

eMessage

News
from the
Town of Davidson
October 13, 2009

FORMER MAYOR WINS STATE AWARD

The Town of Davidson is pleased to announce that former mayor Randall R. Kincaid has been awarded the North Carolina Marvin Collins Planning Award in the category of Distinguished Leadership of an Elected Official.

The award recognizes an outstanding elected official each year who has exhibited exemplary leadership and helped promote planning principles and programs in North Carolina. In selecting Mayor Kincaid for the award, the North Carolina chapter of the American Planning Association said they were impressed with Mayor Kincaid's "remarkable longevity and leadership that has helped Davidson become an example of Smart Growth." The committee also complimented Mayor Kincaid on his authorship of Eight Principles of Planning that guides Davidson and on his advocacy for affordable housing, open space and connectivity initiatives.

Mayor Kincaid, who served for eighteen years on the Board of Commissioners and for ten years as mayor, played a significant role in the formation and adoption of the General Plan, the Land Plan, and the Davidson Planning Ordinance. The Town of Davidson is deeply appreciative of his efforts to make Davidson the best small town in North Carolina.

The award was presented at the North Carolina APA conference on Friday, October 2, 2009.

NATURE OF CONTRIBUTION

Mayor Kincaid, with his twenty-eight years of community service, gave Davidson the vision and the tools to embrace growth while still retaining our sense of community. He admonished staff, developers, and citizens: "We are not working for ourselves; we are working for our grandchildren and for their children. We have only one chance to get this right." His gifts to the town included eight planning principles, which continue to govern our planning decisions today; a ten million dollar pledge to purchase open space in our rural area; and an emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

Mayor Kincaid moved to Davidson in 1967 to join the faculty of Davidson College as a professor of economics. He was active in community affairs right from the start. Mayor Kincaid served on the Board of Commissioners for eighteen years. He was elected mayor in 1997, and re-elected for five consecutive, two-year terms until his retirement in 2007. After his retirement he continued to serve as the chair of the Mayor's Task Force, a regional transportation and planning group.

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE PLANNING FIELD

Mayor Kincaid was always forward thinking in the field of planning and zoning. He challenged Davidson to be a sustainable community before "sustainable" and "green" were planning buzz words. As a commissioner, he helped write the 1993 General Plan and the 1995 Land Plan. As mayor, he provided, in his eight planning principles, the backbone for the 2001 Planning Ordinance. This work resulted in Davidson's EPA Overall Excellence in Smart Growth Award in 2004.

Mayor Kincaid understood that in order to be a healthy, vibrant community, Davidson must embrace a diverse population. As mayor, he led the town board to adopt an affordable housing ordinance that requires developers to include 12.5% affordable units in every residential development. This ordinance has been emulated by other North Carolina communities.

Recognizing that growth could overwhelm our rural area, Mayor Kincaid was stalwart in his support of conserving open space. He led the push to buy and preserve two hundred acres – known as Fisher Farm – and to codify a provision that requires 50% of the land in each development in the rural area be preserved in perpetuity as open space. When property owners decried the open space requirement, Mayor Kincaid, secure in his belief in the importance of open space, insured the town would purchase their property if their land values decreased as a result of this ordinance.

Mayor Kincaid, a devoted walker, encouraged pedestrian and bicycle connectivity as a major component of approved developments. He helped to adopt a parks master plan that identifies a pedestrian/bicycle system and to bring to fruition the construction of the Southeast Greenway, which is dedicated in his honor.

In recognition of his outstanding service and leadership, Mr. Kincaid was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2007, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina. Mayor Kincaid and his wife Mary Mac can be seen walking and biking throughout town.



Former Mayor Randall R. Kincaid

TOWN ADMITTED INTO N.C. MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Town of Davidson has been admitted into the prestigious North Carolina Main Street Program. This downtown revitalization initiative is part of the Division of Community Assistance's Office of Urban Development.

The Main Street Program was developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1980 to assist small towns across the country struggling to revitalize their historic downtowns. North Carolina was one of six original states selected to participate in this initiative that encourages economic development within the context of historic preservation.

The Main Street program is based on the National Trust's Main Street Four Point Approach® – organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring. State staff in Raleigh and Asheville provide technical assistance in these areas to Main Street communities. To be eligible for the program, a community must have a population of 50,000 or fewer and employ a professional downtown manager, who will coordinate the work of the downtown organization.

New Main Street towns are selected every two to three years. Participants are chosen through a competitive application process that evaluates candidates relative to their level of need, previous downtown accomplishments, historic preservation efforts and public and private support. More information on the Main Street program is available online at <http://www.nccommerce.com/MainStreet>.

You are invited to attend a public kick-off meeting for a branding and marketing plan for the town. Join us at Davidson Town Hall Monday, October 19 6:00 p.m.

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Benjamin Pluer working on his Eagle Scout Badge and helping make Fisher Farm a more beautiful and functional place.

