



Mint Hill News

Serving the Citizens of the Town of Mint Hill



Mayor's Message

Mayor Ted Biggers, Jr.

After one of the coldest winters we have seen in the Mint Hill area in 40 years, the green leaves and blooming flowers are a welcome sight. Town services were not interrupted by the several snow storms we experienced. The Public Works Department, under the direction of Dwayne Dorton, worked overtime to make sure the state roads, neighborhood streets and municipal parking lots were cleared of ice and snow. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of our Town employees.

The Town is planning for the next 10 to 20 years down the road. The Board of Commissioners and Town staff met February 19 and 20 for the Board's annual retreat and decided to move forward with three capital projects – the construction of a new town hall, and two renovations - the current town hall to house the police department and the historic Bain School Auditorium to be used as a public community building. The Town's continued growth has strained our public facilities to maximum capacity and the need is great to proceed with these building projects.

The Town of Mint Hill is committed to smart growth, and that is why a proactive role is being taken in the future development of the Lawyers Road area at the intersection of Interstate 485.

Town staff, a citizen advisory committee, and consultant HNTB of Charlotte are working on this Small Area Plan (SAP) project. The SAP's focus is on a half-mile circle around the proposed Bridges at Mint Hill mall site. The SAP addresses land use, market conditions, utility needs and transportation needs for the Bridges at Mint Hill project and future development in the immediate area. Your input is requested, so visit www.minthill.com/SAP to stay up to date on future meetings and events.

Having a shared vision – citizens, town leaders, and businesses – has created a quality of life in Mint Hill that seeks to preserve our unique small town atmosphere without limiting the benefits and opportunities that growth provides. Come out and enjoy the various happenings that are planned around Town over the next several months.... Discover Mint Hill, Movies on the Lawn, the Mint Hill Scottish Festival, and June Tunes to mention a few.

For more information, visit our website at www.minthill.com.

Hope to see you around Town....

Ted H. Biggers, Jr.

EARTH DAY



April 2010 will mark the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. Preparations are underway to celebrate April 22 as Earth Day in Mint Hill, beginning with the issuance of a proclamation to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. For decades, the Town has taken measures to protect the environment through the adoption of ordinances regulating land use, property maintenance and storm water run-off. Also, for your enjoyment and appreciation of the Earth, the Town has provided a nature trail at the Park on Fairview (8850 Fairview Road) and Park on Wilgrove (5233 Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road). If you have not yet had the opportunity to walk the nature trails, we encourage you to do so.

Historically, the citizens of Mint Hill have also been good stewards of the environment. We are interested in hearing from you about things you do individually or as a group to insure that our natural resources are protected for future generations to enjoy. If you would like to share those ideas/suggestions with others, send us an e-mail by visiting the Town's website, www.minthill.com and clicking on "Contact Us" (located in the bottom right corner of the home page); or, mail your suggestions to the Town of Mint Hill, Post Office Box 23457, Mint Hill, North Carolina 28227. We will compile a list of the best environmental protection ideas/suggestions received over the next several weeks, and publish the list in a future issue of the Mint Hill News.

Planning Department News

The Housing and Property Maintenance Code

Due to the increasing number of violations of the Town's ordinances, specifically the Housing and Property Maintenance Code, (sometimes referred to as the "Nuisance Ordinance"), the Board of Commissioners has reviewed and approved amendments to the code. In the past, almost all nuisance situations were easily remedied by a notice of violation, a door tag note on the main entrance, or a phone call to the property owner requesting abatement. However, with the increasing number of foreclosures, absent investment property owners who may be difficult to locate, and owner occupied homes that continue in violation regardless of numerous attempts to bring into compliance, the Town has recently been forced to take greater enforcement action.

In order to protect the health, safety, welfare and property values of the residents of the Town, the Board of Commissioners voted at their February 2010 retreat to amend the Town's Housing and Property Maintenance Code. Two components added are procedures regarding Town abatements and civil penalties for violators who fail to comply with the code.

Please contact the Planning Department at Town Hall with any questions at 704-545-9726. The amended Code will soon be made available for viewing on-line at www.minthill.com.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

By now you should have received your 2010 Census form in the mail. Results from the 2010 Census will be used to help the community get its fair share of government funds for highways, schools, health facilities, and many other programs you and your neighbors need. When you receive your form, please fill it out and mail it in promptly. Your response is important!

What is Single Stream Recycle?

On July 1, 2010, Mecklenburg County will transition into Single Stream Recycling. What this means for the citizen is that the collection system will support all paper fibers (newspaper, junk mail, cardboard, etc.) and containers (plastics, glass, aluminum) mixed together in your collection bin. Instead of being sorted at the curb into separate materials and handled separately throughout the collection process, all material will be deposited into the collection truck together.

Also, on July 1, 2010, Mecklenburg County residents will be able to recycle more items including: all plastic containers #1-#5 & #7, rigid plastics such as 5 gallon buckets, plastic toys, and empty aerosol cans. Plastic grocery bags (can be recycled at retail stores where they are distributed), styrofoam, pizza boxes and clothing will not be accepted.

