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MINT HILL NEWS

Serving the Citizens of the Town of Mint Hill

August 2013



UPCOMING EVENT



*Sunday Afternoon
in the Park*

Sunday, August 25 / 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Mint Hill's Park on Wilgrove
5233 Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road

How Can I Help?

www.minthill.com
Information is a click away...

The age for obtaining information quickly... at the click of a button... is part of our everyday lives. The Town has redesigned its website for easier access to information of interest to citizens. Take a look at the colorful new homepage and browse all the options available.

Complete a notification form under **Notify Me** to stay informed of community events, Board meeting archives, Mint Hill RFQ/RFPs for planning, engineering and other consulting services, and job opportunities. Notifications may be received via e-mail or text message.

The Citizen Request Tracker is a tool to request service or relay concerns, such as reporting abandoned or junked vehicles, high grass and weeds, or illegal signs.

Click on **HOW DO I?** for links to Transportation Planning and Public Transportation. **AGENDAS AND MINUTES** contains an archive of the Board of Commissioners and Planning Board meeting minutes.

These options are just a few of the many resources available to citizens on the website. Of course, Town staff is available at Town Hall or 704.545.9726 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer questions.

Mint Hill Police Department News



Coffee With a Cop - It's a simple concept



Police and community members come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. Coffee with a Cop is spreading nationwide and soon will be in every state in the nation.

One of the keys to Coffee with a Cop's success is that it removes the physical barriers and crisis situations that

routinely define interactions between law enforcement officials and community members. It allows for relaxed, informal one-on-one interactions in a friendly atmosphere. This informal contact increases trust in police officers as individuals, which is the foundation to building partnerships and engaging in community problem solving.

So pull up a chair and grab a cup of coffee....

The first meeting was held July 8, at Nova Bakery and Coffee, 3665 Matthews-Mint Hill Road and attended by 15 citizens. Chief Tim Ledford, Captain Scott Hall, Sergeant Carla King, and Officers Kazimierz Zapadka and Kevin White represented the Mint Hill Police Department.

The following are a few of the questions and issues

discussed.

- How long has the Mint Hill Police Department been in existence? **Ten years**
- How many officers does the PD have? **34**
- Can crosswalks be added from the new Publix to Brighton Park? **Implementation is already in the works.**
- Can officers run radar in my neighborhood? **Yes**
- Will there be an open house for the new PD? **Yes, a date has yet to be determined**
- Can an officer make a presentation at my neighborhood watch meeting? **Yes**
- Can citizens do ride-alongs with officers? **Yes**
- Are you accepting applications for Volunteers? **Yes (Applications may be obtained at the MHPD.)**

Please visit www.minthill.com for upcoming Coffee



*Mayor's
Message*

Mayor Ted Biggers, Jr.

“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.”

Walden by Henry David Thoreau

Sun, rain and more rain may describe our summer thus far. However, we hope that everyone is enjoying the season, smelling the roses and taking advantage of all the amenities our community has to offer. To enjoy outdoor beauty, you do not have to travel far. Take a look at the community calendar.

The **Mint Hill Farmers Market**, located in the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village, 7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Road, is open from May through September, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fresh fruits and vegetables are in abundance and provide an opportunity to support local farmers. While you're there, tour the museums in the Historic Village. The atmosphere will take you back to an earlier place and time when life was simpler and less hurried.

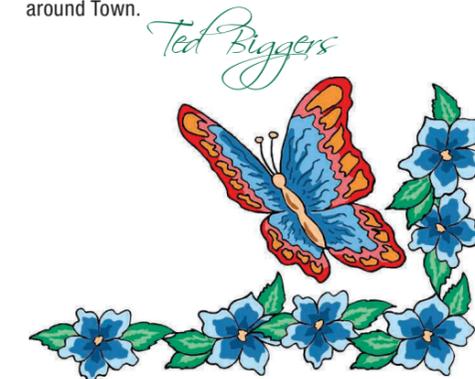
Sunday Afternoon in the Park is scheduled for August 25, from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Mint Hill Park on Wilgrove, 5233 Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road. The event features area artists and musicians. Food vendors will be on site and picnic tables are available to enjoy lunch or dinner. If you are an artist and would like to participate in

the event, please visit www.minthill.com and complete the participant application.

