

the Reporter



www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XIV, Issue 2, MAY 2010

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Mountain Brook Residents,

It is my pleasure to inform you that Mountain Brook is rolling out the red carpet for one of the most exciting events to ever come to our community—The Legends of Motorsports—A Bobby Rahal Signature Event! On May 20th, Mountain Brook will have a road rally of over 100 vintage million-dollar racing cars which will travel from Barber Motorsports Park into the heart of Mountain Brook Village where they will be parked for several hours after 5:00 p.m. Our merchants will be open with special events. We will have a stage for announcements. Food and beverages will be available at our area restaurants as we welcome over 500 tourists, their families, and the owners of these vintage racing machines.

Mountain Brook Elementary will be celebrating their 80th anniversary the same afternoon, and we hope that our residents will walk from the school celebration to the village to participate in both events. Some streets will be closed off. We will be publishing areas for parking on the website, in the newspaper, and on our blog. Please make a note of these events so that you will not be inconvenienced but can plan to participate in what will be a remarkable evening. We encourage residents to line the streets as the cars arrive, and the route will be published prior to the arrival of the cars.

The sponsors for this event include Rolex and Car & Driver Magazine. Lotus Cars will be partnering with Legends of Motorsports. A charity gala on Saturday evening, May 22, at the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum appropriately celebrates international racing hero Mario Andretti as its honored guest. We are anticipating that he will also attend the Mountain Brook Road Rally

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence T. Oden

CITY BLOG

Recently the City began posting its City Council meeting agendas in a blog. For residents interested in having these announcements delivered to their e-mail mailbox, simply add the City's blog address <http://mtnbrookcity.blogspot.com/> to your RSS feed in your e-mail or activate Google®'s Gmail® Reader service.

The City welcomes any comments or suggestions about its blog by e-mailing mtnbrook.org@gmail.com.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

On February 27, members of the Mountain Brook Tree Commission hosted the annual Arbor Day tree giveaway at local grocery stores, where some 800 tree seedlings were distributed to patrons. The Commission extends special thanks to Piggly-Wiggly, Western, Publix, and Whole Foods for their ongoing support of the annual event. Boy Scout Troop 320 helped prepare and bag seedlings ahead of the event, which is always crucial to the success of the event as well as the long term viability of the seedlings themselves. A special dip for the bare root seedlings was used this year to further enhance survival and establishment of the young trees. Please remember a few things that will give your tree a chance to thrive: Water during dry times; provide a thin mulch layer around the tree to discourage competing vegetation while providing a buffer to the mower and weed eater; let the tree establish itself before pruning for structure/form. For any questions, please contact Don Cafaro at 874-0622 x32



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the Reporter
Mountain Brook, Alabama

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President Pro Tem Jesse Vogtle, Jr.

Bob Moody

William S. "Billy" Pritchard, III

City Manager Jack Carl

Mayor's Office

Sam S. Gaston
802-3800

802-3802

For advertising or Chamber of Commerce information, call 871-3779.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

The City Council has adopted the following ordinances since January, 2010:

- Ordinance No. 1804 – prohibits parking on traffic islands.

The City has authorized or approved the following projects since January, 2010:

- Approved lunch service conditional use application submitted by Daniel George Restaurant located on Culver Road in Mountain Brook Village.
- Approved traffic island improvements on Mountain Park Circle.
- Awarded low bid, which met specifications, to Solutions4Sure.com in the amount of \$32,597.03 for a computer server for City Hall.
- Awarded low bid to Peach State Ambulance in the amount of \$279,140 for two transport units for the Fire Department.
- Authorized the execution of a professional services contract with Bhate Geosciences in the amount of \$13,648 for boring and soil tests in connection with Phase 6 of the City's Village Walkway construction project.
- Authorized Change Order No. 2 with Beatty Construction in the amount of \$18,272.38 for the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation project.
- Approved agreement with James Lewis for the rebuilding of brick walls and columns at the intersection of Locksley Drive and Overton Road.
- Approved name change of the MR/DD 310 Authority to The Jefferson County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority, Inc.
- Approved conditional use application by Galloway and Somerville for their law office on Vine Street in Crestline Village.
- Awarded construction bids to Jim Cooper Construction Company (\$955,800) and H. N. Donahoo Contracting Company (\$1,246,002) for construction and site work for a new Parks/Recreation administrative and shop building.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$157,300 with Brasfield & Gorrie for construction management services in conjunction with the new Parks/Recreation building.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$40,440 with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood for construction testing services for the new Parks/Recreation building.
- Authorized a HIPAA agreement with American Behavioral for the City's Employee Assistance Program.

