

# MOUNTAINBROOK



Mountainbrook Civic Association, PO Box 472926; Charlotte, NC 28247-2926

[www.mbcivic.com](http://www.mbcivic.com)

Newsletter Questions, Comments: [Karinlukascox@yahoo.com](mailto:Karinlukascox@yahoo.com) or 704 552 2812

## Summer Blues

Sometimes you walk outside at dawn and you think it is raining upside down. You grab the paper that has a headline about semi-drought and you talk to your brain, how can that be in this humidity? Your brain told you sweet ice tea would have been better than a hot coffee to help give an answer that morning. What is up with that pie turned to cobbler? Even dough sweats around here. You try the paper for an answer, but the paper is disintegrating in your hands. Your buddy the house moans that the doors don't close, the paneling is warping, the pantry smells funny. "Bless your heart", you respond and wipe your brow. Your dog hardly eats. You close your eyes to make some sense and you are transposed to the sounds of a forest busy with cicadas. You feel like your misty skin is becoming one with the thick moist air. Then, "ADULT SWIM!" someone whistles loudly, and 40 wet and cool pounds fresh from the pool jump on you. You look around. It is hot and humid, but the party is on at this turquoise oasis. Then the cool startle gives way to the soft touch of tanned preschooler skin on your lap and the plump cherry lips pop the question, "Can you, pwease, give me three quarters for the snack bar?". Along with the sweetness of the question come the sweetness of the familiar toddler breath and you do not hesitate to give the money; it is hard to keep rules, or for that matter, even have rules in the summer. What would you do without the lifeguards to keep some sort of structure in a summer day? And once again you melt away to the delicacy of it all. Soon we will miss the lethargic feel of the summer giving room to crisp school uniforms, crisp text books, and crisp air.

## Congratulations!

Adam Kennell, Amber Roney, Julia Reichard, Paul Svendsen, Ryam Palmer, and Steve Sutherland graduated from Myers Park Highschool. They are off to CPCC, Furman and Auburn Universities. Congratulations and all the best for the future!

Please contact [karinlukascox@yahoo.com](mailto:karinlukascox@yahoo.com) to let us know if we forgot to list you as a highschool, college or university graduate.

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## Upcoming Events

### Bunko:

September 4 - Pat Reichard (704) 553 1501  
October 2 - Christine Strothers (704) 552 6591  
November 6 - Shannon Bone (704) 553 1324  
December 4 - Tammra Granger (704) 553 9893

### Supper Club:

September - picnic  
October 13 - Pat and Dave Reichard (704) 553 1501  
November 10 - Jim Heafner and Liz  
December 8 - Progressive Dinner

**Labor Day Picnic** - Saturday, September 22, 2007 from 5-8pm at Ana Heinig Park. RSVP to Ashley Samuelson at (704) 556 9773 or [msamuelson@carolina.rr.com](mailto:msamuelson@carolina.rr.com)

**Charlotte Mecklenburg River Clean Up** - Saturday, October 6, from 9 to 1

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**We're on the Web!**

**Visit us at: [www.mbcivic.com](http://www.mbcivic.com)**

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Want to know what **the ozone and air quality warnings** really mean? Go to [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)!

## Yesterday's Mountainbrook

In response to the summer newsletter, Mountainbrook residents Jackie Lookabill, Kay Frate, Louis Ragsdale shared their anecdotes about living in Mountainbrook for more than 30 years. They have lived respectively 37, 44, and 47 years in Mountainbrook! Here are some of the things that have stayed the same: the swim club's exciting meets, the well kept yards, and the beautiful decoration at Christmas time! What has changed is the size of Mountainbrook – it used to extend from Sharon View to the McMullen creek only. A pedestrian bridge crossed over the McMullen creek to access the swim club from Mountainbrook road. There must have also been more snowfall since Kay Frate shared the story about how the whole neighborhood got together to go sledding. And going out back then? It seems that one did not head North to the Mall or Philips Place, but instead South towards Carmel on the dirt road hoping not to get stuck in the mud especially in high heels!

## Tomorrow's Mountainbrook

Welcome to John "Ike" Corbin born February 11, 2007 to Jennifer and John Corbin on 3716 Table Rock. (please contact [karinlukascox@yahoo.com](mailto:karinlukascox@yahoo.com) to let us know of a new baby in Mountainbrook!)

