



Town of Mars Hill
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Mars Hill, NC 28754

MARS HILL LETTER

A Publication of the Town of Mars Hill, N.C.

FALL 2024

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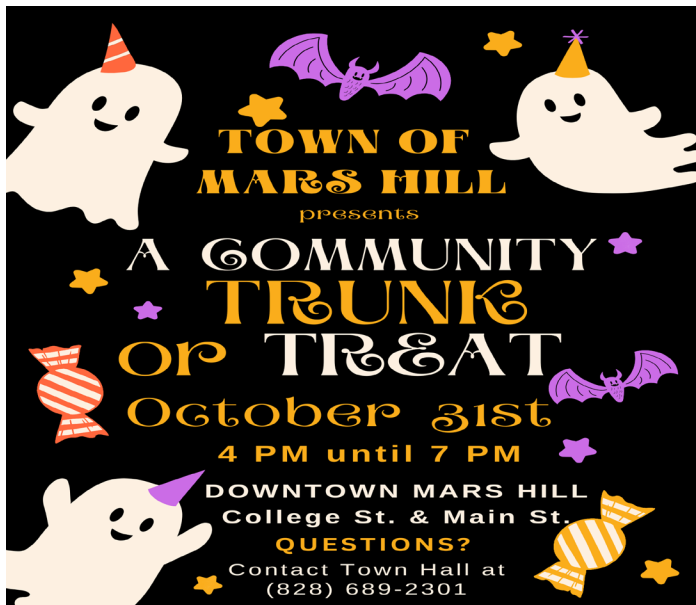
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MARS HILL PRESENTS COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT OCT. 31

Fall is definitely in the air, with the changing of leaves and frost on the ground. In light of recent events, the Town of Mars Hill is providing the entire Madison County community with an opportunity to escape, if only for a moment, to enjoy the fun Halloween treating can bring to children, young and old alike.

To that end, the Town is preparing for a "Community Trunk or Treat" event in downtown Mars Hill. The Town will close College Street, **AND** Main Street from 213 to the intersection with Bailey Street to accommodate full, safe access to businesses in the downtown area. **The event will be 4 PM until 7 PM on Thursday, October 31st.** (...continued on Page 2)



ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR MARS HILL ALERTS?

MARS HILL ALERTS is a citizen notification system to receive alerts and updates during emergency and special events affecting the Town of Mars Hill. For the past year, the Town has used **CODERED** to relay information such as emergency conditions, water line breaks, weather-related directives, closures, sanitation schedule changes, or other service-related and event information. The alert system sends these critical communications to our residents by telephone calls, text messages, emails, and social media. However, this system is only effective if you register to receive these important communications!

Register today at: <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/marshallalerts> OR from your smartphone by texting **ALERTMARSHILL** to 24639. If you do not have internet access or need any assistance, please visit Town Hall at 280 North Main Street, or call (828) 689-2301 and our staff will be happy to help you. **PLEASE DON'T WAIT** to register, as we have seen during Helene just how important this tool can be to keep our residents informed.

HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY

Western North Carolina was devastated by the remnants of Hurricane Helene on September 26 and 27, 2024. Combined with a rain event from earlier in the week, the Mars Hill area received over seven (7) inches of rain from September 24 through 28. However, during the same period, communities in neighboring Yancey and Buncombe counties received well over 24 inches, producing devastating flooding along the Cane, South Toe, Ivy, Swannanoa, and French Broad Rivers, among other streams and tributaries, leaving behind wreckage, flooding, and widespread power and water outages.

We grieve for the tragic losses suffered by our friends and neighbors in Marshall, Hot Springs, Burnsville, Barnardville, Asheville, and so many other communities. However, we are thankful the Town of Mars Hill was spared similar devastation. In fact, Town of Mars Hill infrastructure suffered only minor damage to some streets and culverts, fallen trees, and some flood damage at facilities near the Ivy River. The Town did not have any major damage to our water or wastewater systems and there were no service interruptions. We are grateful that Mars Hill, after our own situation stabilized, was in a position to render much-needed assistance to our neighbors.

