

Connections

Linking Mint Hill's Businesses Together

January/February 2012

Chamber Events

- **Business Before Hours**
January 9th • 7-9 am
The Mint Hill Barber Shop
& Daphne's Bakery
11211 Lawyers Road
Join us for breakfast and
start your day with networking!
- **Board Meeting**
January 11th @ 8 am
Mint Hill Town Hall
- **Monthly Member Luncheon**
Jan 26th • 11:30 -1 pm
Jimmies Restaurant
7024 Brighton Park Drive
Speaker: Margaret Moody of
the Alzheimer's Assoc to
present "Now What Was I
Saying?"
- **Business After Hours**
February 2nd • 5-7pm
Lennar Homes
7147 Brighton Park Dr.
Refreshments provided!
Catering courtesy of Palmetto
Grill & Bakery.
- **Board Meeting**
February 8th @ 8 am
Mint Hill Town Hall
- **Monthly Member Luncheon**
February 23rd • 11:30 -1 pm
Jimmies Restaurant
7024 Brighton Park Dr
Speaker: Paul Frost, VP
Business Svcs Officer @ BBT
will present: "Time
Management and Acting on
our Priorities."



2012 Board of Directors:

Andrea Buschur - MetLife
Bonnie Broadwell - Presbyterian
Russell Muller - Big Guys Pizza
Boyd Davis - First Citizens Bank
Denise Hallett - Vulcan Materials Co.
Dr. Mike Richardson - CMC
Rich Ferretti - Keller Williams
Mike Cochrane - ACB
Robert O'Bday - Monarch Mortgage
Robert Lucas - Allstate Insurance
Rodney Rothoff - Time Warner
Tony Johnson - Atty at Law
Mickey Ellington, Town Liaison
Sandy Barnett, Administrator



Tony Long, former MHCC President

"To think before I speak, to consider the other person before myself, to share the good news more quickly than bad. So I may become a better example on my journey of 2012. "

Michael Moore, CPA

"To be actively engaged in improving my client's businesses by finding ways to increase their customers by referring them to others, having our firm use them & encouraging my co-workers to do the same. "

Mike Cochrane

Let's look over others faults and try to enjoy and uplift them on their positive attributes and make all of our lives more rewarding.

Robert "Bob" Lucas

This year I resolve to devote more time enjoying my family, friends, and business colleagues in Mint Hill. I'm going back to simpler ways... they are much more pleasant!

Sandy Barnett, MHCC Administrator

"To improve or change the things that I am capable of and be patient with those that I cannot.

2012 Presents a New Opportunity to Own Your Own Business

By: Cassius Butts, Regional Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration

With a new year on the horizon, it's a perfect time to dream about the future and set new goals and resolutions. If your plans include starting a new business, the best place to start is with the United States Small Business Administration (SBA).

The SBA has an office in every state, including four in North Carolina. We have lenders, counselors, and other partners who work in thousands of communities across the U.S. With their help, we have been knocking down obstacles for entrepreneurs and small business owners for nearly 60 years.

In fact, for the fiscal year that just ended, we helped provide nearly 8,500 loans to small businesses in this Southeast Region. Nationwide, we had our biggest year ever.

Generally, we can help in two big ways.

First, if you're someone who has a few ideas down on paper and you need someone who can help you formulate a business plan, the SBA or one of our "resource partners" is a great place to start. You can find local help by going to www.sba.gov/direct and typing in your zip code.

For example, you can find one of the North Carolina Small Business & Technology Development Centers at University of North Carolina campuses. Also, check out www.SCORE.org, a volunteer organization with more than 350 chapters and more than 10,000 mentors, many of whom have been successful executives themselves. North Carolina is home to more than 15 SCORE chapters and branches across the state. Women can get help from the two SBA Women's Business Centers in Fayetteville and Durham.

The best part is that these folks can often help you for free.

The second situation where SBA and our partners can
(cont'd next page)

Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce Member Profile



Nothing goes out of here that I'm not proud of'.

This statement by Suzanne Wolf, head designer of Abbey Rose Florist in Mint Hill adequately sums up the quality of the product you can expect from her and her daughter, Elizabeth DeYoung, the business manager. They describe themselves as a "Mother-Daughter team". Working together since 1998, Suzanne feels she is blessed to get to work with her daughter every day. "We love it", they both say.

Initially taking floral classes in 1981 at Duchess Community College in New York, Suzanne realized it was "such a natural fit" to her that she immediately went to work for a florist after completing her classes. "On blind faith", she took \$5,000.00 and opened up her first shop in the Hudson Valley area of New York in 1982.

Opening up a floral shop in east Charlotte in 1998 after a move to Florida in 1988, she moved her business to Mint Hill in 2003 after living here since 2000. In 2009, she moved to her present location in an old 1930s dairy house on Matthews-Mint Hill Road. Her expectation is that Mint Hill is their final home.

"Word of Mouth" has been the primary vehicle of growth for them. Since coming to Mint Hill, they have done no print advertising. However, they do occasionally sponsor certain events.

