

October 2011

October Council Meetings:

- * October 10th - Regular Meeting
- * October 24th - Work Session



Mount Holly Monitor

City of Mount Holly Monthly Newsletter

"The Little City with the Big Heart"

Mount Holly City Council

Bryan Hough—Mayor
Carolyn Breyare—Mayor Pro Tem
Jerry Bishop—Councilman
Bennie Brookshire—Councilman
Jim Hope—Councilman
David Moore—Councilman
Perry Toomey—Councilman

A Message From Our City Manager, *Danny Jackson*

Hello fellow citizens,

Welcome to a new Fall Year in Mount Holly. It is my sincere hope that the fall year will be one of prosperity for you all.

Speaking of prosperity, it appears that businesses in Mount Holly continue to do fairly well, as evidenced by more openings, relocations and even renovations to existing buildings. If you have not been out and about, especially in and around the downtown area, please do so.

Staying on the theme of prosperity, there is a matter that I would like to discuss, one that I have mentioned in the past. The matter involves waste water (sewer) treatment in Mount Holly. This subject is very important and involves prosperity as well, especially as it relates to our local economy. Before I move on with the discussion, please know that there are more intricate and complicated details involved with the subject, that which I will try not to bore you with.

Given the fact that our once small very quaint city has really grown over a period of time, as evidenced by the latest census and State population counts, it has taken a toll on our existing Waste Water Treatment Plant. The good part is that the City of Mount Holly has been very fortunate enough to have people and businesses become a part of our city and economy. The bad part is that the mentioned growth has had a major impact on the city's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The city's Waste Water Treatment Plant is near capacity and according to State Regulations the City of Mount Holly is required to address the issue. Please know that the City of Mount Holly, both the City Council (past and present) and City Staff, have been working on the matter for the past few years. As mentioned earlier, the matter is very complicated with intricate details. The City has been reviewing several options to address the capacity issue, such as reducing the existing capacity, renovating the existing plant to increase the capacity, partnering with other cities and building a brand new plant.

The capacity issue at our Waste Water Treatment Plant plays an important role in the city's economic future. If we are going to attract more businesses or other developments to our city, in the name of economic development, we must be able to fully treat the waste water that comes with the developments. If we are not able to address the issue it may hinder the city's growth potential in the future. Needless to say, that could be devastating to the city's long range prosperity.

Although the city has been fortunate enough to grow in a positive manner over the last several years, we now have to deal with the growing pains of such. The decision regarding how we will address the abovementioned waste water treatment, is one that will have to be made fairly soon (given current conditions) and one that is not easy but may be necessary for the long term growth of our city.

Please keep in mind that if the city is able to grow its tax base it helps to lessen the burden on existing tax payers. We have enjoyed the luxury of a very good quality of life in Mount Holly, we must now keep the momentum going.

On behalf of the Mount Holly City Council and City Staff, I am asking the good citizens of Mount Holly to lend your support as we move closer to a decision regarding waste water treatment. We have been working very hard to give the matter the due diligence that it deserves and will always seek to promote the greater good for our citizens.

As always, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express myself. It is my mission to inform and educate the public when needed. Please have a great Fall Season.

Loose Leaves

With the cooler weather and shorter days of fall comes the colorful canopy of autumn leaves. As the leaves begin to fall and cover the lawns and sidewalks we are faced with what to do with them.

Bag Em!

There is the traditional method of bagging leaves, which will be picked up by city waste collection crews. Bagged leaves will be picked up on your regular garbage collection day once per week. Remember to use clear bags and not over 35 gallon.

Mulch Em!

Mulching or mowing them returns the nutrition of the leaves back to the soil and grass. There is no difference in the appearance of the grassy areas after mulching and the leaves are being reused as a natural fertilizer.

Compost Em!

Composting also returns the nutrition of the leaves back to the soil and grass—however in a much quicker way. There is plenty information available on how to build a compost pile. You can also add organic food waste to your compost pile.

Loose Leaf Collection!

The city has been divided into 10 loose leaf collection routes. Loose leaves will be collected in each area 1 time per month (2 day cycle per area). The loose leaf truck and crew will follow a route that will insure each area is serviced twice during the collection season. We will be providing a door hanger to each household so you know when the crews will be in your area. This information will also be on the city web site, www.mtholly.us. If you have any questions please contact us (704) 827-9726

October Recycle Pickup Weeks—Household recycling will be picked up the weeks of **October 10th** and **October 24th** on the same day as your regular household garbage pickup.



