

November 2011

November Council Meetings:

- * November 14th - Regular Meeting
- * November 28th -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,

Here's hoping all of you and your families are doing well while preparing for the coming Holiday Season. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with you all as you navigate through the busy season.

As a quick follow-up to last month's newsletter message, city staff and the city's Utilities Committee have made what we feel is progress with the options for waste water treatment. The Utilities Committee is moving closer to what will be a final recommendation to our City Council, regarding what option is best for the long term treatment of waste water in Mount Holly. Please be reminded that the City of

Mount Holly is not only required to take action, as provided for by the State of North Carolina, appropriate action is needed as a part of the long term economic development future of Mount Holly.

Today I would like to discuss the recent Lease Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and CaroMont Health. Some of you may have read an article or two regarding the mentioned Lease Agreement. The lease involves the vacant space that is located in the basement of the Mount Holly Municipal Complex (City Hall). This space was created to be occupied by an entity that would be able to make payments to the City of Mount Holly; payments that would help with the operating expenses of the building.

CaroMont Health, as you might be aware, is the company that first proposed to build an Emergency Hospital Care Facility across from our Municipal Complex. Although the company is still going through the approval process and litigation, they have continued to establish themselves in Mount Holly by making a substantial investment in our community. Although the vacant space could have been occupied by several tenants CaroMont Health has agreed to occupy all of the space (slightly greater than 10,000 sq.ft.) at our Municipal Complex.

At the time of this writing I am not sure what the specific use or uses will be in the space but it will be health and wellness related. As you all know, health and wellness is a very important issue for our community. We need to be more educated about ways to help improve our overall health and hopefully reduce the cost associated with healthcare.

CaroMont Health will be renovating (at their cost) the vacant space to suit their needs. In the coming months you will see or hear some degree of construction at City Hall. Please accept my apology in advance for any disturbance the construction activity may cause.

The City of Mount Holly is happy to have CaroMont Health as a tenant and a new partner in our community. We expect to have a long prosperous relationship with CaroMont Health. All indications show that they want to be a vital part of Mount Holly's future.

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

Do you know your water?

About Irrigation Systems

If you are installing a new irrigation system it must have a separate water meter. If you have an existing irrigation system you can have separate meter installed. It may reduce the cost of maintaining your lawn because you are only charged for the water used, no sewer charges added. You will need to pay for the tap and meter and have an approved backflow device installed at the meter. The backflow device will need to be tested annually to make sure it is working properly. You can contact the water department for more information.

About Water Wells

One of the biggest risks of contamination to our drinking water is from water wells. If there is a well on your property that has not been properly abandoned, you must have an approved backflow device installed at your meter. If this situation exists on your property, please contact the water department or call Ralph Douglas at (980) 522-0284 to avoid any disruptions in your water service.

City Hall Closings

City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Payments can be made 24 hours a day 7 days a week by leaving a check in the drop box located in front of the Police Department. Please do not leave cash in the drop box.

Where does water pollution come from?

Most water pollution comes from everyday people doing everyday activities. As we drive our cars, take care of our homes and lawns, walk our dogs and work at our jobs we may contribute to water pollution. After a rain shower, it may look cleaner. But all that dirt and debris has to go somewhere. As storm water flows, it picks up bits of dirt, auto fluids, chemicals and grass clippings. All get washed into the storm drain system.

What flows into the storm drain system is not treated or cleaned. It goes down the storm drain, through a pipe and empties into the nearest creek. Because that runoff is never cleaned, the storm water can pollute our streams.

- Never dump anything down a storm drain or in ditches or creeks.
- Take used oil, paint and other household hazardous waste to recycling centers.
- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Redirect roof gutters to lawns, natural areas or rain gardens.
- Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it on the driveway.
- Sweep up yard debris instead of washing it away.
- Use a compost bin to turn yard waste into a useful gardening product.
- Replant bare areas to avoid soil erosion.
- Report spills, dumping or suspected water pollution to 704-827-3931
- Clear clogged storm drains. Blocked drains cause drainage problems.



