.

All net profits—including money from tickets, concessions and corporate sponsors, minus costs—will go to the relocation of the women's shelter, Hearn said.

The good news couldn't come at a better time. West said she has applied for about \$300,000 in small grants; in one day, she mailed 27 applications. So far, she's only heard back from three: One denial and

notification that two of the foundations no longer existed.

One reason the Kresge Foundation denied its grant to My Sister's House was because it doesn't like to be the single largest contributor to a project, West said.

Fifth Street is a United Way agency so its fundraising efforts cannot conflict with the United Way campaign which kicks off soon.

Individual volunteers, however, can continue to raise money for My Sister's House.

For more information call Chandler Bryan at 704-872-6223.

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Music in the park

As folks relax with a picnic supper, singer-guitarist Chris Montgomery (background) of Mooresville plays some tunes on a stage built in Liberty Park, behind the War Memorial building, for the Music in the Park series. The Town of Mooresville is sponsoring free concerts each Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. through Aug. 28.

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AGES 3 TO ADULT

Teachers

Continued from page 1A

in about 70 university job fairs each year "from South Dakota to New York to South Carolina."

"We don't stop (recruiting) anymore. We go year-round." The MGSD has also been focusing on job fairs, being able to flaunt its board of education's recently approved teacher recruitment incentives package that includes signing bonuses and relocation help for teachers.

The district also provides \$200 to teachers who are new to the profession for classroom supplies.

Davidson said the I-S school system gets extra help with its "VIF teachers," or visiting international faculty. Those teachers sign three-year contracts with the

schools and typically fill positions in critical-need areas, like math, science and foreign language.

But Boyles said there's something else that attracts teachers to school systems like the MGSD ... something that can't be bought. "There are a lot of things going on at local and national levels, and people are looking to small school systems that have good community support."

And that, he said, is what many teachers say they're most attracted to.

As for the teachers the districts have hired, both Boyles and Davidson agreed that just because they're having to recruit teachers doesn't mean there's a decrease in the quality of those they hire.

"We got good, quality people with experience and credentials," Boyles said.

"We've hired a lot of fully-certified people and a lot of people with experience."

Davidson said the Iredell-Statesville Schools hired a few new lateral-entry teachers, or people with bachelor's degrees who are working on teacher certification, "but we think they'll be good," she said. Out of the 1,078 teachers in the I-S Schools, all of them have bachelor's degrees, and 35 percent of them have their masters, she added.

And both school systems have applications to spare. In fact, Boyles said the teacher applications that the MGSD has on file are "better this year than in years past."

Nevertheless, both of the districts are still happily welcoming teacher applications.

Lake raft-up sets Guinness World Record

If you wondered what all those boats were doing out on the lake Saturday, they were helping set a world record.

At marker Y5 on Lake

Norman, 419 boats rafted together in a continuous line to set a Guinness World Record—shattering the same lake's 1999 record of 401 boats.

Sponsor donations and other proceeds from the event will go toward funding boater safety programs by the Lake Norman Marine Commission.

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