

# Mint Hill News

Serving the Citizens of the Town of Mint Hill



## Mayor's Message

Mayor Ted Biggers, Jr.

The August 14, 2010 edition of US News and World Report lists Mint Hill as one of the best places to retire in North Carolina. The reasons given are the small town atmosphere with a population of just over 20,000, close proximity to the State's largest metropolitan city, low cost of living and average housing prices. These all make Mint Hill an attractive destination for retirees and citizens of all ages. In addition, Mint Hill's sense of community adds to the quality of life so important to providing a sense of well being.

To give a recent example of sense of community, Town citizens and elected officials worked feverishly this past April to keep the Mint Hill Public Library open as a result of a \$2 million shortfall in Mecklenburg County's budget, which caused the Library Board to vote to close 12 branches and layoff 148 employees. With the news, "Save the Mint Hill Library" was the plea heard throughout Town. Citizens rallied to raise the needed funds, and the Board of Commissioners voted to give \$175,000 dependent upon keeping the Mint Hill Library open and the successful negotiation of a transfer of County-owned real estate to the Town. As a result of our citizens, the Town Manager, the Board of Commissioners, and I working together to save this much needed service, the Library has remained opened. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported this enormous effort.

Officially, Fall begins September 21, and our community has a number of events taking place that will be sure to appeal to most everyone. For more information on the following events, visit our website at [www.minthill.com](http://www.minthill.com) or contact Town Hall at 704-545-9726.

First this season is Mint Hill Madness - one of our biggest local fall traditions is taking place downtown this year. The three-day town-wide celebration will begin Friday, September 24 at 6 p.m., and conclude on Sunday afternoon, September 26. A parade

Saturday morning at 9:30, clowns, music, fireworks and the Mint Hill Madness Beauty Pageant are all part of the "madness" and fun. Please come out and join us. I would like to thank all the members and volunteers from the Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce for their hard work and dedication to ensure that the festival is a success every year. A shuttle to the activities is available at CMC Mint Hill Medical Plaza. More information may be found at <http://www.minthillchamberofcommerce.com/madness.html> or contact The Chamber at 704-573-8282.

Next is high school football, and good natured team rivalry brings families and friends out in support of their favorite teams. If you enjoy football, you don't want to miss the "King of the Hill" football game between Butler and Independence High Schools scheduled Friday, November 5 at 7 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Charlotte. The winner takes home the "King of the Hill" trophy to be kept at the school for the entire school year.

A tribute to our men and women who have served in the armed services is the annual Veterans' Day Breakfast - another fall tradition that continues to grow in popularity each year. The breakfast will be Saturday, November 13, at the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church on Philadelphia Church Road. Town employees, citizens, and young people from the area scout troops volunteer to cook and serve a hearty, country style breakfast. Please contact Town Hall if you are not on our mailing list and to make your reservation. Invitations will be mailed in late October for this event.

Please come out and enjoy all of these activities that help to make Mint Hill a great place to live, work and play.

Hope to see you around Town.

*Ted H. Biggers, Jr.*



(Continued from Outsid Panel)

## Saturday, September 25th (9:30 am -10 pm)

### FREE Shuttle Parking from 2 pm -10 pm

CMC - Mint Hill Medical Plaza  
10545 Blair Road, Mint Hill

### 9:30 am

Mint Hill Madness Parade

### 12:00 Noon

Opening Ceremonies at Town Hall  
at 10:45 a.m. with fly over from CMC  
Med Center Air  
Visit the CMC Med Center Air  
Helicopter, Saturday 1 pm - 6 pm  
@ CMC-Mint Hill Mint Hill Medical  
Plaza - 10545 Blair Rd

### 12:30 pm -1:30 pm

"Island Luau for Kids" Sponsored  
by Levine Children's Hospital & Jeff  
Gordon Children's Hospital