Parks and Recreation

Playful City USA Fun Day at Woodlawn Park-Saturday, October 22nd at 10am – 12 noon

Come out and enjoy the brand new playground and improvements at Woodlawn Park. The day will feature the official opening and dedication to the new playground at Woodlawn with improved amenities, games, activities, refreshments and prizes. Woodlawn Park is located at 515 Woodlawn Ave. Come out and enjoy and fun filled day and enjoy the new Woodlawn Park!

Mount Holly Named Playful City USA

Mount Holly has been named a 2011 Playful City USA community by non-profit KaBoom! Mount Holly was only 1 of 150 communities across the US and 1 of 6 communities in North Carolina to earn this wonderful designation. With only 1-in-5 children in the US currently living within walking or biking distance of a park or playground,

Mount Holly earned recognition for its efforts to increase play opportunities for children.

KaBoom also selected Mount Holly for its outstanding dedication to play. The improvements to the playgrounds at Woodlawn Park and at Ida Rankin Elementary School are making the play areas more engaging to kids. The Playful City USA Communities are now eligible for grants via Let's Play-a community partnership led by Dr Pepper Snapple Group to get kids active nationwide.

Christmas Holiday Wreath Making Contest

It's not too early to start thinking about the Holidays and Mount Holly Parks and Recreation is conducting a wreath making contest for our residents. The wreaths will be hung in the lobby of the Grand Hall at the Municipal Complex in early December and the winners will be selected by votes from the general public. Look for the November issue of the newsletter for more details. The winners will receive prize packages for their outstanding work. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department or check out the website for more details to come.

Indoor Soccer registration is open to boys and girls ages 8-10 and 11-13. The registration deadline is Friday, October 28th.

Youth Basketball registration will be open from October 24th - December 2nd. The following leagues are available: 5-6 co-ed, 7-8 co-ed, 9-10 boys, 11-12 boys, and 9-13 girls.

A magic workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 1st at the Tuckaseege Community Center. The workshop will be from 6:15p.m. until 7:45p.m. and will be open to boys and girls ages 7-11. Please register by Monday, October 24th for the workshop.

A girls' basketball camp will be offered the week of November 14th -18th at the Old Gym. The camp will be from 5:45p.m.-7:45 p.m. each evening. The camp is free and is open to girls in grades 6-9 and resides in the City Limits of Mount Holly. It is open to the first 15 girls that register before November 10th.

For more information on these programs please call 704-951-3005, 704-951-3006 or check the website www.mtholly.us.

Fire & Rescue Department

Protect Your Family from Fire

Fire Prevention Week, October 9th-15th, 2011

Fire Prevention Week is here. The Fire & Rescue Department will be visiting our schools and other locations in our City to teach our youth fire safety and prevention. We are promoting this year's Nation Fire Protection Association (NFPA) theme "Protect Your Family From Fire!"

This year we are focusing on preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, and electrical equipment, as well as candles and smoking materials. Additionally, we urge people to protect their homes and families with life-saving technology and planning.

In 2009; 2,565 people died in home fires. Chief Dale Oplinger of the Mount Holly Fire and Rescue Department says "Nearly all of these deaths could have been prevented by taking a few simple precautions. For instance, having working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan, keeping things that can burn away from the stove and always turning off space heaters before going to bed are a few examples" There are 13,000 people injured in home fires each year.

Mount Holly Fire & Rescue offers the following tips for protecting your home and family from fire:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, cooking, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- If you smoke, smoke outside. Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed and avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

Mount Holly Fire & Rescue will be visiting local schools and daycares and will be hosting a trip to our Fire Station for the 2nd graders from Rankin Elementary, Pinewood Elementary and Catawba Heights Elementary Schools during Fire Prevention Week promoting "Its Fire Prevention Week, Protect your Family from Fire!"

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs or to schedule a program, please contact the Fire & Rescue Department's Fire Prevention Officer, Lisa Stivala, at 704-822-2927. To learn more about "Protect your Family from Fire", please visit NFPA's website at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Go To: FirePreventionWeek.org

Protect Your Family From Fire

October 9-15, 2011 • It's Fire Prevention Week