EAGLE SCOUTS ONCE AGAIN WORKING AT FISHER FARM

Benjamin Pluer of Troop 58, recently completed the eighth Eagle Project at Fisher Farm Park which includes picnic tables, an information kiosk, a foot bridge on the hiking trail and an nature study project. Well done and thanks!

MORE NEWS FROM FISHER FARM

The Tarheel Trailblazers Mountain Bike Club has been awarded a grant from REI (Recreation Equipment Incorporated) to construct 1.5 miles of mountain bike trail at Fisher Farm Park. This work began in early October and will take approximately a month to six weeks to complete. Mark Sullivan, owner of the Cyclepath Bike Shop in Cornelius laid out, designed and oversaw the construction of the 4+ miles of mountain bike trails that are currently on the ground. The Tarheel Trailblazers worked over 2,000 volunteer hours constructing and maintaining the trails and because of them, we have a top notch mountain bike facility.

NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR PARKS & REC NOW AVAILABLE

The new site, hosted by ActiveNet, provides significant long-term cost savings and reduced in-house requirements for IT support and security management.

To create your new online account, go to the town website at www.ci.davidson.nc.us and click on Online P&R registration.

- Click on My Account or Request Account
- Click on Create a New Account
- Follow the instructions and complete the form for yourself and all family members

Once you have finished this process, an email will be sent to you with a link asking you to activate your online account. By following the directions you will be able to immediately register for programs. For information call 704 892-3349.

CHRISTMAS IN DAVIDSON NEEDS EVENT SPONSORS

If you would like to help make this town event a bit more magical, please contact Margaret Martens, or Angie Blashaw (mmartens@ci.davidson.nc.us or ablshaw@ci.davidson.nc.us) to learn more, or visit our website at www.ci.davidson.nc.us/CID. There are a variety of sponsorship packages available.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - POLICE RECORDS CLERK

Responsible for administrative support functions for the Police Department. Essential duties include processing, collecting, and storing law enforcement records, reports, and information; providing administrative support to the chief and other staff; and assisting the public with police information and services. Application deadline: October 30. See www.ci.davidson.nc.us/careers. EEO Employer

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE BARGERS!

The Town of Davidson would like to thank Hugh and Brenda Barger for their generous donation of land for the East Rocky River roundabout. Without their donation, the project could not have happened. Their contribution was essential to the project and will significantly improve safety at the Davidson Concord/East Rocky River intersection. Thank you so much!

LAKE NORMAN CHAMBER TO HONOR DAVIDSON PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS AT OCTOBER 15 LUNCHEON

The LKN Chamber is hosting the fourth annual salute to North Mecklenburg Public Safety officers and volunteers at a luncheon Thursday, October 15 at NorthStone Country Club in Huntersville. The event honors an officer from the Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville and Davidson College Police Departments and members of North Meck Rescue, local fire departments, and Crime Stoppers. Davidson honorees include police officer Scott Searcy, firefighter Frank Molinek and citizen crimestopper of the year Roley Altizer.

Officer Searcy has served as a Davidson Police Officer for 14 years and as a K9 officer for 12 years. In the last two years Officer Searcy has assumed the duties and responsibilities of our department firearms instructor. In this capacity he has transformed the department's firearms practice from target shooting to real life incident-based training. He also is responsible for the inspection and repair of the agency's firearms, tasers, pepper spray, expandable batons and handcuffs. In addition to these responsibilities, Officer Searcy takes the lead in narcotics

investigations within the town of Davidson. Officer Searcy has worked with various law enforcement agencies to build drug cases and take down small-time drug dealers who are a plague to neighborhoods in Davidson and Mecklenburg County.

Captain Molinek's command presence and steady guidance are noticeable at the busiest of emergency scenes. Recently several members commented that Captain Molinek has gone above and beyond what was required to help them with training to become apparatus operators and for others he has been a mentor as they became new EMTs. One of the great things about Captain Molinek is he is always willing to do what needs to be done. Recently we began a new scheduling system where volunteers are scheduled for coverage at night staying in department quarters. Captain Molinek readily pulls his shifts and often swaps with others who need to change shifts. Whether on the emergency scene or handling department business Captain Molinek does it well.

After a scary incident occurred in his neighborhood this summer, Mr. Roley Altizer, a retiree living with his wife, Eve on Armour Street and a fixture in the neighborhood, made a "virtual" step forward via the internet to help his neighbors deal with the frightening ordeal. He began to send thoughtful, calm emails urging his neighbors to organize and simultaneously calling on town government to act. He did more than point out problems. He provided a comprehensive analysis of the neighborhood's concerns and more importantly, he proposed solutions.

Roley exemplified civility and citizenship as he gently encouraged his neighbors to organize in a unified voice. Because of his leadership, the town and the neighborhood were able to come together and create a working partnership.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

October 30

Halloween March, Main Street
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

November 7, 8, 9

FLW College Fishing Regional
Village Green & College campus
Sponsored by Forest L. Wood

November 11

Veterans Day Observance, Village Green
11:00 a.m.

November 14

Davidson Family Reunion on the
Village Green
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Potluck community dinner hosted by
Davidson Reads