

# Mint Hill News

Serving the Citizens of the Town of Mint Hill



## Mayor's Message

Mayor Ted Biggers, Jr.

New Year's greetings from Town Hall! Winter certainly made its presence known the month of January, sending a blanket of snow and ice our way for some to enjoy and others to long for warmer days. In order to mitigate the effects of the wintry mix, the Town's Public Works Department was out with heavy equipment spreading sand and calcium and picking up debris caused by the storm. We want to commend and thank Public Works Director Dwayne Dorton and his staff for their hard work in keeping our Town as navigable as possible under very challenging conditions.

Spring is around the corner and so will be the ground breaking for the new Town Hall to be located in the Mint Hill Village on Matthews-Mint Hill Road. The ground breaking is most timely in that the Town will celebrate its 40th birthday in March. The Town was incorporated for the second time in 1971 with the new charter signed March 11. More information on the Town's birthday is in this edition of the newsletter as well as on the Town's website at [www.minthill.com](http://www.minthill.com).

Also upcoming are two community events - the Arts and Science Council Chili Cook-off and Discover Mint Hill. The Chili Cook-off Fund Raiser is Tuesday, March 8, at Town Hall. The proceeds from the chili sales support the arts in our community. Discover Mint Hill is

scheduled for Saturday, April 16, and is a community awareness event sponsored by the Town's civic organizations. There is always something new to discover, so make plans to join us at Discovery Square at Matthews-Mint Hill and Bain School Roads.

With the new year comes budget preparation, and the State's budget shortfall presents on going challenges to counties and municipalities. Although tough times still lay ahead, Mint Hill will continue all efforts to provide its citizens with the highest level of service while striving to be good stewards of your tax dollars. Announcements of future budget workshops will be forthcoming on the Town's website and in the local newspapers. The fiscal year is July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Have a wonderful year. Hope to see you around Town.

Best wishes,

*Ted H. Biggers, Jr.*



**Who:**

Town of Mint Hill

**What:**

Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

**When:**

Tuesday, March 8, 2011  
from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:**

John M. McEwen  
Assembly Room, Town Hall  
7151 Matthews Mint Hill Road,  
Mint Hill, NC 28227

**Why:**

Raise funds for the Arts and Science Council

**How:**

Contact Robin Edwards  
at 704-545-9726  
or [redwards@admin.minthill.com](mailto:redwards@admin.minthill.com)  
if you would like to enter your chili.  
**Prizes will be awarded.**



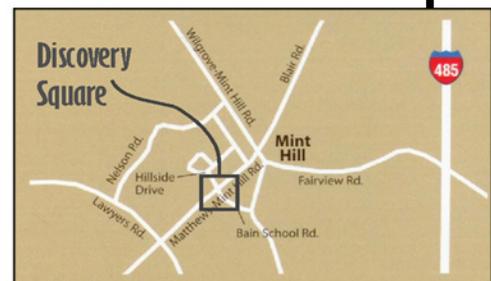
# Discover

## Mint Hill, North Carolina

Saturday, April 16, 2011 9am to 3pm

“Discovery Square”

at Matthews - Mint Hill Road  
and Bain School Road



### COME DISCOVER MINT HILL!!

It's all about your community!



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

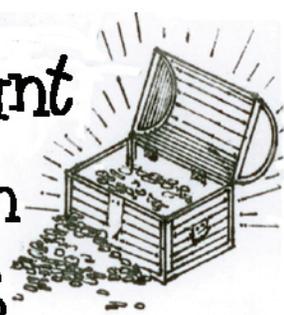
#### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Double-decker bus historic tours
- Discover Mint Hill Treasure Hunt!
- Herb and Flower Festival
- Visit the Mint Hill Arts Gallery
- Historic Village craft demonstrations
- Grand Opening of the Gold Assay Office at 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
- Programs and tours at your local library

Treasure Hunt

You could win

CASH PRIZES



[www.discoverminthill.org](http://www.discoverminthill.org)

Our creeks and lakes need your help! Mecklenburg County has over 3,000 miles of creek and 190 miles of lake shoreline. Storm Water Services rely on our more than 800,000 citizens to report spills, illegal discharges, and any strange water conditions to us.

