

MINT HILL NEWS

Serving the Citizens of the Town of Mint Hill

August 2012 Vol. I No. XXVIII



MINT HILL NEWS

TOWN OF MINT HILL • PO BOX 23457
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UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Sunday Afternoon in the Park** / August 26 / 1 pm to 6 pm
Park at Wilgrove / August 6 / 1 pm - 6pm
7750 Jim Harper Lane, off Wilgrove Mint Hill Road
- **Mint Hill Madness** / September 28 & 29
Downtown Mint Hill
- **Mint Hill Madness 5K** / September 29 / 8:30 am start, 9:30 am finish
Town Hall, 4430 Mint Hill Village Lane (parking across the street)
- **Police Department Golf Tournament** / October 6 / Shotgun start @ 1pm
Larkhaven Golf Course, 4801 Camp Stewart Road, Charlotte, NC 28215
- **Veterans Day Breakfast** / November 10 / Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Kerr Recreation Building, 11501 Bain School Road, Mint Hill, NC
(Please make reservations with Town Hall after receiving an invitation or veterans may call Town Hall at 704.545.9726 to be added to the guest list.)

MINT HILL POLICE DEPT. NEWS

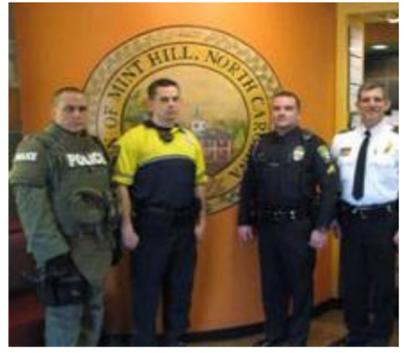


It has been said that the world sums you up by the clothes that you wear and treats you accordingly. The Mint Hill Police Department exemplifies this idea. In the less than 50 officers category, they were this year's winner of the North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers & Distributors (NAUMD). Judges review each department's professional appearance and uniform diversity, paying close attention to detail and written standards.

Physical presence is very important for law enforcement personnel with this being the first item on the Use of Force Continuum, a standard that provides officers with guidelines as to how much force may be

used against a resisting subject in a given situation. The way an officer is dressed and presents him or herself may eliminate higher levels of force from being used. A neat and professional appearance expresses confident non-verbal communication and creates a positive impression for the individual, department, and town.

The uniforms are provided by the Town at no cost to the officers. We commend Chief Tim Ledford for his leadership and congratulate him and his department on receiving this well deserved honor.



Left to right: Sgt. Michael Gainey, Officer Nathaniel Wisz, Corporal Billy Gilman, Chief Tim Ledford

The Mayor, Commissioners and Staff contributed articles to this newsletter. The Mint Hill News is published by the Town of Mint Hill and mailed to each household in Town.

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



Play Golf and Help the Community!

Annual Mint Hill Police Department Golf Tournament Support Explorer Program

Help the Mint Hill Police Department support our Police Explorers and Volunteers in Police Service by taking part in a golf tournament fundraiser. The Police Explorer Program is for young people ages 14 to 20 that have an interest in a law enforcement career.

WHEN: Saturday, October 6, 2012
Entry Deadline: Monday, October 1
Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
Four-man Captain's Choice Format
Lunch served at 11 a.m. before the tournament!!!

WHERE: Larkhaven Golf Course
4801 Camp Stewart Road
Charlotte, NC 28215
Note: Possible cart path only due to over-seeding on course!!

COST: \$65 per person, \$260 per team
Fee includes: green fees, cart fees, prizes and lunch
Mulligan package \$20, includes raffle tickets and much more



Mayor's Message | Mayor Ted Biggers, Jr.

It has been said that "the greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark."

The vision for the new Mint Hill Town Hall was formed over a dozen years ago. The growth of our Town and the predicted future space needs helped to make a new town hall one of our priorities. When creating the design blueprint, we did indeed aim high. We chose a traditional architectural style reflective of the values of our community: strength, beauty, and timelessness. We believe we hit our mark. We feel the new town hall creates a centerpiece for downtown and a source of pride for everyone associated with the Mint Hill community.

Citizens will have an opportunity to tour the facility at a dedication ceremony to be scheduled in the fall. The date and time will be announced in the newspapers and on the Town's website. The former Town Hall building will be renovated to house the growing Police Department with the work taking about one year to complete.