Volunteer Fire Department NEWS



Recently we hosted an Open House at the Mint Hill Volunteer Fire Department. We were very pleased to have had over 500 Mint Hill citizens and residents attend the event. Towards the end we dedicated our new 105' ladder truck to one of our founding members who unfortunately has passed away, Mr. Daniel M. Tweed. The thoughts Mr. Tweed and several other men in our community had back in 1952 echo loudly today as the sirens on the apparatus blare throughout town some 3000 times a year. Mr. Tweed's family was present to assist in the dedication and the event was a most prestigious one. One final thanks to the Tweed family for sharing Dan's time with us for nearly 57 years!

To the community, as spring and summer arrive, please remember safety in the yard, especially with lawn mowers. Below are a few safety tips for mowers:

- Try to use a mower with a control that stops the mower from moving forward if the handle is let go.
- Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers. Children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers.
- Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Use a collection bag for grass clippings or a plate that covers the opening where cut grass is released. Have anyone who uses a mower wear hearing and eye protection.
- Make sure that children are indoors or at a safe distance well away from the area that you plan to mow.
- Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed. Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and cool.
- Do not store gasoline in a garage or attached storage sheds, especially near any open flame, such as hot water heaters.
- Make sure that blade settings (to set the wheel height or dislodge debris) are done by an adult with the mower off and the spark plug removed or disconnected.
- Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.
- Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.
- Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.

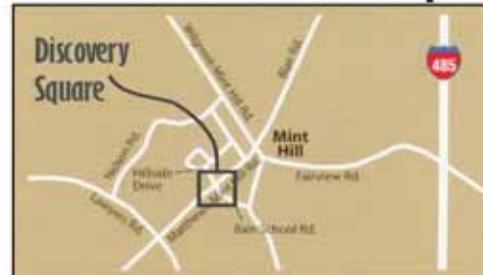
Thanks for the honor of service to the community and please feel free to call me anytime if you have a question or comment related to the Fire / EMS / or Rescue Service in Mint Hill.
Jeremy K. Russell, Fire Chief, 704-545-4866

Discover

Mint Hill, North Carolina

Saturday, April 17, 2010 9am to 3pm

"Discovery Square"
at Matthews - Mint Hill Road
and Bain School Road



Come Discover Mint Hill!!

It's all about your community!

What's happening?

- Double-decker bus historic tours
- Discover Mint Hill Treasure Hunt!
- Herb and Flower Festival
- Visit the Mint Hill Arts Gallery
- Historic Village craft demonstrations
- Programs and tours at your local library
- 25 year celebration of the Mint Hill Historical Society at 11am
- Meet Mint Hill's public safety providers—police and fire
- Get acquainted with the civic groups that work and support Mint Hill

Check out
Mint Hill's
Culture, History
and Civic groups

Treasure Hunt

You could win
one of three
CASH PRIZES



www.discoverminthill.org



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Mint Hill News

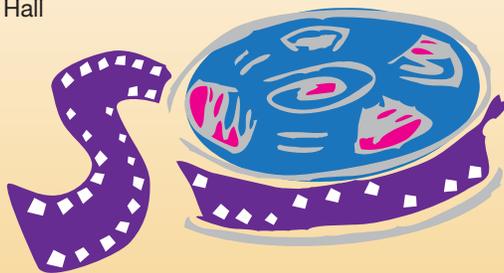


UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17, 2010 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. “Discover Mint Hill - Matthews-Mint Hill Road and Bain School Road or what is now known as “Discovery Square the area around the Historical Village
www.discoverminthill.org

April 22 Earth Day

Movies on the Lawn each Friday evening at dusk in May at Town Hall



Lawyers Road & I-485 Small Area Plan Public Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location: Mint Hill Town Hall - Assembly Room

Street: 7151 Matthews-Mint Hill Road

Bring your Mint Hill family, friends and co-workers to learn about the preferred planning scenario from the February 2010 Charrette. Visit the Town website at www.minthill.com/SAP to stay up to date on future meetings and events during the nine month process. You can also sign up for email notifications.

Mint Hill Highland Games May 21 & 22 Mint Hill Park on Fairview (www.minthillhighlandgames.com)

June Tunes, June 5, 12, 19, 26, and July 3 (Patriotic) Town Hall, 7151 Matthews-Mint Hill Road

News from the Mint Hill PD Protect Yourself from Telemarketing Fraud

Your best protection is to just hang up the phone. If you think that is rude, then tell the caller politely that you are not interested, you do not want to waste their time, and please do not call back – and then hang up. If you find yourself caught up in a sales pitch, remember the federal government’s Telemarketing Sales Rule.

- You have to be told the name of the company, the fact that it is a sales call, and what is being sold. If a prize is being offered, you have to be told immediately that there is no purchase necessary to win.
- If the caller says you have won a prize, you cannot be asked to pay anything for it. You cannot even be required to pay shipping charges. If it is a sweepstakes, the caller must tell you how to enter without making a purchase.

- You cannot be asked to pay in advance for services such as cleansing your credit record, finding you a loan, acquiring a prize they say you have won. You pay for services only if they are actually delivered.
- You should not be called before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. If you tell telemarketers not to call again, they cannot. If they do, they have broken the law.
- If you are guaranteed a refund, the caller has to tell you all the limitations.
- And remember, do not give telemarketers your credit card numbers, your bank account number, or Social Security number, or authorize bank drafts – ever. If you suspect fraud, call the National Fraud Information Center at 800-876-7060.

** Made available by the National Citizens’ Crime Prevention Campaign, sponsored by the Crime Prevention Coalition.*

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.