HISTORICAL HOMES

MANY MOUNTAIN BROOK HOMES ELIGIBLE FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS

Historic homes are an integral component of Mountain Brook's character as a community, and the Jefferson County Historical Commission encourages homeowners to apply for and display historic markers.

Of the more than 1250 county properties on the historic register, 75% are on private homes. A marked property must have been constructed prior to 1960 but does not have to be 'significant' either architecturally or historically to qualify for a marker.

To be eligible, homes should retain original shape and roofline and enough of original exterior materials to reflect historic character and appearance. Markers carry no restriction on present or future use of property.

A simple-to-complete application form and a tip sheet of strategies for house research are available by download from the Commission's website at www.jeffersonhistorical.org. For more information, or to schedule a speaker for garden clubs, study clubs, or other groups contact JCHC Executive Director Linda Nelson at 205-324-0988.

STREET PAVING LIST

Below is the list of streets that the City of Mountain Brook plans to repave this summer. Bids will be received soon by the City on this project.

- Pine Crest Road – All
- Virginia Road – All
- Pine Haven Drive – All
- Balmoral Road – All
- Canterbury Lane – All
- Cambridge Road – Canterbury to Heathermoor
- Oakdale Drive – City limits to joint south of Bethune
- South Brookwood Road – Spring Hill south to 3541
- Overton Road – Coldchester to Oakdale North Lane – All
- Canterbury Road – Montevallo to Overhill
- Surrey Road – All
- South Brookwood Road – Spring Hill north to Brookwood

QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS

	4th Quarter 2009	1st Quarter 2010
ROBBERY	0	1
BURGLARY/RESIDENCE	19	20
BURGLARY/BUSINESS	7	4
THEFT	68	72
AUTO THEFT	6	2
ASSAULTS (OTHER)	0	1
IDENTITY THEFT	12	5
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	18	14
DRUGS	4	7
FAMILY VIOLENCE	6	11
ACCIDENTS	257	228
A WITH INJURIES	33	18
A WITH FATALITIES	0	0
CALLS FOR SERVICE	7,295	6,771
HOUSE WATCHES	929	776
PROPERTY STOLEN	\$420,220	\$343,950
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$3,274	\$6,600

WANT TO HELP US GET THESE NUMBERS LOWER?

1. Lock your vehicle
2. Take your keys
3. Don't leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle
4. Keep lawn and sports equipment around your home secured when not in use.
5. Keep doors locked and use your security system when you're not at home.

See it! Hear it! Report it! Let us know when you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood.



CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON WATKINS BROOK FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

With more than \$4.375 million in Federal funding obtained by the City of Mountain Brook through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, construction continues this summer on these final components of the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project:

- **Regions Culvert Replacement** - The project proposes to enlarge the culvert in front of Regions Bank and remove obstructions from the bottom of the channel.
- **Cahaba Road Diversion Culvert** - The project proposes to install a new overflow culvert from Chester Road to Watkins Brook just downstream from Heathermoor Road, to give additional capacity during storm events.
- **Montevallo Road Bridge Replacement** - The project proposes to replace the bridge and remove obstructions from the bottom of the channel to improve stream flows. The project will create smooth transition back to existing banks and bottom and stabilize the collapsing right bank.

Construction has been scheduled to begin immediately after Mountain Brook schools recess for the summer, and work affecting school traffic on Cahaba Road must be completed before school starts up in August. Cahaba Road and Regions culvert should be completed in September, followed by the bridge replacement before November 1. If the bridge work cannot be completed by November 1, work will pick up in January after the holiday shopping season has ended. Temporary traffic rerouting measures should minimize any inconveniences during construction.

These additional project components will work in conjunction with other project components completed this past winter. Completed construction components include the enlarged detention facilities at the Birmingham Zoo, a new detention pond at the former Shades Valley High School property, improvements to stream flows under Watkins Road and Canterbury Road, and drainage structure improvements at South Chester Road.



NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

On March 3, 2010, the Public Works Department held a dedication ceremony and open house for its new facility. It was a great success with representatives from other Mountain Brook departments, other municipalities, owners of local city businesses, and even some past council members in attendance. If you would like to take a tour of the new Public Works facility, please come by anytime, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and someone will be happy to show you around.



FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Firefighter/Paramedic **Jason Baswell** (left) is the Mountain Brook Firefighter of the Year 2009. Jason was very instrumental in applying advanced life support skills to a person that was choking. His immediate diagnosis of the medical issue and the application of his skills helped avert a tragic situation. Police Officers **Jason Carmack** (Center) and **Jason Rhoads** are co-recipients for the Police Officer of the Year 2009. The officers, both motorscouts, made contact with well over 1,000 citizens in 2009 and generated no significant complaints. This was quite an accomplishment as drivers are often prone to complain after receiving a citation. This is certainly reflective and indicative of their professionalism. All of these fine professionals were honored by the Mayor and City Council at the City Council meeting of March 8th.

LEAF COMPOST AVAILABLE

The Public Works Department has an abundance of composted leaf mulch available for residents to pick up for their personal use. This compost is available free of charge to all Mountain Brook residents if you load it yourself. If you need the Public Works Department to assist you with loading, there is a cost of \$20 for a pickup truck load. For larger loads, there is a \$30 charge per scoop. The mulch is available Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and then again from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you need a different time, special arrangements can be made by contacting the Public Works office at 3579 East Street or 874-0622, Ext. 21.



NO PARKING ON TRAFFIC ISLANDS

The City of Mountain Brook is blessed with over 100 traffic islands, circles and plazas throughout our community. These islands add a touch of greenery to our streets and neighborhoods. Several garden clubs and neighborhoods assist the City in beautifying these areas.

However, many of these traffic islands are mangled and rutted by persons using them for parking. To address this problem, the City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting all parking on these traffic islands, circles or plazas. This ordinance went into effect on March 15th. Fine for violating this ordinance is \$25.



BOARD VACANCIES

The City of Mountain Brook has the following board/committee vacancies to fill in the near future:

Finance Committee (4-year council appointment)

APPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following appointments:

Tree Commission – Troy Rhone

MAX Transit Authority – Richard Goldstein

REAPPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following reappointment:

Lynn Ritchie – Village Design Review Committee

If you are interested in these positions, please send a letter of inquiry and your resume to:

Sam S. Gaston, City Manager,
City of Mountain Brook

56 Church Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213

NEW BUSINESSES

Brown Business Group, LLC (brokers)

15 Office Park Circle, Suite 213..... 870-4809

Caryl Green Massage Therapy

32 Church Street..... 999-4876

Choice Home Care Specialists

3928 Montclair Road, Suite 232..... 445-0705

Closet Creations—Jennie Norton

4135 Sharpsburg Drive 326-4292

DJ's Lawn Care

2728 Cherokee Road..... 870-7576

Green Web Video Productions

3 Office Park Circle, Suite 100..... 879-7877

ImiJane Textile & Design, LLC

6 Montrose Circle 870-0999

Jan Ware Interior Decorator

8 Rockledge Road..... 871-7891

Long Kim Nguyen at Nail Tek

600 Olde English Lane..... 879-3377

Otto Bock Orthopaedic Services

16 Office Park Circle, Suite 17.....800-711-2205

Patterson Agency (insurance)

17 Office Park Circle, Suite 3..... 870-7117

Ray and Poynor Properties

2832 Culver Road 879-3036

ROIQ, LLC (commodities trading)

2603 Park Lane Court North # A301-803-8133

Ron Agency—Insurance

3900 Montclair Rd 870-0115

Sally Gordon Psychology

3918 Montclair Road..... 591-7027

Sideline Design (Katrina Logan)

3900 Montevallo Road 871-8190

Thomas and Garrison Interior Decorating

736 Montgomery Drive 871-4395

Treadz Retail Clothing

3732 Mountain Park Drive 240-9313

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

City Council	2nd & 4th Mon. (Call 802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting.)	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Board of Education	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office
Library Board	3rd Tues.	4:45 p.m.	Library
Park & Recreation Board	2nd Tues.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Board of Zoning Adjustment	2nd Mon.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Planning Commission	1st Mon.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
Design Review Committee	3rd Wed.	8:00 a.m.	City Hall
Tree Commission	3rd Tues. (odd months)	5:15 p.m.	City Hall
Chamber of Commerce	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	Board of Education Office (32 Vine Street)

CITY ELECTION IN AUGUST

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 24, 2010 when the City's residents will vote to fill three council seats. The following seats are up for election:

Council Place No.

1
3
5

Currently Held By

John Robert "Bob" Moody
William S. "Billy" Pritchard, III
Jesse S. Vogtle, Jr.

While candidates may not officially qualify to run for these seats until July 6, 2010, each of the incumbents are expected to run for office. Residents should expect to receive post cards in August informing them of their polling location.

