

What's Up Pennies

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Community cookout

Eastern Heights Community Watch will sponsor a community cookout on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be games, free food, and entertainment. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call (704) 662-8508, (704) 663-0067 or (704) 662-6108.

Gaze at the stars

Piedmont Amateur Astronomers will hold a public stargaze on Saturday, Aug. 25 at Lake Norman State Park near Troutman. Those interested should arrive at the boat launch at dark. The moon, Mars, galaxies, and star clusters will be on display. The event will be canceled in the event of rain or overcast conditions.

Bump, set, spike!

The Mooresville Recreation Department will host volleyball at the War Memorial on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. Everyone is invited, and there is no fee. For more information, call (704) 663-7026.

Visit the zoo

The Mooresville Recreation Department will sponsor a trip to the N.C. Zoo on Tuesday, Oct. 23. A department van will leave the War Memorial at 8 a.m. and will return at 5 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$2, plus admission to the zoo — \$10 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 12. For more information, call (704) 663-7026.

Museum open house

The Children's Museum of Iredell County will hold an open house on Friday, Aug. 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the museum's permanent facility, 134 Court St., Statesville. Visitors will have a chance to meet Patrice Reynolds, the museum's new director, and view the renovations to the facility. A donation of \$20 per couple is requested and can be paid at the door. For more information, call (704) 872-7508.

Learn first aid

The Mooresville/Lake Norman office of the American Red Cross will offer several first aid and CPR classes in September. A community CPR course, in which participants will learn rescue breathing, choking, and chest compressions for adults, infants, and children, will be held on Monday, Sept. 17 and Wednesday, Sept. 19 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the War Memorial. The adult CPR will be taught the first night. Cost is \$42 for both nights and \$31 for the first night.

Also, a community first aid and safety course will be offered on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the War Memorial. The course will teach rescue breathing, choking, and chest compressions for adults, infants, and children, as well as first aid basics. Cost is \$56. To register for either program, call (704) 664-4908.

Babysitter training

The Mooresville/Lake Norman office of the American Red Cross will offer a babysitter training course for those ages 11 to 15. The course, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Huntersville Community Center, will combine the knowledge and skills associated with leadership, safety, and professionalism. The course also includes first aid training. Cost is \$25. Details: Call 704-664-4908.

at the intermediate school. "I wanted to show the kids what a million looks like," she recalled.

The first idea was to collect bottle caps, but that plan fell through before it got off the ground. "I thought, if we're going to raise a million of something, it might as well be for something worthwhile," Neill said.

So that's when the notion to collect pennies came in, and her students — with help from the entire school — showed a lot of enthusiasm and support for the idea.

Neill said especially during the first part of last year, students were cleaning out their basements and piggy banks to find bucketfuls of pennies to bring to school.

Once at school, her students kept a tally of the pennies by using a container that held about 800 of the coins. By the end of last school year, 272,000 pennies had been collected.

They were dumped into a box cart built by Tommy Chester's carpentry students at N.E. Woods Advanced Technology & Arts Center. On the front of the cart, a sign with a picture of a penny read: "One can make a difference" — the title of Neill's project.

Neill said she also brought more pennies in during the summer, and she deposited a few hundred dollars in other donations into an account for Habitat.

All in all, she helped raise about \$3,000 — money that would cover the entire cost of a floor system for a new house, interior trim cabinets, or a complete foundation. "Teresa has put the floor in a house," said Coleman.

But more importantly, "she has built a foundation for all these kids," added Mal Murray, a member of Habitat's board of directors who this week toted all the pennies — close to a ton in



Teresa Neill with two of her helpful former students, Jeff Haddad (left) and Aaron Meadows. (Photo by Jaime Gatton)

weight — from the school.

In fact, the pennies weighed so much that the pressure broke a wheel off the coin cart, and they obviously weighed down the back of Murray's sports utility vehicle.

Neill spoke at several schools about Habitat and the difference it makes in the lives of several local families each year. More than 60 houses

have been built in the last 12 years in Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius, and Huntersville. Last year, 10 were built in Mooresville alone, and as of July 2001, five homes had already been built in Mooresville.

Though Neill's reign as Miss Statesville is over, she plans to continue working with Habitat, speaking and singing at different events

for the organization.

That, at least, may keep her away from the actual construction sites for the Habitat homes. "I'm horrible at building houses," she said, laughing. "Every time I would hammer a nail in, somebody would have to come in behind me to fix it."

"It's fun," she added jokingly, "but I think I was just wasting everybody's time."

Renaming

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will vote on a resolution supporting the change from N.C. 136 to N.C. 3, at the request of the NCDOT.

Commissioner Tommy Bowles, of Mooresville, said at Tuesday's meeting that he had received several calls from residents of N.C. 136 who did not want the name of the road changed from Coddle Creek Road. Under the proposed plan, however, only the road's number — not its name — is being proposed for change outside the Mooresville town limits.

Express

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project at its September meeting. After that, it would come to the town board for approval.

Smith said CATS has reached agreement to establish a park-and-ride station at Brawley Commons, at the intersection of Brawley School and Williamson roads. CATS is still working to find a suitable spot in the I-77/Exit 36 area, he said, for a park-and-ride station.

At its May meeting, the Mooresville Town Board voted to explore the project with CATS.

The proposal calls for three express buses to go from Mooresville to Charlotte in the morning and from Charlotte to Mooresville in the evenings. There would be no stops between Mooresville and Charlotte.

If the MTC and the town approve the project, Mooresville will have to pay for half of the cost to run it. It was estimated in May that it would cost the town roughly \$75,000 to \$125,000 a year to offer the service.

The commuter bus service is the latest attempt to link Mooresville and Charlotte with mass transit.

The MTC was told Wednesday that the final recommendations for the development of mass transit in the Charlotte metropolitan region would be revealed in December. The north corridor, which extends from uptown Charlotte to Mooresville, will then know if it will likely see the implementation of a commuter rail line between here and Charlotte.

Free prostate testing set at LNRMC

Lake Norman Regional Medical Center will sponsor free prostate-screening sessions in September. The first will be held Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. until noon at the hospital. The second will be offered Saturday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at FitCare Life Center in Huntersville.

LNRMC active staff urologists Dr. Clifford Kass and Dr. Michael Cram will conduct the screenings, which will consist of a PSA blood test and a digital exam. Both screenings are free and are open to the public.

For details, call Amy Winecoff at 704-660-4004.



An international flavor

Some of Davidson College's approximately 20 international students gather around the college sign prior to the start of classes. The world-wide students are part of Davidson's expected total fall enrollment of about 1,600. Down the road and to the east, UNC Charlotte began classes this week with a record preliminary enrollment of 18,212. That number, which could climb higher, tops last year's record of 17,000.

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