All the storm water drains directly into the stream in or near your neighborhood. When it rains, the water picks up whatever is in its path and travels to a nearby storm drain. Anything that enters a storm drain is discharged into the streams and lakes we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

As a Water Watcher, you can help make a difference. When you're at home, share your knowledge with neighbors and family. As you drive to work, be aware of any illegal discharges. And, if you do see an illegal discharge, report it.

### What to look for:

- Wastewater piped to a creek or ditch (i.e. from a washing machine or floor drain)
- Businesses such as car lots and pressure washing companies that use chemicals to wash equipment outdoors and allow the wash water to flow into a storm drain, ditch, or waterway
- Sedimentary or loose dirt flowing off a construction site
- Draining or pouring auto fluids (motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, etc) or chemicals on the street (mop water, rinsing garbage cans, etc.) or into a storm drain

**In Mecklenburg County call 311.**

For more information visit our website at <http://stormwater.charmeck.org>.

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/waterwatchers](http://www.facebook.com/waterwatchers)

## FOCUS

"How many Christmas lights are on the Town's landmark 24 foot Frazier fur tree?" Public Works Director Dwayne Dorton was asked this past year before the annual tree lighting ceremony. "4,350 - I have the number written down in my office and will verify this." Later that day he confirmed the figure he quoted. No detail is overlooked by Dwayne and his staff. The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining 96 miles of Town streets and that does not include state roads. Additional responsibilities are maintaining the two parks, maintenance of the Town-owned buildings, maintaining and repairing vehicles and equipment, and decorating for the Veterans and Christmas holidays.

Dwayne has been the Town's Public Works Director for almost 27 years, starting in March 1984. The Public Works Department consists of a staff of eight full-time and five part-time employees. Turnover is a rarity with the least seniority being five years and the most senior - excluding Dwayne - 13 years. Regardless of seniority or job title, the work is shared by all.

There is always work to be done, and there is no slow time. Even when it's raining, there is maintenance of equipment. The Department understands that their job is 24/7 if needed. Case in point was the two snow storms this past December and January. Employees were called in - even on Christmas Day - and one from as far away as Shelby - to come back to work to scrape the



**Kneeling:** Tim Garner, Walter Higgins, Lonnie Plummer  
**Back Row:** Dwayne Dorton, Michael Smart, Chris Cochran, Dustin McWhirter  
**Not Pictured:** Scott Meynardie

snow on the main thoroughfares, secondary roads, and neighborhood streets. In addition, calcium and sand were used to improve the conditions on the roads and municipal parking lots.

When the staff was asked to name their favorite part of the job, their response was, "Getting to do something different every day. We also like it when people listen and understand that our job is to help beautify the Town, make it safer, and assist the citizens of Mint Hill. It is always nice to receive compliments from citizens." The Public Works Department is a team that works well together to get the job done. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to the citizens and employees of Mint Hill.

## The town of Mint Hill Has a

The Town of Mint Hill recognizes its 40th birthday this year. The following is a brief history of the Town's beginnings.

Mint Hill was first incorporated by the North Carolina General Assembly on March 6, 1899. E.W. Alexander was named Mayor, W.B. Estridge, D.A. Henderson and Walter McEwen as Commissioners and J.A. Crowell as Constable until an election was held the first Monday of May 1900. The reason for the request to incorporate was believed to be better mail service in the area. Following the incorporation, a U.S. Mail substation was located in Henderson's Store (later Allen's Grocery) on what is now Fairview Road (Highway 218).

As a result of needing a road built through the Town and the fact that Mecklenburg County would not build a road through incorporated areas, a petition was made to unincorporate the Town. Therefore "An Act to repeal Chapter 330 of the Private Laws of 1899 incorporating the Town of Mint Hill in Mecklenburg County" was ratified on March 10, 1919, and the Town became unincorporated.

Fifty-two years later in 1971, Mint Hill decided to become incorporated again. Spurred by the threat of Charlotte-Mecklenburg consolidation and two bitter zoning battles with the County Commissioners, the citizens of Mint Hill pushed for and received their new charter on March 11, 1971. Those appointed by legislation to serve until the initial election were John M. McEwen as Mayor, James E. Harper, Thomas A Weaver, C.B. Cook and W. Kenneth Baucom as Commissioners.