Other pertinent dates are as follows:

- May 26 Last day a person can become a resident of the City and still be a candidate for the election (candidates must reside in the City for a period of 90 days before the election).
- July 6 Mayor gives notice of the election (first Tuesday in July). Candidates may begin qualifying once notice is published. Qualification forms are available from the City Clerk.
- July 12 45-day pre-election campaign disclosure reports are due to be filed with the Probate Judge (applies only if a candidate has raised or spent in excess of \$1,000). Forms are available from the Probate Judge or the Secretary of State.
- July 20 Last day to qualify to run for municipal office (due on or before 5 p.m.). Forms are available from the City Clerk.
- July 25 Last day to place a voting machine on display.
- July 26 Last day for candidates to file with the Probate Judge a statement showing the names of their campaign committee.
- July 27 Last day for the Mayor to deliver absentee ballots and supplies to the City Clerk.
- August 9 Last day for the City Council to appoint election officials.
- August 19
 - Last day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot.
 - Last day to file the 5-10 day pre-election campaign disclosure form with the Probate Judge.
 - Last day to publish the list of qualified voters.
- August 23 Last day for a voter to apply for an emergency absentee ballot (for persons required by their employer to be out of town on election day). Voting machines are to be sealed. Absentee ballots, if mailed, must be postmarked by August 23. Hand delivered absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m.
- August 24 Election day.

Note: The above calendar is provided as a service to potential candidates. It is the responsibility of all candidates to independently verify these dates and other dates on which required disclosures and reports are to be filed.

Please visit the City's web site at www.mtnbrook.org for additional dates and information.



Discover Mountain Brook

... explore the unique

MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Providing an environment to help our members prosper and succeed through a proactive partnership with the business community, city government, and the community at large

Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce 2010 Board of Directors

- President:
John Rucker
- Executive Vice President:
Stephen Hydinger
- Vice President Governmental Affairs:
Paul DeMarco
- Vice President, Community Affairs:
Amy Jackson
- Vice President, Membership Development:
Hugh Morrow
- Vice President, Business Development:
Bob Schuler
- Vice President, Marketing Communications:
Cindi Akins
- Vice President of Retail:
Wesley Lassen
- Secretary
Martha Gorham
- Treasurer
John Wilson
- Assistant V P Governmental Affairs:
Derick Belden
- Assistant V P, Community Affairs:
Lee Perry
- Assistant V P, Membership Development:
Elizabeth Lyman
- Assistant V P, Business Development:
Chuck Branch
- Assistant VP, Marketing Communications:
Howard Torch
- Director at Large
John Montgomery
- General Counsel:
David Faulkner
- Past President:
Frank Caley
- 2nd Past President:
Alice Womack
- Sustaining Member:
Sam Gaston
- City Council Liaison:
Bob Moody
- Executive Director:
Suzan Smith-Doidge

Dear Mountain Brook residents and friends,

I hope you were among those who were able to attend the quarterly luncheon the chamber sponsored last month. Our community is fortunate to have three passionate and well-qualified candidates for Jefferson County Commission District 5 and the chamber provided them with a public forum moderated by Atticus Rominger at Park Lane. This is an important election that will impact our local businesses, and subsequently drew a lot of interest from outside of our community as well as from the local media. Our board believes that an important part of the chamber's mission is to provide information to our residents that will enable them to make informed decisions about candidates who will shape our future. So we hope to continue to provide a venue for political candidates participating in local elections. Stay tuned!

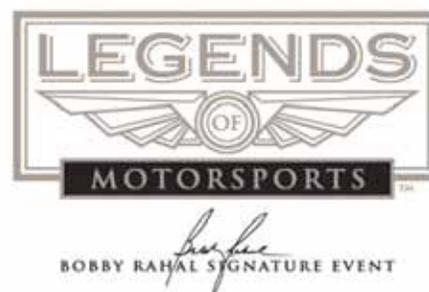
In addition to political events, we are planning a quarterly luncheon this summer focusing on economic development. Many of you are aware that this has been a challenging economic climate for all retailers and businesses, so we are providing a forum for ideas that will enable our businesses to stay ahead of the economic trends. Economic development is a high priority for our chamber, not only to welcome new businesses to our community, but to also come up with innovative ways to help existing businesses build their revenue. We plan to include many of our top business leaders and developers. Please contact the chamber if you would like to participate. This event is being spearheaded by State Representative, Paul DeMarco.