### 1 pm - 5 pm

Operation Medicine Drop  
Mint Hill Police Dept Tent

### 1:30 pm - 4 pm

Blind Manifest

### 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Mint Hill Glee Club

### 7 pm - 9 pm

Southern Steel

### 9 pm

Mint Hill Madness Fireworks

## Sunday, September 26th (10 am -5 pm)

### FREE Shuttle Parking from 1 pm - 5 pm

CMC - Mint Hill Medical Plaza  
10545 Blair Road, Hint Hill

### 11 am -1 pm

Jeff Luckadoo

### 12 Noon

Dennis the Menace Art Raffle Drawing  
(Tickets at the Chamber on Penny  
Place Lane & Viewable Artwork and  
tickets available at the Mint Hill Art  
Gallery, 7714 Matthews-Mint Hill Road)

Visit the *107.9 The Link*  
Karaoke Stage all Weekend!

## The Mint Hill Branch Library Wants You!

Thanks to the support of outspoken members of this community and the governing body for the Town, the Mint Hill Branch Library was able to remain in operation and continue serving this community. This was despite severe budget cuts by Mecklenburg County for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and the possibility of library branch closings. Mayor Ted Biggers and the Mint Hill Commissioners approved a one-time \$175,000 contribution to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. This, along with contributions from other municipalities and Mecklenburg County, made it possible for the Mint Hill Branch Library and 11 other locations to continue serving us. These funds came with an Inter-Local Agreement which included a mandate to increase the use of volunteers at all library locations. Both Library staff and the citizens of Mint Hill have embraced this task with excitement and hope for our library's future. The goal is to create a large enough volunteer base to increase the hours of operation and allow more public access to the Mint Hill Branch Library.

Many generous members of this community have offered their time and energy to become volunteers and the Library staff has already begun coordinating their training and scheduling. Circulation Manager and Volunteer Coordinator Robin Doermann has devoted most of his efforts to

this process. While this has taken his talents away from direct public service, in the long run this will build a strong volunteer base from which we can explore new opportunities for service and access.

The Mint Hill Library increased volunteer hours by about 50 for July, from 85 to 135 hours per month. We hope to increase this monthly average over the coming weeks to 200 trained volunteer hours. Once we reach our goal, the Library Board will identify opportunities to expand hours of operation.

Ideas abound for how we can expand services. We anticipate a small growth in service at first, but our goal is to increase access in a way that best serves the community as a whole. As always, the Library Board meetings are open to the public, and if any citizen wishes to address the Board to share ideas and concerns, please contact the Main Library Administration Department at 704-416-0605. Applications for volunteers for all library locations including the Mint Hill Branch are available by contacting The Mint Hill Public Library at 704-416-5201 or visit our website at [http://www.plcmc.org/about\\_us/get\\_involved/volunteer.asp](http://www.plcmc.org/about_us/get_involved/volunteer.asp).

The Library is most appreciative to the Town's leadership and the wonderful members of this community for their continued support.

## Trash Collection Reminder

RCS will collect all properly prepared yard waste on your regular trash service day. Yard waste should be placed at the curb - **not in the road** - by 7:00 a.m. Limbs and brush should be separated from other waste and not be more than 5 feet in length nor over 6 inches in diameter. Never place more than one (1) pile of limbs or brush, approximately 4 feet high by 4 feet wide and 5 feet in length, at the curb each week. Grass clippings and leaves must be bagged (10 bag limit). **Do not blow leaves or debris into the road.** If yard debris exceeds these specifications, no service will be provided. **No building materials, wood blocks, tree stumps, trunks or logs will be picked up.** Thank you for your cooperation.



## Trash Pickup Holiday Schedule

### Thanksgiving Day - No Pick-up

Thursday, November 25, 2010

Thursday households will receive services on Friday.

### Christmas and New Year's - Regular schedule

Yard waste and Christmas trees (no ornaments or icicles) collected the week after Christmas.

## Volunteer Fire Department NEWS



### "Smoke Alarms - A Sound You Can Live With"

This year's fire safety campaign stresses the importance of smoke alarms and strives to encourage everyone to take the necessary steps to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection. Each year, nearly 3,000 people in the U.S. die in home fires, but having a smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a fire in half. In 2003-2006, an estimated two thirds of home fire deaths resulted from home fires with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. In 40% of the

homes, no smoke alarms were present, and in 23% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.