They offer floral arrangements for just about any occasion you may think of. Wedding arrangements are a large part of their business. Additionally, they offer balloon arrangements and floral related gift items. In addition to local work, they get about 20% of their business from wire. They deliver all over Mecklenburg County, and parts of Cabarrus and Union County.

Almost all of their flowers come from Ecuador and Columbia. Suzanne explained that there is very little floral production in the United States because of costs. However, their ferns and green plants do come from Central Florida.

Walking into their business, one of the first things I notice are pictures from flower bouquets from the 1880s through the 1950s. Throughout the store are different arrangements and gifts you can buy. The cats you see are all rescue cats.

Summing up the interview, Suzanne states, "Come in a stranger. Leave a friend".

Abbey Rose Florist is located at 7408 Matthews-Mint Hill Road in Mint Hill. Their phone number is 704-545-4900. Their web address is www.abbeyroseflorist.com.

Written by Edwin Tetenbaum, MHCC Member

Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce strives to encourage, stimulate, extend and promote business and services in Mint Hill.

Welcome New Members

Billy Boy's Travel
Boutique LeAunj
Citizens Homes
Mint Hill Dance Center
McCarthy Tire & Automotive Center

For more contact information on these new members visit our members page at:
www.minthillchamberofcommerce.com
or call the Chamber office at 704.573.8282.

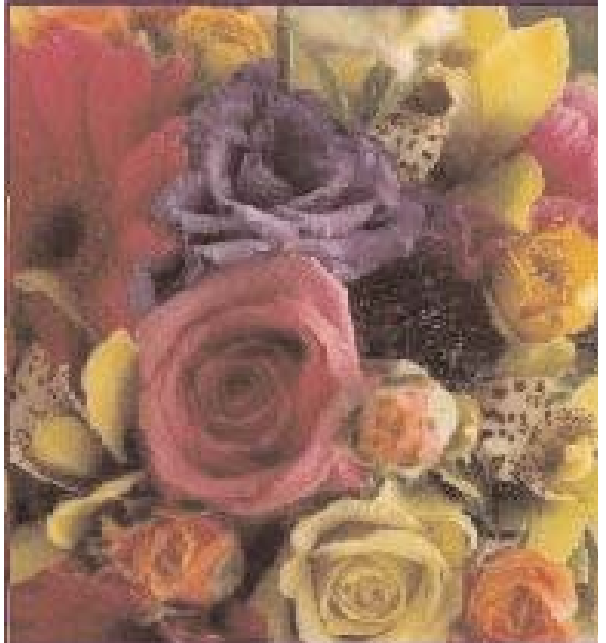


! I B G O T O G

ABBEY ROSE Floral Artistry

FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

704.545.4900
WWW.ABBEYROSEFLORIST.COM
7408 MATTHEWS - MINT HILL RD.
MINT HILL, NC
28227



SUZANNE WOLF
ELIZABETH DEYOUNG

Friends of the CHAMBER

President's Circle



CMC-Mint Hill Medical Plaza

Uncompromising Excellence. Commitment to Care.

Town of Mint Hill

Benefactor

Presbyterian HEALTHCARE

Remarkable People. Remarkable Medicine.

Patron

Vulcan
Materials Company

Developmental
Disabilities
Resources



Furr & Dulin, P.A.

Hendrix Business Systems, Inc.
Document Solutions

Friend

STRICK
TREE SERVICES
INCORPORATED

help is if you're already a small business owner.

Many small business owners have come to us over the past two years, looking for ways to reinvent their business and grow in the face of tough economic times. Whether it's getting an SBA loan, winning your first federal contract, or learning the ins-and-outs of exporting, the SBA and our partners can get you the information and the local connections you need.

Why is all of this so important?

Economists agree that small businesses are a big part of the solution to getting our economy moving again and to creating jobs that we lost in the recession. President Obama and Congress have used - and continue to use - the SBA and other federal agencies to help you get the tools you need to succeed.

In particular, the President is pushing for more tax relief for small businesses, especially those that are looking to buy more equipment or hire more workers. We need to make sure that small businesses have every possible incentive to help build on the growth that we're beginning to see in the economy.

I'm particularly proud of our efforts to help veterans, thousands of whom are returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We're working to ensure that businesses have every incentive to hire veterans, and that veterans themselves can transform their skills and leadership into starting a new business of their own. Last year, the SBA Veteran's Business Outreach Center opened in Fayetteville, NC to help them do this.

So, if you're thinking about starting or growing a business in 2012, you know where to go. There's no time like the present to have that first conversation with the SBA or one of our resource partners in your area. Have a Happy New Year.

** Reprinted with permission from Mike Ernanides, Public Affairs Specialist with the US SBA*

Mint Hill
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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www.minthillchamberofcommerce.com
www.isupportminthill.com
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Annual Renewal Packets will be sent to every member in mid to late January. Please note that all renewals for 2012 are due February 28th.