## Produce locally grown in Mountainbrook

Discretely hidden behind some pretty blue berry bushes on Highview, the Wilson family has a 50 x 28 foot vegetable garden in which 98 tomato plants grow, as well as rows of beans – green beans, lama beans and field peas. They started their garden after Hurricane Hugo knocked down a magnolia tree. The effort is team work between Denise and Ross. Ross, for example, buys the tomato seeds, which he germinates in their kitchen in February and March and then transfers to the garden. Denise figures out how to keep the garden neat and free of weeds, and local wild animals. On spring weekends, Denise and Ross engineer the layout and put up nets, climbing stalks and string. The harvest of tomatoes provides with tomato sauce and blueberries (which they freeze) for the whole year.

The media has been talking/writing a lot about the environmental and health benefits of consuming locally grown foods; farmers' markets and "localvores" are the new trend. The Wilsons are ahead of their time!

## Fall Picnic

The annual Fall Picnic will take place on Saturday, September 22 from 5 to 9pm at the Ana Heinig Park playground.

This is fun way for all residents to reconnect after the summer and before the hectic of winter schedule sets in.

Please RSVP to **Ashley Samuelson** at: [msamuelson@carolina.rr.com](mailto:msamuelson@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 556 9773 whether you plan to join the fun and/or whether you can volunteer to help make it happen.

## Neighborhoods around MB

Check the following website of one of our neighboring neighborhoods: <http://www.mybeverlywoods.com/>

## Mountainbrook Swim and Racquet Club

The summer of 2007 was dynamic at the Swim and Racquet Club. Tennis courts were always busy with all age groups often led by Coach Bill, who never stopped even in 100F weather. A guest from France was so impressed by the pool, the friendly lifeguards, the tennis, and the activities the **Strother's** organized, she claimed MB is better than any "Club Med" she had been to!

## Thank you!

Thank you to **Jeanie Rutherford** for planting the spring/summer plants at the three entrances to Mountainbrook. Thank you also to **Anneliese and Stefan** for helping Jeanie to keep the plants hydrated when the irrigation system was broken; as well as helping get out the newsletters by stapling, stamping and labeling them.

Thank you to **Sheila** for keeping Ana Heinig Park litter and dog droppings free, as well as for giving the idea for the swim club to recycle cans and bottles!

## Charlotte River Clean Up Day

**On Saturday, October 6, from 9-1**, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Department of Storm Water is organizing the "**Big Sweep**" in which residents are invited to clean up (pick up litter in) rivers that run through the county. The Mountainbrook Neighborhood is planning to join this event by cleaning up part of the McMullen Creek that runs by Ana Heinig park. If you are interested in joining, please meet at the MB swim club at the date cited above at 9am. Bring boots, waders, gloves, garbage bags. For more info, contact [karinlukascox@yahoo.com](mailto:karinlukascox@yahoo.com) or call (704) 552 2812 or visit: <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/StormWater/Get+Involved/Big+Sweep.htm>

## Safety Update — by Jill Ibbotson

Due to a **pattern of vehicle and house break ins** in the Colony and Carmel Road Area, **Officer Woodlief asked that our neighbors** please:

- 1) keep vehicle doors locked with valuables out of sight (including garage door openers) – even if you are home; keep side garage doors and door between house and garage locked.
- 2) if you are leaving on vacation, try to leave no signs that they are out of town when they travel; keep house well lit, mail and newspapers collected, and alarms armed.
- 3) call 911 when they see anything suspicious, and try to give a good description (including clothing) of any subjects.

Officer Woodlief also provided with the following **crime statistics for Mountainbrook for January 1 through July 16, 2007:**

- 1) Larceny from Auto - 6 (2 smashed windows, 3 car unlocked, 1 lock popped)
- 2) Possession of Marijuana - 2 (arrests were made, both in neighborhood park)
- 3) Sudden/Accidental Death - 2 (both natural deaths)
- 4) Other Criminal Charge - 2 (unauthorized use of vehicle, harassing phone calls)
- 5) Residential Burglary - 1 (vacant house)
- 6) Aggravated Assault-Gun - 1 (teenaged subject, arrest made)
- 7) Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon - 1 (teenaged subject)
- 8) Larceny - 1 (patio furniture taken)

## Our Environment — By Karen Willis

### It's Easy being Green!

Sorry Kermit, but it is easy being Green. Green in the way of being environmentally friendly that is. Visiting a friend's home the other day I realized that not everyone recycles. This was shocking to me as my family recycles everything possible. Recycling is the easiest thing you can personally do to help the environment.

Interestingly, 75% of our trash can be recycled. Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour! Recycled plastic can be made into polyester carpets, plastic lumber, clothing, flower pots, insulation for sleeping bags & ski jackets, car bumpers and other products. Each American uses about 400 cans a year. If aluminum is recycled, 95% less energy is used than if it were made from scratch. A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water. Cell phones, computers, and other technology release toxins into the environment when they are thrown away. The only way to stop the pollution is to recycle.