Maintaining the Town's strong financial health is another priority of the Board of Commissioners. The budget was adopted for the fiscal year 2012-2013 without an increase in the ad valorem tax rate of \$.27 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The Town's revenue philosophy has always been conservative, and this practice has enabled us to ride the wave of economic uncertainty without raising taxes or eliminating vital services to our citizens. We know from news reports that other municipalities across the country have not fared as well.

The community calendar has much to offer in the upcoming months. The Park on Wilgrove will be the center for art and culture with Sunday Afternoon in the Park, August 26, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Potters, painters and other artists will have their works on display for purchase. Take your time and browse; you may just find a treasure or two to take home.

The year is rolling right along. To mark the beginning of fall and back to school, the annual Mint Hill Madness festivities are scheduled the weekend of September 28 and 29. Musical groups will be playing both days with the traditional parade down Matthews-Mint Hill Road. The Mint Hill Madness beauty pageant is scheduled Saturday, September 22, at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. For more information on the Madness events, visit www.minthillchamberofcommerce.com.

The task was daunting, the money to be raised seemed overwhelming; however, the North Carolina Korean War Veterans Memorial is a dream realized through the vision of many who believed in the importance of remembering those who served and died for their country. The Memorial is one of a kind in the State and honors North Carolinians who fought and who still serve to keep South Korea free from tyranny. The Memorial honors the 789 members of the military from N.C. who were killed or missing in action during the war. A dedication ceremony is planned for sometime in the fall of 2012.

(Continued Inside)

TRASH COLLECTION NEWS

bi-weekly roll-out recycling program



The Town of Mint Hill will be implementing a bi-weekly roll-out recycling program. The 96-gallon roll-out recycling cart will be placed at the curb every other week (on the same day as your normal garbage collection). Garbage collection will remain weekly on your regularly assigned day. The Town plans to have the carts delivered by September.

If you have further questions, you may visit our website www.minthill.com or call Town Hall at 704-545-9726.

ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
Aerosol	Appliances
Aluminum Cans NEW!	Auto Parts
Cardboard	Batteries
Glass Bottles/Jars	Bottle Caps/Lids
Juice Boxes NEW!	Ceramics
Paper	Clothing
Plastics 1-5 & 7 NEW!	Electronics
Spiral Paper Cans	Garbage
Steel/Tin Cans	Light Bulbs
	Mini Blinds
	Paper Plates/Napkins
	Pizza Boxes
	Plastic Bags
	Plastic Food Trays/Cups
	Pots/Pans
	Shredded Paper
	Styrofoam
	Wire Hangers

*** REMINDER:**
According to state law, plastic numbers 1 & 2 and aluminum should always be recycled and never discarded in the garbage.



Pollution Prevention Starts at Home

To understand how easily we can affect our water, it is helpful to understand how water collects. The area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater is called a watershed. We all live in one. What does that have to do with you? It means stopping pollution before it begins in your own backyard.

How could what you do in your yard affect water quality? At any point along its journey rain or runoff can be tainted by your everyday activities, things like walking your dog, washing the car, or fertilizing your lawn.

That is why it is important to know what you can do to help prevent pollution.

- Don't use storm drains as a trash can.
- Put trash and cigarette butts in the garbage.
- Put leaves and grass into trash bags to be collected in weekly trash pickup.
- Don't apply fertilizers or pesticides before a heavy rain.
- Clean up after your pets.

• Take used leftover household hazardous waste to local recycling centers.

• Plant grass or native plants on any bare areas of your yard to reduce soil erosion.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services encourages citizens to report any illegal dumping or improper disposal that may affect our waterways in negative ways. Please call 311 to report your observation. Your concern will be forwarded to the appropriate agency for investigation.

MINT HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Town of Mint Hill Volunteer Fire Department hired five new employees this year. The new hires include a full-time administrative assistant, a firefighter paramedic, and three firefighter/emergency medical

technicians. Christopher Mauney was hired January 16, 2012 to replace an employee who resigned, and the Board of Commissioners approved three new firefighter/emergency medical technician positions in order to meet the demands of our growing community. Baron Hendrix, Brian Houser, and Robert Thomas all started June 4, 2012 as FF/EMTs. Mardy Watson was hired as the part-time administrative assistant August 30, 2010, and the Board of Commissioners upgraded the position to full-time effective July 1, 2012.