If you enjoy nature, the Town has two beautiful parks in which to spend time out-of-doors, **The Park on Fairview** and **The Park on Wilgrove**. Biking and walking trails, soccer fields, tennis courts, miniature golf, children's play areas, and picnic tables are a few of the amenities that our parks have to offer. Please visit the Town's website www.minthill.com for more information.

To be notified of Town news and events, you may subscribe to receive e-mail and text messages by clicking on **NOTIFY ME** on the Town's website homepage. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential and it will not be sold, disclosed to others, or used for unsolicited mass mailings (spam). Please remember to set your spam blocker to allow mail from listserv@civicplus.com.

The Town of Mint Hill is committed to providing an excellent and sustainable quality of life for all its citizens. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you around Town.



Let's Go to the PARK!



The Town of Mint Hill has two parks for citizens to enjoy. Located at 8850 Fairview Road in Mint Hill, the **Park on Fairview** was officially opened in 1997. This park has over 55 acres with amenities for all ages. Having two Bermuda soccer fields surrounded by a one-half mile asphalt bike/roller blade path, the park has attracted the interest of many soccer players throughout the area.

The park also has a full concession stand, large restrooms, racquetball and tennis courts, beach volleyball courts, and a nine-hole disc golf course that winds its way through the natural areas of the park. The three-quarter mile nature trail is planted with a wide range of plants and trees native to this part of the North Carolina.

The **Park on Wilgrove** is located at 7750 Jim Harper Lane, off Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road. This park was the first municipal park dating back to 1974 and offers a variety of activities as well. It currently has a lighted softball field, two lighted tennis courts, two non-lighted courts, a natural walking trail that circles the perimeter of the park, several large and small picnic areas, and a large variety of playground equipment to entertain children.

Did you know that you can reserve one of the two parks for special gatherings or

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events?

In addition to reserving shelters, ball fields and tennis courts, groups can reserve all or part of a Town park for events such as family reunions, company picnics and community events. Larger events are classified as either a minor or major event. All reservations require special applications and fees.

What is a MINOR Event?

Individuals wishing to reserve more than one facility concurrently, such as a shelter and the softball field, must apply for the minor event. The number of minor events is limited to eight at each park on an annual basis. The process includes submitting a completed application obtained from Town Hall or www.minthill.com/parks along with the appropriate fees at least 30 days prior to the scheduled event. Preference for the scheduling of minor events is given to those individuals or groups that first submit a completed application packet with all applicable fees. Attendance at minor events is limited to 250 or fewer persons and the event can only be one day in duration. With the exception of those facilities being reserved, the rest of the park hosting the minor event will remain open to the general public.

What is a MAJOR Event?

Events scheduled to last more than one day and/or events that expect more than 250 attendees fall into the major event category. Major events involve reserving the entire park rather than just one or two facilities; therefore, the park hosting the major event is essentially closed to the general public until the event is over.

Major events are limited to four per year. This means that the group sponsoring the major event may charge admission; however, not all groups charge admission for their major events.

For more information on our parks, visit www.minthill.com



For more information on Mint Hill Arts visit www.minthillarts.org.

art in the park
Painters, Potters & More will gather
Sunday Afternoon in the Park
August 25 from 1 - 6 pm
at Mint Hill's Park on Wilgrove
5233 Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road,
for the ninth annual Sunday Afternoon in the Park

Food vendors will be on site, so enjoy a picnic lunch or dinner. If you are a vendor and would like to participate, visit www.minthill.com and click Sunday Afternoon in the Park on the website's home page and complete the Participant Application.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Town of Mint Hill Tree Trimming Policy For The Downtown Overlay District

Tree maintenance service is conducted throughout the year. Residents are reminded that the employees of the Department of Public Works tree crew are also employees of the Street and Parks Divisions. Therefore, there are times throughout the year when other public services are being performed by the Department that necessitate reallocation of personnel and equipment. At those times, tree maintenance service may/will be temporarily reduced or suspended.

The policy for the Town of Mint Hill in the Downtown Overlay district is to prune and maintain trees, plants, shrubs and brush that are in the Right-Of-Way. Trees, plants, shrubs and brush need maintenance to correct unsafe conditions, such as the following, but are not limited to...

1. Blocking line of sight.
2. Hanging/protruding into the street.
3. Hanging/protruding over the sidewalk.
4. Blocking signs.