Town administration and departments answered the situation with all-hands-on-deck. Hours of continuous activity by the Fire, Police, and Public Works departments provided the following responses: conduct search and rescue operations, well-being checks, maintaining public order and safety, food, water and essential supplies coordination and distribution for residents, distribution of thousands of gallons of bulk water by tanker truck and system interconnection to neighboring communities, mutual aid utility system repairs, and hosted neighboring towns administrative employees to provide critical continuity of operations – all while continuing regular day services directly to the citizens of Mars Hill. We offer a sincere "thank you" to all our town employees for their hard work during this challenging event.



For more information specific to the recovery effort in Madison County or to contribute to the county recovery fund, visit MadisonCountyNC.Gov. In addition, if you or someone you know suffered damage as a result of Helene, you can contact FEMA, using the information below.



Disaster Assistance

Please have the following available:

- Your address with **zip code**
- Condition of your damaged home
- **Insurance information**, if available
- **Social Security number**
- **Phone number** where you can be contacted
- **Address** where you can get mail or **email** address to receive electronic notifications

Direct Deposit: Disaster assistance funds can be sent directly to your bank account. Please provide your bank account type, account number and bank routing number.

Stay in touch with FEMA: When you apply, you will receive a FEMA registration number. Save it. You will need the number whenever you contact FEMA.



DisasterAssistance.gov

4 Ways To Apply

Online: DisasterAssistance.gov
Mobile: Through the FEMA app
Call: (800) 621-3362 | 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS)



Disaster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.

Visit a Disaster Recovery Center - fema.gov/drc

“TRUNK OR TREAT” continued from Page 1

MHU student and campus organizations and sports teams will be set up on College Street. The Town is providing additional space on Main Street for any community business or organization interested in participating. If your organization would like to reserve a space or need additional information, contact Town Hall at (828) 689-2301.

Please see the information below for road closures, detour route and parking locations for this event.

<p>ROAD CLOSURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2:00 PM – College Street (ALL) ➤ 3:30 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main St. at NC 213/Cascade St. ○ Main St. at Mountain View Rd. ○ Main St. at Bailey Street <p>DETOUR ROUTE: North Main Street to Bailey Street to Athletic Street, back to NC 213.</p> <p>ALL STREETS WILL REOPEN TO REGULAR TRAFFIC AT APPROXIMATELY 7:00 PM.</p>	<p>PUBLIC PARKING LOCATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Library at 25 Library St. ➤ Fire Dept. Annex at 65 Ivey St. ➤ Town Hall at 280 N. Main St. ➤ MHU lots (not residence halls)
<p>RAIN PLAN</p> <p>In the event of rain or inclement weather, all activities will move to MHU – DAY HALL.</p>	



GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

As reported in the last **Letter**, Town staff are planning for the annual Christmas Parade. **The date has been set for SATURDAY, December 7, 2024.** The parade will begin at 6:00 p.m. and follow the same traditional route through Town.

The date was changed to Saturday to reduce the strain and congestion with non-parade related traffic issues experienced on Friday evenings. In addition, Saturday provides more time and flexibility for those participating in the parade to prepare their entry, and access to staging area at the elementary school, and for those spectators to arrive and stake out their prime viewing spots!

We are all looking forward to another great parade to welcome the holiday season. The registration period is open now and those interested in participating in the parade are encouraged to submit their registration form soon. Applications are now available on the Town website (<http://www.townofmarshill.org>) and for pickup at Town Hall. The entry deadline is Friday, November 29. Questions? Call Town Hall at (828) 689-2301.

DATES OF INTEREST

October 19... MHU HOMECOMING – Football v. Tusculum HOMETOWN HEROES RECOGNITION AT HALFTIME BEGINS AT 2:30 PM

October 31.....Halloween – A Community Trunk or Treat 4 PM until 7 PM

November 1...First Friday Event – Main and College Street

November 11...Veterans Day Holiday
Town Offices Closed
Trash Pickup on Tuesday, November 12th

November 24 & 25...Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Offices Closed
No Recycling Pickup This Week

December 6....First Friday Event – Main and College Street

December 7.....MARS HILL CHRISTMAS PARADE BEGINS AT 6:00 PM

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE

The Town of Mars Hill has released the “Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023.” This report contains details about our water source, what the water contains, and how it compares to standards set by state and federal regulators. The report can be viewed on the Town website at: <http://www.townofmarshill.org/ccr.php>. A paper copy can be obtained upon request at Town Hall.