Parks and Recreation

Youth basketball registration will go until December 2nd. Leagues are available for ages: 5-6 co-ed, 7-8 co-ed, 9-10 boys, 11-12 boys and 9-13 girls. The fee is \$45 for city – limit residents and \$65 for non-residents.

Jewelry making class will be offered at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex on the following Thursdays; November 17th, December 1st, December 8th, and December 15th. The class will go from 6:30-7:30pm. You must register at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex by Tuesday November 15th. The registration fee is \$20 for city-limit residents and \$25 for non-residents.

The deadline for the wreath making contest will be Friday, December 2nd. The wreaths will be displayed at the Municipal Complex and prizes will be awarded for the best ones.

The Mount Holly Fitness Center is open at the Tuckasee Community Center. The fitness center is open Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm and Saturday 9:00 am -1:00 pm.

The Sole Patrol, an activity group for senior citizens, is looking for new members. The Patrol meets at the Tuckasee Community Center Monday-Friday 8:30-11:00 am.

The new playground at Woodlawn Park is now open. Come on out and see the many new improvements at the park.

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

Mount Holly Launches New Notification System and Urges Residents to Register Contact Information to Receive Alerts

The City of Mount Holly is encouraging residents to register for the new Blackboard Connect™ mass notification service, helping ensure that they are prepared to receive both community news, as well as time-sensitive messages, should a need arise.

The City is excited to launch the Blackboard Connect system because it will help enable us to reach residents quickly and effectively with urgent information. Residents are strongly encourage to register their contact information so they are prepared to receive urgent messages in instances such as severe weather, as well as important community notifications.

Residents can register their contact information by visiting the city website, www.mtholly.us. If residents do not have access to the Internet, they are encouraged to call (704) 827-3931 to register their contact information.

The Blackboard Connect platform allows local officials to send critical information and updates to thousands of recipients, including specific neighborhoods or groups, within minutes via phone calls, and text and email messages.

For more information on the Blackboard Connect platform please visit <http://www.blackboard.com/connect> or contact the company at (818) 808-1462.

**Blackboard Connect Inc. does not sell, lease, share, or rent personally identifiable information (names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.) to any companies or persons outside of Blackboard or its service providers.*

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 6th-Daylight Savings Time Ends. Set your clocks back 1 hour.
Tuesday, November 8th-Election Day. Get out and vote in the Municipal Election
Friday, November 11th-Veteran's Day—City Hall remains open.
Monday, November 14th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 24th—Thanksgiving Day—City Hall Closed November 24th and 25th.
Monday, November 28th—City Council Work Session at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 30th—Mount Holly Christmas Parade
Friday, December 9th—The Sixth Annual Mount Hollydays Christmas Celebrations on Main

November Recycle Pickup Weeks—Household recycling will be picked up the weeks of **November 7th** and **November 21st** on the same day as your regular household garbage pickup.

Holiday Collection Schedule—If your normal garbage collection day falls on Thanksgiving Day, your garbage will be collected on Friday. Recycling pickup will follow the same schedule.

Recycling and Striving to Protect the Environment

David Clark, Field Supervisor

As Mount Holly residents continue to do their part in curbside recycling, there are several important things to remember:

- Be sure to put only acceptable items in your blue recycle container. Items are listed on the lid of your container that can be properly recycled.
- Items that cannot be recycled should be put in your green rollout container.
- The recycle container should be placed by the curb by 7:00 am on your service day.
- Recyclables should be set out every other week your service day will be the same as your trash service day.
- Carts should be (3) three feet or less from the curb with the front opening of the cart facing the street.
- All carts should be (3) three feet apart on the curb for proper access of servicing. Also remember carts should not be placed near your mailbox to ensure that your mail will be delivered as scheduled.
- Your recycle container must be removed from the curbside by midnight on your regular service day.

Mount Holly's recycling services are provided by **Waste Management**. As a contractor for the City, Waste Management strives to provide the best service in the industry.

If a problem arises with your recycle collection services, rollout not emptied or other questions or concerns. Please contact Waste Management **(1-800-273-0438) or 1-800-927-8362**. By calling this number, you should receive immediate attention to your concerns; this also helps keep track of any problems with your recycle collection services. If you have any questions contact us at 704-827-9726