Please do not become a casualty because you failed to install smoke alarms or maintain existing ones. For more information on this year's campaign or if you need a free smoke or carbon monoxide detector, contact the MHVFD at 704-545-4866.

# Planning Department News

## Zoning Certification



Margie Nichols, the Town Code Enforcement Officer, recently obtained her certification as a North Carolina Zoning Official. This summer, Margie attended the certification course sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Zoning Officials (NCAZO) with the assistance of the School of Government at Chapel Hill. This course is designed for local government zoning officials seeking to be certified. It provides development of administrative skills in reviewing plans, inspecting sites, enforcing the ordinance and providing service to customers. Margie's accomplishment demonstrates her level of professionalism and commitment to the Town of Mint Hill. The Town's support for the NCAZO certification shows our commitment to hiring, training and keeping the best people on staff to serve the citizens of Mint Hill.

## Lawyers Road & I-485 Small Area Plan (SAP)

After working with consultants from HNTB and a multitude of citizens, landowners and developers, the Lawyers Road & I-485 Small Area Plan (SAP) Advisory Committee is nearly finished with the Plan. The SAP focuses on a study area around the proposed Bridges at Mint Hill mall site, and addresses land use, market conditions, utility and transportation needs for the Bridges at Mint Hill project and future development in the immediate area. The SAP process included numerous public meetings and also offered a three day public workshop called a charrette to seek input and garner support from citizens and business owners.

Visit the Town website at [www.minthill.com/SAP](http://www.minthill.com/SAP) to follow the adoption process in September and October of 2010. You may also sign up for email notifications.

## Attend a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Certified Site Inspector (CMCSI) Training Seminar

The CMCSI Training Seminar is a soil erosion and sedimentation control overview preparation seminar for interested participants. Upon completion, an optional certification test will be administered for those interested in becoming a certified Charlotte-Mecklenburg Certified Site Inspector. As required by Mecklenburg County, Town of Davidson, and Town of Mint Hill Soil and Erosion Control Ordinance, all development over one acre is required to have a certified CMCSI inspector or other registered professional monitoring the erosion control on the development site. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Certified Site Inspector (CMCSI) Program is a collaborative effort between Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte that provides a soil erosion and sedimentation control overview seminar and certification preparation for interested participants. The program now has a dedicated web page ([CMCSI.charmeck.org](http://CMCSI.charmeck.org)) for participants to view their certification status, register for the next seminar October 14, 2010, and learn more about this program.



## Come Get Your Hands Dirty!

The newly established **Creek ReLeaf** Program is a collaborative effort of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, The Charlotte Public Tree Fund, the Center for Sustainability at Central Piedmont Community College, and the Sierra Club Central Piedmont Group to plant trees in floodplain and stream buffers of Mecklenburg County. In the past two years, over 800 volunteers have planted 5,000 tree seedlings in the McDowell Creek floodplain in Huntersville.

Trees reduce erosion by stabilizing the soil and encouraging rainfall to infiltrate the water table – thereby reducing runoff and slowing the velocity of rainfall. Trees also provide much needed shade to the stream channel itself, which reduces the water temperature during the summer, allowing temperature-sensitive aquatic organisms to flourish. Ultimately trees greatly improve both the health of the streams and the water quality in our streams, lakes and drinking water supplies. This in turn makes for a healthy stream habitat capable of supporting diverse fish and aquatic organism populations.