The Public Works Department will correct unsafe conditions by pruning, cutting, and in severe cases, removing trees, plants, shrubs and brush to insure public safety.

The policy in the Downtown Overlay district for trimming trees will be to maintain a minimum clearance height of 14 feet all the way around the tree. Consideration will be taken to ensure the appearance and uniformity of the trees. When pruning and cutting are necessary, care will be taken to leave limbs that are below the 14 feet level which are growing in an upward position.

The minimum 14 feet height policy that the Town has adopted is to make sure it is high enough to clear most tandem trucks, garbage trucks, buses, sweepers, campers, RVs, tractor trailers and other vehicles that travel on a public road.

The Public Works Department will take great care to ensure the minimum 14 feet height clearance. Due to uneven pavement and ground, the height may vary.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY CONSERVATION

Bacteria and Water Quality

Many creeks in Mecklenburg County have been identified as polluted by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources due to elevated bacteria levels. Bacteria can get into the creeks from many sources including wildlife waste, domesticated animal waste, sanitary sewer overflows and failing septic systems.

There are a high number of homes in Mint Hill that use septic systems as well as many families that have dogs. Below are some ways these homeowners can help protect the local streams from bacteria.

To keep your septic system in good working order:

- Do regular pumping of the septage from the septic tank.
- Locate the septic tank lid and keep it marked.
- Know what the minimum maintenance requirements are for your type of septic system.
- Respond to a failing system with required maintenance, particularly when

surfacing of effluent occurs or odors are apparent.

- Keep records of the system design, location and maintenance activities (including pumping dates).

To be a responsible pet owner:

- Pick up after your pet every single time.
- Throw away pet waste in the garbage; never wash it into the gutter or storm drain.
- Never dispose of waste in or leave it near creeks and lakes.
- Carry extra bags in your car so you are prepared when you travel with your pet.
- Educate neighbors.

There are over 3,000 miles of creek in Mecklenburg County. Citizen reporting is imperative to notifying us of existing problems. If you notice sewer odors in a creek, discolored creek water, overflowing manholes, or dead fish or aquatic life, call 311. Storm Water Services' Water Quality staff will respond quickly, find the source of the problem and make sure it is corrected.

www.mecklenburgconservation.com or call 704.336.2455.

FOCUS - New Department Heads

Clerk to the Board & Public Works Director



Michelle Farrar swearing in New Police Officer Josh Kelly



Tim Garner, Public Works Director

The Town has two new department heads, Michelle Farrar and Tim Garner. Michelle was appointed Clerk to the Board of Commissioners June 23, 2013. She replaced Beth Hamrick who retired after 32 years of service. Michelle has been employed with the Town since November 4, 2002 and previously held the position of Administrative Assistant/Receptionist. She

served for ten years as the Clerk to the Board of Adjustment and Clerk to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Michelle has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Tim Garner is the new Public Works Director. He replaced Dwayne Dorton who retired August 31, 2012 after 28 years with the Town. Tim's employment began February 12, 1996 as a

Street Maintenance Worker II and was then promoted to Assistant Street Director. Tim retired this past May with the Air National Guard. He served a total of 24 years that included active duty with the Air Force.

The Town is fortunate to have dedicated employees who are willing and prepared to step into leadership roles.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



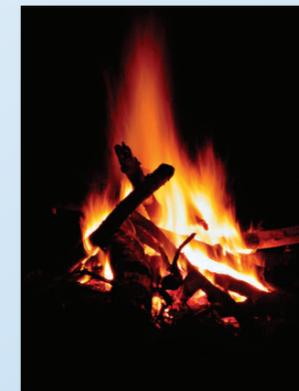
Please read the following open burning requirements. It is the duty of the Mint Hill Fire Department Fire Chief to enforce the following fire codes.

The International Fire Code, Section

307:1 General. A person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless conducted and approved in accordance with this section.

307.1.1 Prohibited open burning.

Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous shall be prohibited.



307.3 Extinguishment authority. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.4.2 Recreational fires. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated.

307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces. Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacture's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

Exception: Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one-and-two-family dwellings.

307.5 Attendance. Open burning, bonfire, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum of 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

For more information on the fire codes, please contact the Mint Hill Volunteer Fire Department at 704.545.4866.