On May 20th, Legends of Motorsports – a Bobby Rahal Signature event - is one of the most amazing and challenging events that we've ever undertaken, and we believe that it could provide Mountain Brook with a very high-end annual tourism festival and source of income for our merchants. Over 100 million-dollar vintage racing cars are to be parked in the center of the village for several hours on Thursday, May 20th prior to racing at Barber Motorsports. Mario Andretti is one of the special guests expected to attend. Streets will be closed off in order to provide a pedestrian celebration, and in addition to music and special events, attendees will have an opportunity to meet the drivers and see the cars up close. Announcers will provide information about the cars from a stage across from Brombergs, and merchants will be open for the evening to provide shopping activities as well as food and beverages. It starts at 3PM on May 20th and you won't want to miss it! Please visit the chamber website for park and walk locations, as well as the route that the cars will take from Barber Motorsports to the village, so that you can watch the cars arrive!

Lots of information about these events and more is on our chamber website <https://www.welcometomountainbrook.com/> Please bookmark the page and visit it often. This site is an active living and breathing site that we will continue to use to keep you informed about the residents, the merchants, the new businesses, and the events that shape our community. Welcome to Mountain Brook!



(l. to r.): Gary Gause President of Brookwood Hospital, David Carrington, Jim Atkinson, Steve Duncan, candidates for Jefferson County Commission and Steve Preston, Vice President of External Affairs for Brookwood Medical Center



Gold Level Members:

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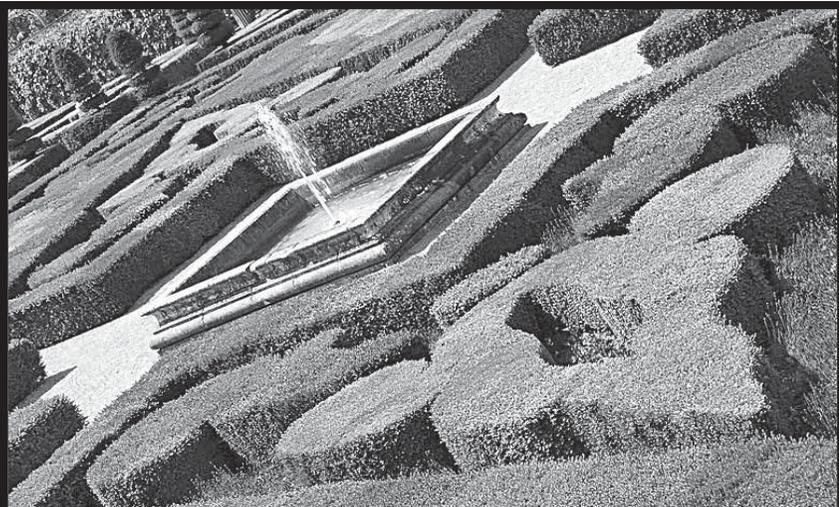


The Briarcliff Shop

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm
Sat 10am-4pm

English Village
2003 Cahaba Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

870-8110
Bridal Registry



Like my Dutch Oma used to say...
"I'm not picky,
I'm just particular."



951-9292



Local Artist Bob Moody shows off his impressive art work at the Mountain Brook Art Association Annual Art Show with a little help from friends Harris McCullough, Margaret Davidson and Anne Raines Doidge.



Mountain Brook High School students at Imagine Mountain Brook Initiative facilitated by Gayle Lantz . Pictured here from left to right are: Crawford Pritchett, Talia Farguson, Gayle Lantz of WorkMatters, Miller Williams, Rachel Fleisig, Evans Carr, Jillian Jordan.



Chamber welcomes new board members Sam Gaston, Elizabeth Lyman, John Rucker, Howard Torch, Lee Perry, Derick Belden, Not pictured: Chuck Branch.



Mayor Terry Oden, Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce Board President John Rucker and City Councilman Bob Moody review map of Mountain Brook Village for the Legends of Motorsports Road Rally and street closings. For more information go to welcometomountainbrook.com.

Garage Sale!

Fri., April 30th &
Sat., May 1st

50% off! Select Items

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Mon. - Fri. 9-6
Sat. 10-5

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EXPERIENCE THE GRANDEUR OF HISTORIC CAR RACING.

Legends of Motorsports is coming to
Barber Motorsports Park May 21-23.

Preview the cars at the Road Rally Celebration in Mountain Brook Village
on May 20. Go to www.legendsofmotorsports.com for complete
event information or call 800 240 2300 to order tickets.