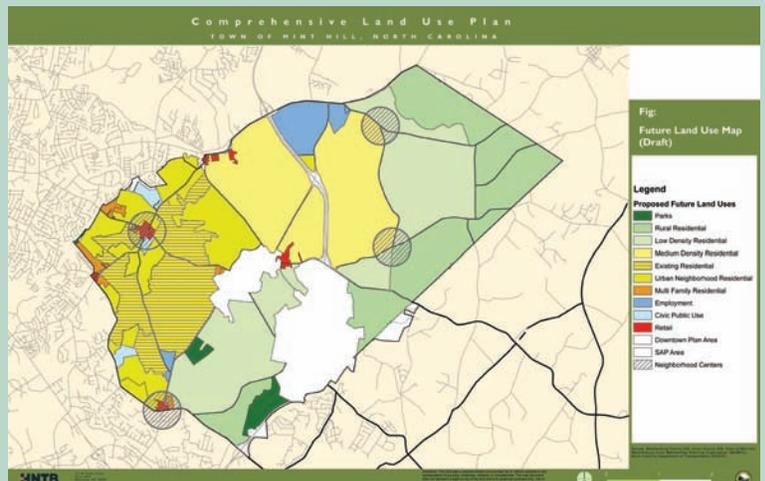
This year, the **Creek ReLeaf** group is planting along Little Creek Greenway in the Belmont Neighborhood. Join us on November 20th from 9am – noon. Visit [www.creekreleaf.com](http://www.creekreleaf.com) to register your group and come out for a fun day of tree planting!

No specific skills are needed to participate – only the desire to improve our environment.

## Comprehensive Land Use Plan Project Overview

The Comprehensive Land use Plan (CLUP) Advisory Committee has almost completed the review of land use structure, parks and open space, utility and transportation needs. In November 2009, the Town of Mint Hill started a town-wide Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) project comprised of consultants with HNTB, citizens, landowners and developers. The last CLUP was completed in 2000 and plans are generally updated every 10 years. The CLUP is a broad plan that is intended to guide land use and zoning decisions over the next 10 years through 2020 and beyond. The CLUP process included numerous public meetings and workshops to seek input and garner support from citizens and business owners.

Visit the Town website at [www.minthill.com/CLUP](http://www.minthill.com/CLUP) to stay up to date on the adoption process. You can also sign up for email notifications. As a follow up to the public meetings, an **Online Survey** will be available to validate the final CLUP Map and Plan prepared by the CLUP Advisory Committee. Check the [www.minthill.com/CLUP](http://www.minthill.com/CLUP) page for the link to the Online Survey. For those who do not have internet access, a terminal will be available in the Town Hall lobby at 7151 Matthews Mint Hill Road and paper copies may also be provided.





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# Mint Hill News

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



**September 24, 25, 26**

**Friday, September 24th (6-10pm)**

**FREE Shuttle Parking from 7 pm - 10 pm**

CMC - Mint Hill Medical Plaza  
 10545 Blair Road, Mint Hill

**6 pm - 7 pm**

King Shazaam - Jeff Collins

**8 pm - 10 pm**

Tsunami Wave Riders  
 Queen City Dancing - Intermission  
 Entertainment

*(Schedule continued inside)*

**October 14**

**Mecklenburg Certified Site  
 Inspector Training Seminar**  
[CMCSI.charmeck.org](http://CMCSI.charmeck.org)

**November 13**

**Veteran's Day Breakfast**  
*Philidelphia Presbyterian Church*

### News from the Mint Hill PD

### TRAFFIC ALERT!!

On Saturday September 25, 2010 between 8:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. NC 51 (*Matthews-Mint Hill Road*) will be closed between Woodland Avenue and Evans Road due to the annual Mint Hill Madness Parade. This will include the intersections with NC 218 and Lawyers Road. Traffic will be detoured, but the route will be lengthy. Individuals not attending the event are advised to avoid the downtown Mint Hill area during this time. Traffic is expected to remain slow and congested from 5 p.m. Friday (9-24) through 6 p.m. Sunday (9-26) due to the Mint Hill Madness Festival.

If you have any questions please contact:  
 Lt. J.K. Rowell  
 Mint Hill Police Department  
 (704) 545-1085.

**Have Questions?**  
 Call Town Hall at 704-545-9726



The Mayor, Commisioners, and Staff contribute articles to the Town's newsletter. The Mint Hill News is published by the Town of Mint Hill and mailed to each household in Town.