So, where to begin? Mecklenburg County has a Curb-it recycling program here in our city. Everyone should have a red recycle bin

that is provided for their use. Recycled products are picked up curbside on your regular garbage collection day. What can you put in your recycle bin?

Plastic bottles - lids removed; Glass – rinse and remove lids; Magazines and catalogues; Newspapers; Cardboard – pieces no larger than 3' X 3'; Paper cans; Steel cans; Telephone books; Aluminum cans; Paper – junk mail, gift-wrap etc.

When you start looking at what you are tossing you begin to realize all of the items you can recycle. Yes, that includes your Starbucks cup, the fast food container, that frozen dinner package. It seems that everything has some sort of packaging.

Need a bin or need another bin? (Our small family can fill more than 2 bins each week) Additional bins can be picked up at some of the following locations:

**Carmel Branch Library**, □6624 Walsh Blvd., □704-542-0401  
**Myers Park Branch Library**, □1361 Queens Road, □704-336-2011  
**South County Regional Library**, □5801 Rea Rd., □704-341-5872  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**, □600 E. 4th St., □704-336-7600  
**Mecklenburg County Recycling Center**, □8440 Byrum Dr., □704-357-1473

Mecklenburg County also offers free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal to its residents living in Charlotte. HHW includes items such as:  
 Paint and paint thinners  
 Batteries  
 Fluorescent light bulbs  
 Chemicals and Fertilizers  
 Motor Oil and filters

HHW can be taken to any of the collection sites – one closer to us being located at [the Mecklenburg County Recycling Center](#) at 8440 Byrum Drive.

The Women's commission collects used cell phones for domestic violence victims. Old cell phones can be donated at the following local locations:

Starbucks, 7724 Pineville Matthews Rd., □Charlotte, NC 28226  
 Starbucks, □5361 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, □Charlotte, NC 28277

Computers and other technology can be donated and distributed to non-profit organizations by contacting <http://www.recycles.org/donate.php>. Don't forget to remove personal information from your computer before doing so.

So, take a look at what you are tossing in the garbage today! Do your part to save our environment.

Interesting in learning more? Take the green quiz at:

<http://www.earthday.net/Footprint/index.asp>

You can also check out these websites for more information:

<http://www.charneck.org/Departments/LUESA/Solid+Waste/Home.htm>

<http://www.dosomething.org>

To schedule a Mecklenburg county recycle center tour call - 704-598-8595

## City Arborist

Fall and winter is when trees and bushes are dormant. This is the best time to plant new trees and shrubs. However, it is important to wait until the soil has good moisture before planting any tree or shrub. Until wetter conditions set in, the best way to protect our presently dry trees is by mulching instead of planting grass around the tree. For more information on any problems you have with trees in your yard, the UNC Extension at (704) 336 2561 can help. Concerning trees located in the City's "right of way" - between sidewalks and the road curb such as on Mill Pond Road – call the City arborist office at (704) 336 4262 for any problems with the trees.

## Yard of the Month

Check [www.mbcivic.com](http://www.mbcivic.com) for pictures!

June - 3631 Mill Pond Rd; David and Carol Warren

July - 3535 Mill Pond Rd; Glenn and Sue Williams

August - 3632 Johnny Cake; Jim and Susan Wollin

## [www.mbcivic.org](http://www.mbcivic.org) platform

On [http://www.mbcivic.com/MB\\_Recommends.htm](http://www.mbcivic.com/MB_Recommends.htm) inform the webmaster via email about any contractors you can recommend to your neighbors. Maybe as a neighborhood we can benefit (better service, reduced prices) in building relationships with contractors.

## Garden Lovers of Mountainbrook

**Garden Lovers of Mountainbrook** is an active nationally federated organization dedicated to the betterment of our neighborhood and environment. Please contact the Garden Club President Sally Weiss. The monthly meetings will start again in September with a whole new set of interesting topics.

**Mountainbrook Blazing Bees** is a children's garden and nature club sponsored by the **Garden Lovers**. Monthly, Julie Mansius leads her group of young Mountainbrook citizens through enriching and season appropriate projects related to natural habitats and conservation. At the June meeting, they learned about composting in our own backyards. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Julie Mansius.

## Board Members

Welcome to the new Board members:

Safety – **Dana Shriver**

Beautification – **Camille Coers**.

The Board is looking for a **Youth Board Member** (grades 9-12). Contact Bill Martin at 704-906-1902 Or [bill.martin@prucarolinas.com](mailto:bill.martin@prucarolinas.com) if you are interested!

### Mountainbrook Civic Association

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«NAMES»

«ADDRESS»

CHARLOTTE, NC «ZIP\_CODE»