

Shelby NORTH CAROLINA Parks & Recreation



CARROUSEL & ROTARY TRAIN

SCHEDULE:

Spring (March — April — May):

Thursday — Saturday, 1 — 6 PM;
Sunday, 1:30 — 6 PM.

Summer (June — July — August):

Tues — Fri 10 AM- 1 PM & 5 — 8 PM;
Saturday 1—6 PM;
Sunday 1:30 — 6 PM.

Fall (September - October - November):

Same as Spring hours.

Winter (December - January - Feb.)

(Carrousel Only):

Friday & Saturday, 1 — 5 PM;
Sunday, 1:30 — 5 PM.

Plus Christmas Holiday schedule.

Parties, Groups and special events, call:

Carrousel **704-484-6476**

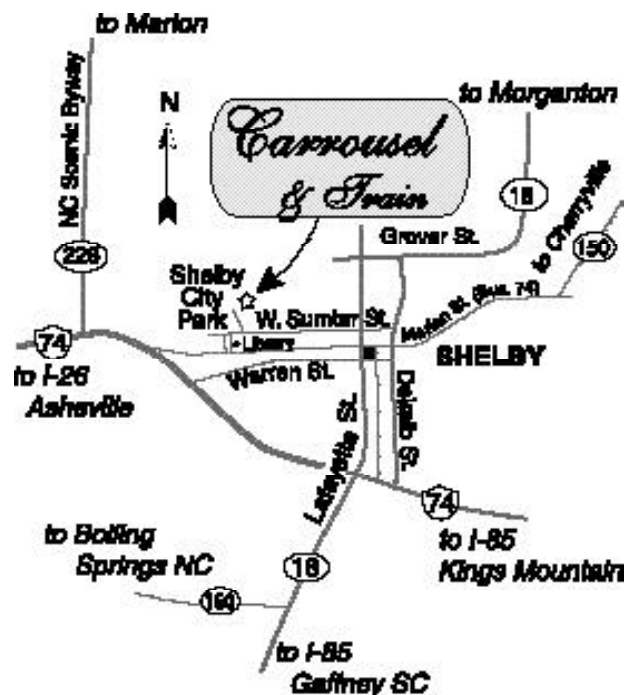
City Park Office: **704-484-6811**

www.CityofShelby.com/parks

or: <http://users.vnet.net/carrousel/>

Gift Shop Open Saturdays and Sundays.

Volunteers Needed



All Train & Carrousel Rides are 50¢ each

Shelby is located in Cleveland County on U.S. 74 between Charlotte and Asheville.

Shelby City Park is on Sumter Street, about a mile west of the Central Historic District. Turn on Dorton Drive at Thompson Garden.

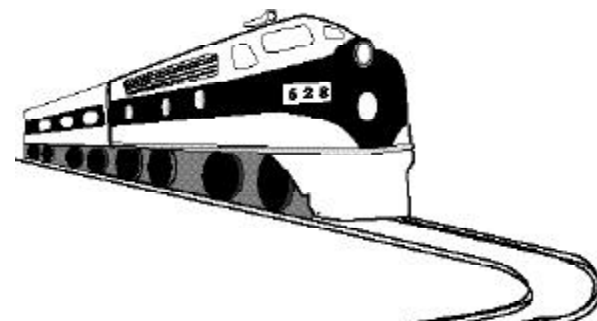
The MICKEY SHULL IZZI ROTARY TRAIN DEPOT and the ANNE DOVER BAILEY CARROUSEL PAVILION are on the right. The park complex includes a children's playground, modern outdoor pool, athletic fields, 9 hole golf course and a newly renovated Community Center with 1600 seat Gymnasium and other facilities.



The Shelby City Park Carrousel



ROTARY TRAIN



*Dorton Drive at
850 West Sumter
Shelby, North Carolina
28150
704.484.6476*

It looks nearly new, but these horses are going on 90! An extensive restoration was completed in 1998 with the construction of the Anne Dover Bailey Pavilion, rebuilding of the mechanism, purchase of the authentic antique Band Organ, and repair, refinishing and decorative painting of the 29 original horses.

Three new horses were carved and the chariots were replaced with hand carved replicas of the originals. Hundreds of thousands have climbed aboard to renew their love affair with our very own carousel and reconnected with a family and community tradition.

Around the early part of the twentieth century several companies were carving and building hundreds of carousels each year to supply fairs, parks, carnivals and seaside resorts in America and many other parts of the world. Around the middle of the last century many of these rides had been “rode hard and put up wet”. It was in this period that many smaller towns were able to purchase second hand merry-go-rounds for their town parks. They may not have been in pristine condition, but families enjoyed having a place to come and spend a few cents each on a fun occasion. Often folks who later became serious riders or owners of horses got their first taste of horsemanship on the backs of these hard working aging artifacts.

Shelby's own Merry-Go-Round was purchased for the town in 1951 with funds contributed by the First National Bank and the Union Trust Company and procured through

Dr. J. S. Dorton, veterinarian and longtime manager of the Cleveland County Fair. (He also ran the N.C. State Fair from 1937 until his death in 1961, hence Dorton Arena.) A contact of his in the fair business was carnival owner James E. Strates who helped buy the ride.

Fast forward to the 1980's and there is a movement afoot to preserve as many of the antique all-wood carousels as possible.

Wood carving had long since given way to aluminum casting and then fiberglass. A collecting market put economic pressure on owners both private and public to sell off animals without regard to the potential of keeping a complete unit intact. Restoration costs could be intimidating or unknown.

Preservation and restoration of Shelby's carousel began slowly in the late 1980's with encouragement from the National Carousel Association which had been involved with other NC Carousels.

Shelby's 1952 Rotary Special Miniature Train brings out the excited kid in all ages. Rail fans love the fact that it's modeled after the real GM Electro-Motive Division (EMD) F3 Streamliner and won awards for authentic scale reproduction. These trains had a classic look – sleek lines, single zigzag rotating headlight, and portholes in the cab.

Shelby's Rotary Club bought Miniature Train Company Number 628 brand new for the 1952 season at Shelby City Park. This was the same year that the Carrousel made its debut at the park.

The tunnel, track and loading platform (a simple metal covering) set the stage for merriment for years to come. After more than twenty years the train and track began to decline and needed total refurbishment.

The train sat in limbo at several storage locations waiting on the right talent, skill and financial backing. The Rotary Club got behind the project again and found restorers willing to dedicate an awful lot of time and elbow grease.

A building was imagined and designed and money was raised. The Mickey Shull Izzi Rotary Train Depot became a reality and the train began to run again full time in 2002

Although based on the full sized diesel train, these trains are powered by air-cooled Wisconsin gasoline engines.