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 Kim Lepley- Merrill Lynch
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 Granger Thagard & Associates
 B-Metro Magazine
 Dr Stephanie Steinmetz Pediatric
 and Adolescent Dentistry
 Grandmothers Joy
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 ROIQ LLC
 Zebra Marketing
 Starnes & Atchison
 Liz Hutchinson- Sirote Permutt
 Jimmy Hale Mission
 Paper Affair
 The Lemak Group
 Dana Wolter Interiors
 Mt. Brook Creamery

Tonya Jones Salon
 KiKi Risa
 Suite Dreams
 Jane Huston Crommelin- Ray
 Poyner Real Estate
 BestBiz LLC
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 ETC, LLC
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 ASP Pool and Spa
 Fleet Feet Sports
 Village Living
 WorkMatters
 Denise Pomeroy
 El Nuevo Foods
 Smart Skin Med Spa



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Kerry Adkins, owner



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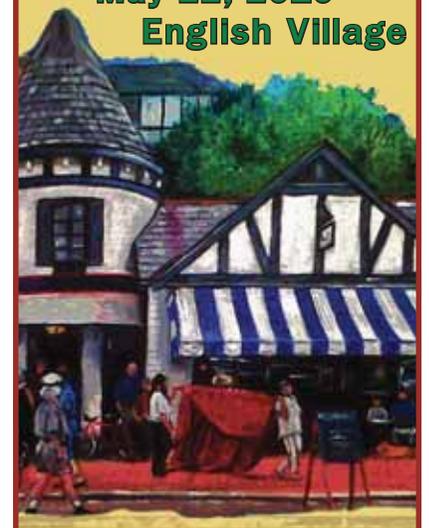
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**May 22, 2010
 English Village**



For more information go to
welcometomountainbrook.com



School System Supports Future Leaders

“Lead Where You Are!” That’s the motto of LEAD 2010, a cohort of teacher leaders in Mountain Brook Schools who are completing a two-year cycle of leadership development. Superintendent, Mr. Dicky Barlow says, “There is nothing more important in an organization than developing the potential of its people. We are not content to just have professionals doing their jobs well. We want to identify and support those who can grow and lead.” The professional development experiences of LEAD 2010 are designed to give teachers the skills they need to become stronger leaders in their grade levels, departments, and individual schools.

In fall of 2008, the first cohort of teachers was selected to participate. Throughout the 2008-09 school year, the participants engaged in a variety of experiences that taught them about the history of the school district, honed their instructional strategies, and advanced their leadership skills.

The work of LEAD 2010 continued in the fall of 2009, with the goal of designing small group projects that align with the mission of the group. Ranging from assembling a new teacher handbook to leading school-based book studies to presenting summer staff development, all the projects demonstrate that the LEAD 2010 cohort is leading where they are!

Recently, members of the group were asked to reflect on their experiences by responding to four questions.

How has LEAD 2010 affected you personally, strengthened your leadership skills and/or impacted you professionally?

Tanya Anastasia (MBE) Not being from the Birmingham area I was happy to have the opportunity to look at the history of Mountain Brook Schools. I knew there was a history, but until LEAD 2010 I didn’t know how rich that history was!

Nathan Pitner (CB) One of the first things you learn in education is that the best way to learn something is to teach it. As a member of the Design Team for LEAD 2010, the relationship between the opportunity to lead and the responsibility to learn has never resonated more deeply with me than it has throughout this process. It has been rewarding to see so many of the seeds planted begin to take root.

How has your school or the school system benefited from your involvement in LEAD 2010?

Suzanne Andrews (MBE) I feel like I have a greater understanding of student learning, but also about individual



strengths of the adults in my school. There is a greater commitment to working as a team to accomplish great things with students.

Tyler-Kate Drouet (MBHS) I believe the school system has benefited from LEAD 2010 from the enhanced perspective I, and others, have gained through my participation in the program. Seeing how elementary and junior high school teachers view their students, their purpose, and their goals is helpful to me in the high school setting.

How have your students benefited from your involvement in LEAD 2010?

Mandy Boozer (BWF) I believe that my students have benefited the most from the knowledge that I gained from the session on the millennials. The session helped to prepare me for the type of students that I have and will be dealing with as I face future generations of students.

Jayne Euwer (CES) My students benefited from my involvement through my clearer focus on teaching to the standards and my improved teaching methods.

What aspect of LEAD 2010 has had the greatest impact on you as a leader?

Diane Waud (BWF) The ability to handle confrontation in a positive manner and learning about the importance of having difficult conversations has had the greatest impact on me as a leader. I tend to take things so personally and have avoided conflict and confrontation at all costs. To improve a situation for all involved takes not only listening to others’ opinions, but stating your feelings on a subject with confidence and not retreating when things get difficult.

Bari Katz (MBJH) The group has given me the challenge of leading (with others from the group) a summer session which is something entirely out of my comfort zone. I have thought many times about backing out but I feel it is my responsibility to give back to our system what I have learned. If I can tackle this fear, I am sure it will lead to other challenges and growth.

