



Town of Mars Hill
 PO Box 368
 280 N. Main Street
 Mars Hill, NC 28754

MARS HILL LETTER

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Phone: (828) 689-2301

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Longtime Town Manager Darhyl Boone Retires

Darhyl Boone retired from his position as Mars Hill Town Manager in February following a 38-year career looking out for the affairs of town government. Darhyl's years of faithful service to the Town of Mars Hill were recognized by Town officials and community members at a celebration in his honor at Mars Hill University in February. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen issued a



proclamation recognizing Darhyl's service to the Town of Mars Hill and designated the day as "Darhyl Boone Day in Mars Hill."

Darhyl was also presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award issued by Governor Roy Cooper in recognition of his service to the State of North Carolina.

Darhyl worked hard to manage the Town's financial affairs in the most effective manner possible. He fought for federal and state grant dollars to assist the Town in completing important economic development projects, water and sewer system improvements and development of parks and recreation facilities, including the Town Pool and the Duck Greenway. Recently, Darhyl guided the Town through the purchase of the Smith Farm on Forest Street as a future park and public access point to the Bailey Mountain.

Under Darhyl's leadership the Town experienced vibrant economic growth, including major improvements to

See "Darhyl" Continued on Page 2

Nathan Bennett Named Town Manager

The Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen have named Nathan Bennett as town manager for the Town of Mars Hill. Nathan takes over the day-to-day operations and management of town government from long-time manager Darhyl Boone who retired at the end of February after serving the Town for nearly 38 years.

Nathan, a native of Burnsville, is a 1997 graduate of Mars Hill College where he received degrees in political science and criminal justice. Nathan has extensive experience in local and state government having served nearly 14 years in positions with Yancey County Government and ten years as a state probation and parole officer in Madison, Yancey and Buncombe counties.



Nathan comes to Mars Hill after serving ten years as county manager for Yancey County. While county manager, he is credited with restoring the county's financial standing and completing numerous capital projects. In September 2018, he was named the Outstanding Local Government Manager for the High Country Region and in December 2018 he received the Farm-City Award for Citizenship recognizing his community involvement work in Yancey County. Nathan has also been recognized by the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service for his innovative and productive partnerships between the county, N.C. State University and the NC Cooperative Extension Service. Nathan is an active member of the N.C. City & County Managers Association, a professional organization dedicated to training and providing resources to local government managers.

Nathan is married to Katie and they have three children: Riley (14), Mia (12) and Keegan (4).

Darhyl - continued from Page 1

critical infrastructure such as the water and sewer system. Darhyl was instrumental in the designation of a certified industrial site in Mars Hill and he worked diligently on the Crossroads Parkway corridor as a connector between NC 213 and US 19.



Darhyl will continue to stay busy in the community and with his church. We thank Darhyl Boone for all that he has done to make Mars Hill the community we are all proud to call home.

Happy Retirement Darhyl!

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Adopted

The Town of Mars Hill Board of Aldermen unanimously adopted the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget at their meeting June 24, 2019. Town Manager Nathan Bennett presented the budget recommendation and a public hearing was held to obtain citizen input on the proposal.

It is the priority of elected officials and management to operate Town government in a professional, efficient, business-like manner. The budget provides a priority spending plan that attempts to minimize the tax burden on the Town taxpayer. The current town property tax rate remains unchanged at \$0.47 (forty-seven) cents per \$100 (one-hundred dollars) of valuation. Combined with other revenue sources, the general fund budget was approved at \$1,885,300.

The water and sewer fund is an enterprise function which is required by the State of North Carolina to be supported only by the revenue generated from the service provided. In keeping with established Town policy, there is a 2.5% increase to water and sewer usage fees effective July 1. This increase is necessary to keep the water and sewer fund solvent while providing safe drinking water and making necessary capital improvements to the water and sewer system. This budget was approved at \$1,053,000.

To view the entire FY 2019-2020 Budget Message from the Town Manager and other budget documents, please visit us on the web at: www.TownOfMarsHill.org.

DATES OF INTEREST

August 17.....Mars Hill Ret. Community Yard Sale
August 19.....Madison County Schools Begin Class
August 23.....MHU Move-in Day
August 27.....MHU Classes Begin
September 2....Labor Day – Town Offices Closed
September 14...First MHU Home Football Game
September 28...Shriners Oasis Mountain Buggies
Annual Coon Dog Show and Auction
(12 PM Mars Hill Recreation Park)
October 5.....Mars Hill Heritage Festival
October 5.....Lunsford Festival (MHU)
October 31.....Halloween

Town Moves to Monthly Utility Billing

The Town of Mars Hill has moved to a monthly billing cycle for water and sewer services. This change was effective July 1, 2019 and customers received a notice in their July statements. The bi-monthly billing will no longer be done.

By going to a monthly billing, the expectation is the result will produce a smaller, more manageable, payable amount particularly for those ratepayers who may have difficulty with the larger amount for two-month service. By having a monthly statement, it is hoped that the unfortunate situation of additional late fees and potential disconnections of service can be avoided.

Please be aware that the monthly bill will be sent the last week of each month and will be due on the 15th day of the following month. *For example*, the bill you just received in July will be due on August 15th and will be considered delinquent on August 16th with late penalties added at that time. If you have any questions regarding your water bill, please contact the Town Hall at (828) 689-2301.

Get Your Water Bill By E-Mail

The Town of Mars Hill can send your water bill to you by e-mail. If you are interested in receiving your bill by e-mail, please contact the Mars Hill Town Hall at (828) 689-2301 to make your request.