After the initial election was held on May 4, 1971, John M. McEwen continued to serve the Town as Commissioner until his death in May 1984. On the Town's eleventh birthday, March 11, 1982, Commissioner McEwen and his wife, "Scottie" generously donated 5.45 acres of property to the Town of Mint Hill. The present Town Hall was constructed there in 1983.

## Volunteer Fire Department NEWS

from Fire Chief Jeremy Russell

This year while doing your spring cleaning, make it a priority to also conduct a spring fire safety check of your home to ensure that you and your home are as safe as possible. Unfortunately, home fires kill more than 4,000 people in America each year. However, you can reduce the likelihood of a fire in your home and protect you, your family and your property from devastation by following these easy tips:

### **Be Smart Use Smoke Alarms:**

Smart homeowners own smoke alarms. The facts don't lie. Smoke alarms save thousands of lives each year. The likelihood that they will save your life greatly increases when you:

- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home, including the basement and/or attic.
- Install smoke alarms both inside your sleeping area and outside of it. Install the smoke alarm 6-8" from the ceiling on both walls to allow for earliest possible smoke detection.

### **Add Smoke Alarm Maintenance to Your Spring Cleaning List**

Smoke alarms are very easy to care for, requiring only two minor scheduled tasks:

- Replace the batteries once a year. You may opt to schedule this yearly change to coincide with your spring cleaning or perhaps schedule the change for an easily remembered day, such as your birthday or anniversary.
- Keep them clean. Just as you dust your bookshelves, make sure your smoke alarm is free from dust and debris, as it may interfere with proper functioning. A quick vacuum around the smoke alarm regularly will do the trick.

**Please contact the MHVFD - 704-545-4866 if you are in need of a smoke alarm.**



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 MINT HILL, NORTH CAROLINA 28227-0272  
[www.minthill.com](http://www.minthill.com)

# Mint Hill News

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 2nd**  
**Community Blood Drive**  
 3:30pm-6:30pm  
 Mint Hill Police Department

**Tuesday, March 8th**  
**Arts & Science Council**  
**Chili Cook-Off**  
 11:30am-2:00pm, Town Hall

**Saturday, March 12th**  
**Shred It! Mint Hill Police Department**  
**and Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce.**  
 McEwen Shopping Center, Hwy 51  
 and Lawyers Rd.  
 9:00am-12:00pm

**Saturday, April 16th**  
**Discover Mint Hill**  
 9:00am-8:00pm

### Garbage Pickup

#### Schedule



**July 4, 2011 (Independence Day) Monday** -  
 All households will receive services one day delayed.

**September 5, 2011 (Labor Day) Monday** -  
 All households will receive services one day delayed.

**November 24, 2011 (Thanksgiving) Thursday** -  
 Households will receive services one day delayed.

**December 25, 2011 (Christmas) Sunday** -  
 RCS will take Monday as the holiday.  
 All households will receive services one day delayed. No yard debris that week.

**January 1, 2012 (New Year's Day) Sunday** -  
 RCS will take Monday as the holiday.  
 All households will receive services one day delayed.

### News from the Mint Hill PD

### Neighborhood Safety Tips For Parents

Unfortunately no neighborhood is completely immune to crime. However, there are steps you can take to help keep your family and your neighborhood safe.

- Know where your children are. Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check in or be home. Have them leave a phone number of where they will be.
- Help children learn important phone numbers. Have your children practice reciting their home phone number and address and your work and cell phone numbers. If they have trouble memorizing these, write them down on a card and have them carry it at all times. Tell your children where you will be and the best way to reach you.

- Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood. Do you want them crossing busy roads, playing in alleys or abandoned buildings? Are there certain homes in your neighborhood that you don't want your children to go to?
- Get to know your children's friends. Meet their parents before letting your children go to their home, and keep a list of their phone numbers. If you can't meet their parents, call and talk to them. Ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.
- Choose a safe house in your neighborhood. Pick a neighbor's house where your children can go if they need help. Point out other places they can go for

help, like stores, libraries, and police stations.

- Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists. Role-play talking out problems, walking away from fist fights and what to do when confronted with bullies. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.

Work together with your neighbors. Watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another.

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



The Mayor, Commissioners, Staff and the Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency contributed articles to this newsletter. The Mint Hill News is published by the Town of Mint Hill and mailed to each household in Town.