LEAD 2010 Cohort

Amy Abbott – CB
Connie Allman – HS
Tanya Anastasia – MBE
Suzanne Andrews – MBE
Donna Benson – CES
Mandy Boozer – BWF
Katherine Brown – MBE
Karan Bush – CB
Sammye Davis – BWF
Tyler-Kate Drouet – HS
Jayne Euwer – CES
Laurie Fuentes – CB
Sharon Garrett – CES/CB
Kenneth Harkless – HS
Paul Hnizil – JH
Lawson Hollans – CES
Philip Holley – JH
Bari Katz – JH
Lisa Lewis – JH
Karen Long – JH
Tiffany Marron – BWF
Larry McCain – JH
Michael McGovern – HS
Jennifer Mueller – CES
Angela Myers – HS
Jennifer Preston – CES
Jo Sims – HS
Lisa Walters – MBE
Diane Waud – BWF
Jan Winstead – HS
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Dicky Barlow—CO



School Leaders Answer Questions on Economic Impact

Mountain Brook Schools are not immune to the current budgeting problems. Superintendent of Schools Dicky Barlow and Chief Financial Officer Karen Lusk-Smith answer questions on school system finances and how the economic crisis is affecting Mountain Brook Schools.

What are the sources of revenues for our school system?

Karen Lusk-Smith: School systems in the state receive federal monies, state funds, and local revenues. Federal money is generally based on the extent of poverty among the families in the district. State funds are distributed to school districts strictly from student enrollment numbers. Local funds are generated from local property taxes and are very much dependent on property values. In Mountain Brook, we are very fortunate to have the Mountain Brook Schools Foundation, which contributes to our revenues.

Dicky Barlow: The distribution of revenues in Mountain Brook is 39% from the state, 1% from the Foundation, 2 to 3% from other sources and 58% from local taxes. Our percentage of local funding is unusually high compared to other school systems and speaks volumes about the commitment this community has for its schools. Presently we have just over one hundred teachers funded by local revenues. Most school systems across the state rely much more on state and federal funds to support teachers. This is one way we have been able to maintain small class sizes.

Mountain Brook Schools: Sources of Funding

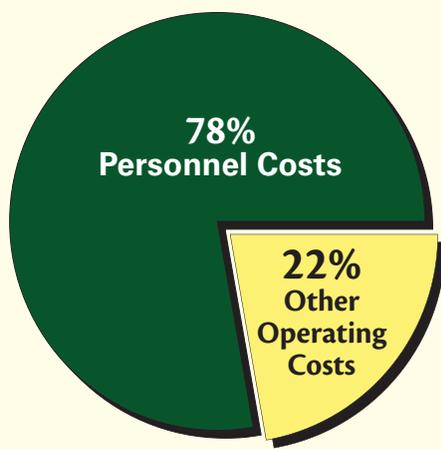
Local Tax Revenues	58%
State Funds	39%
Foundation	1%
Other	3%

Education is obviously a very people-oriented enterprise. How are expenditures of those revenues distributed across personnel expenses versus other areas?

Dicky Barlow: Seventy-eight percent of our revenues go to pay personnel and to provide benefits. We have limited control over those expenditures. In recent years, the state has mandated pay raises to all school employees: A 6% increase in 2006, a 5% increase in 2007 and a 7% increase in 2008. Teachers deserve these raises, but the point is we the state doesn't fully fund these mandated raises so we have to rely on local funds to provide them.

Like so many other organizations, we have seen sharp increases in the cost of employee benefits. In the last five years, we have had an increase of \$1.6 million in retirement costs and an increase of \$1.2 million in health insurance costs.

Mtn. Brook Schools General Fund 2009-2010

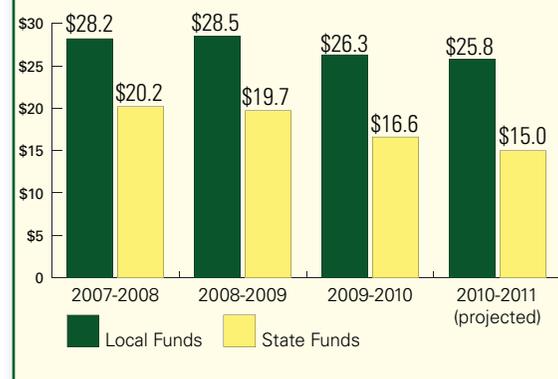


Everyone is aware of the economic downturn. Can you review what has happened to funding in the last year or two and what lies ahead next year?

