

Friends of Lake Davidson

Supporting the preservation of, and increased public access to, . . .

A quiet Lake Davidson

A safe Lake Davidson,

A healthy and sustainable Lake Davidson,

. . . for the benefit of all.

Lake Davidson is under pressure from increased development and from those who want to use large, fast powerboats. Mooresville and Davidson are discussing future cooperation to preserve the lake. A critical public meeting at **7:00 p.m. on September 3** at Mooresville's Charles Mack Citizen Center, 215 N. Main Street, will allow the public to be heard.

Here is what is at stake:

A quiet Lake Davidson

- The first development on Lake Davidson occurred in 1980 in Davidson. Beginning with approval of that first development, Davidson has followed a vision of limited power boating on Lake Davidson
- The Town has used its zoning powers to require each lakeside developer's plan to include a prohibition of motors greater than 10 horsepower at docks. This requirement is reinforced by explicit language in the 2001 Planning Ordinance. (However, some boats around the lake appear not to be in compliance.)
- Development is now occurring on the Mooresville-Iredell end of the lake. Mooresville has recognized the need for protection of the Lake Davidson's fragile ecosystem, and its Mount Mourne Small Area Plan calls for consideration of "restrictions on the size, speed, and number of watercraft allowed on the lake."
- Because **cooperation is essential**, Mooresville and Davidson have been discussing an Interlocal Agreement between the two towns to ensure the lake's future.

A safe Lake Davidson

- Limits on large, fast motorboats have helped to preserve a quiet lake that is safe to use by swimmers, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and small motorboats.
- The dangers of numerous large boats are illustrated by Lake Norman, which NC Coast Guard data show had the highest number of fatalities, and the second highest number of boating accidents, among all bodies of water in the state in 2006.
- Improvements in public access will increase the number of canoes, kayaks, and other small craft on Lake Davidson. But, for these small craft to enjoy the lake in safety, **restrictions on large, fast motorboats must continue.**

A healthy and sustainable Lake Davidson

- Lake Davidson is a fragile ecosystem with very limited water exchange with the much larger Lake Norman. Only a culvert under I-77 connects the two lakes, and for much of the year, lake levels are below this culvert and no water exchange occurs.
- Large powerboats stir up sediment, increasing nutrients and algae growth. Fast powerboats can erode the shoreline.
- Large powerboats pollute the lake. Although outboard motors are now regulated by the EPA and therefore pollute less than older models, the regulations still allow large motors to pollute considerably more than smaller, 10 horsepower motors.
- Because pollutants in Lake Davidson tend to persist rather than flush out into Lake Norman, **limiting pollution is important** if the future quality of the lake water is to be preserved.

Increased public access to Lake Davidson

- Lake Davidson is a unique and valuable natural resource that will soon be even more accessible to the public.
- Duke Energy has agreed, in connection with re-licensing of its hydroelectric activities, to give Davidson up to \$130,000 to fund construction of a canoe/kayak launch and fishing pier. **These facilities will be open to all.**

What needs to be done?

If you would like to preserve a quiet, safe, and sustainable Lake Davidson that is accessible to all, then we urge you to make your views known to your public officials. The critical date is **September 3 at 7:00 p.m.**, when the two towns will hold a public hearing at the Charles Mack Citizens' Center, 215 N. Main Street in Mooresville.

Your voice is important. Some people want to use large, fast powerboats on Lake Davidson. They have organized to challenge both Davidson's 10 horsepower limit and cooperative efforts between Mooresville and Davidson to ban large powerboats. We believe that, if they are successful, this would be harmful to the future of this fragile lake. If you agree, here is what you can do:

- **Inform yourself.** Davidson has posted an informative fact sheet on the Town website, <http://www.ci.davidson.nc.us/index.asp?NID=507>. You may also attend a meeting of the Lake Davidson working committee on August 5 at 9 a.m. at Davidson town hall. The public is invited to this meeting, although it will not be a public discussion.
- **Send an e-mail of support**, with your name and address, to Friends of Lake Davidson, LDavidsonFriends@bellsouth.net.
- **Participate** in a joint Mooresville-Davidson public hearing on **September 3 at 7 p.m.** at Mooresville's Charles Mack Citizens' Center, 215 N. Main Street. Officials from both towns will be there to hear your comments.
- Questions? Comments? Contact Friends of Lake Davidson, at LDavidsonFriends@bellsouth.net. We would like to hear from you.