The department has nine paramedics and nine emergency medical technicians and all have their firefighter II certifications bringing the total paid staff to nineteen. David Leath is the Interim Fire Department Operations Director overseeing the Town's paid employees. John Phillips is the Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief and oversees 85 volunteers who work alongside the Town's employees.

Mint Hill Citizen

Making a Difference

Public Works Director: Dwayne Dorton



Charming, peaceful, and well maintained are just a few superlatives expressed about the Town of Mint Hill. A lot of the credit for the "well maintained" attribute can be credited to the devotion, dedication, and hard work of the Town's Public Works Director, Dwayne Dorton.

Dwayne was hired to work in the Public Works Department March 26, 1984, thirteen years after the Town's incorporation in 1971. At that time the department had a staff of two, Dwayne and Benny Davis, who has since

retired. In the early days, Dwayne remembers shoveling snow by himself on the ice-covered roadways. The Town's only truck had a seat covered in so much duct tape that you didn't have to use a seat belt to be secured, especially during warm weather.

Much has changed from those early days. The Town's population of approximately 22,000 has increased the demands of the Public Works Department. Dwayne oversees a staff of seven, dozens of trucks and heavy equipment, two parks, 99.86 square miles of roadways and three Town-owned buildings. When you see the Memorial Day flags and Christmas decorations adorning the lamp posts along Matthews-Mint Hill Road and the beautifully decorated Christmas tree, you can attribute these efforts to the Public Works Department. Other behind-the-scenes responsibilities are setting up and assisting with community events such as Movies on the Lawn, Mint Hill Madness, June Tunes, and Arts in the Park. Keeping Mint Hill tip-top and operating efficiently is an on-going and huge responsibility.

Town Manager Brian Welch commented that Dwayne runs a tight ship and oversees the Town's property as if it were his own home. Someone commented years ago that the floor in the Public Works building is so clean that you can eat off of it. The two parks, Fairview and Wilgrove, are as well kept as any park in the State.

Long time Town Clerk Beth Hamrick reflects, "Dwayne has spent almost 30 years of his life providing unselfish, dedicated service to the citizens of Mint Hill. His knowledge and leadership will be greatly missed. It is an honor to have worked with him and know him as my friend." Dwayne will be retiring August 31, 2012. His strong work ethic, perseverance, and kind and caring spirit are qualities to be greatly admired, and he will be sorely missed. The Town staff and citizens of Mint Hill are fortunate to have benefited from his 28 years of service. We wish Dwayne and his lovely wife, Jane, a happy retirement.

Town of Mint Hill Employee Earns Designation

Deputy Town Clerk: Doris Miller

Deputy Town Clerk Doris Miller has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC), awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Inc. The IIMC grants the CMC designation only to those municipal clerks who complete the demanding education requirements and who have a record of significant contributions to their local and state governments and to their community.



The International Institute of Municipal Clerks, founded in 1947, has 10,300 members throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries. The mission of this global non-profit corporation is to enhance the educational opportunities and professional development of its diverse membership.

We would like to commend Doris on obtaining this distinguished certification and for her dedicated service to the Town of Mint Hill.

PLANNING NEWS

The Housing and Property Maintenance Code

The Board of Commissioners has approved an Amendment to Chapter 12 of the Town's Code. The new Code provides the Town with additional options of enforcement regarding abandoned, vacant structures in a major state of disrepair. This amendment places a vacant structure on a 12 month time clock. If the owner fails to make improvements, then after 12 months the Board of Commissioners can adopt an ordinance ordering the property repaired or demolished within 90 days. If the owner does not comply with the order, the Town may abate the problem and place a lien on the property for costs incurred.

MAYOR (continued)

To commemorate our veterans, the second Saturday in November is the annual Veterans Day breakfast. The event is held each year at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church in the Kerr Recreation Building, 11501 Bain School Road. If you are a veteran and have never received an invitation, please contact Town Hall at 704-545-9726 to be placed on the mailing list.

In closing, we will be saying goodbye to the Town's Public Works Director Dwayne Dorton, who will be retiring August 31 after 28 years on the job. His dedication and devotion to the Town and its citizens is evidenced in the beautifully maintained grounds, parks, streets, and buildings. He will leave big shoes to fill and will truly be missed.

The community calendar has something to offer everyone. For more information, visit www.minthill.com. We appreciate your support of the Town's on-going programs and events and realize that our citizens have what makes our community a great place to live. I hope to see you around Town.

Ted Biggers