Karen: In response to what we could see coming, we began taking measures to reduce spending. School principals and central office directors went through their budgets and were able to find some sacrifices. This reduced our current year budget by \$1.5 million dollars and allowed us to avoid drawing down our reserves as much as we might have had to otherwise. The school board has had a goal of maintaining a fund balance that amounts to three months of operating expenses. That three month reserve is, of course, for a rainy day situation and we're in a rainy day. So, we will have to continue to draw on those reserves to maintain low class sizes and to reduce the need for eliminating programs and personnel.

Dicky: We have a good track record in the area of financial responsibility. We were able to build that 3-month fund balance. We maintain a high bond rating. We had a significant amount of money come in related to the one-cent county sales tax which had to be used either for facility improvements or debt service. We certainly undertook some facility improvements which were needed, but we also chose to pay off a great deal of our debt. We just had another very positive audit and the auditors told our Board that our expenditures on administration and central office are quite low. I think these are among the reasons that the community so overwhelmingly voted to renew the 9.9 mill property tax.

Changing School Revenues (in millions)



Mr. Barlow, you mentioned the recent tax renewal. How will this impact the schools going forward?

Dicky: We were very grateful that the tax was renewed and so overwhelmingly. However, as we emphasized during the campaign, that was not a tax increase but a renewal of current levels of local taxation. We won't receive any additional money from the renewal. This vote was necessary to maintain a tax which has been on the books for a long time. We're grateful it was renewed, but we have to emphasize that it is not a source of new revenue.

What can you say about what is ahead for the school system financially?

Karen: For the first time in the history of the school system, we have had a decline in local property values. So, we will have less local money. We are looking at what the state will be able to do and, at this time, the state education budget is designed to keep school systems from having to eliminate teacher positions. However, it appears there will be no state money for classroom supplies, technology, libraries, professional development and new textbooks.

Dicky: These financial difficulties are the most challenging in the history of the school system. We are going to have to work hard to reduce expenditures as we go forward and look for ways to avoid larger class sizes and losing programs. We will have to reduce the fund balance we talked about earlier, but we are committed to doing all we can to maintain a healthy reserve. We can remain true to our core values in ways that cost nothing. It costs nothing to treat each student with respect and kindness. Our purpose is to provide an effective, challenging, and engaging education to every one of our students. In spite of the hard times, that will continue to be our focus and we won't compromise on it. Our parents have always come forward as volunteers and make very substantial contributions to the operation of these schools each and every day. We will all pull together and work through these tough times.



Technology in Schools Moving Forward

Mountain Brook Schools Director of Technology Donna Williamson and Director of Student Services Dr. Dale Wisely recently had a conversation for The Reporter about the future of technology in Mountain Brook Schools.

Dale Wisely: I think when someone mentions technology in schools, the first thing that comes to mind is computers in the classroom and teaching kids to use computers. But, it has become so much more than that.

Donna Williamson: In fact, we now are educating students who do not know a world without the Internet, netbooks, the Web and almost everyone having cell phones. They will grow up learning technology by using technology and we do not really need to spend time anymore teaching kids how to turn computers on. Technology permeates our schools. We teach kids about technology. We teach them to appropriately apply technologies to access information and learn about the world. But, we also use technologies to greatly augment instruction.

Dale: I think a great example of that is the document camera. At first glance, it just seems like a glorified overhead projector. And, of course, you can use them to project a printed page or image on the screen but we have seen our teachers find incredible ways to use those to teach.

Donna: Right. Anything you put under that camera is projected onto the screen in real time with excellent resolution. So, for example, we have biology teachers dissecting flowers and showing the flower parts and every student in the classroom can see each part magnified on the screen and they don't have to crowd around the teacher to try to get a good view.

Dale: The other example I was thinking of about where things might be going is Moodle.

Donna: Well, I admit I guessed wrong on Moodle. When we introduced it, I thought it would take us a few years to grow into it. But we've moved ahead very quickly with it, mostly because of teacher and student enthusiasm. Moodle is a web-based system that allows our school community, including our students, to access classroom information from home, or from anywhere they can access the Web. But, it is a safe and secure and closed environment. Teachers post articles, assignments and materials and so do students. A student does some work at school, saves the files, and then can pull them up at home. One unexpected factor that accelerated our use of it was the H1N1 flu. We had high absenteeism for a while last fall, and Moodle allowed some of our students who were home with the flu a way of participating in school while they were home. Moodle is one example of cloud computing, sharing and accessing resources and information across many users in multiple locations.



Dale: You and I do presentations for our parents about youth and technology. There's always some anxiety about this among some parents. I think it's understandable that some parents who are already struggling with how much their kids use technologies are concerned that they are immersed in still more technology at school.

Donna: We try to balance that at school so the day includes plenty of activities that aren't about technology. But at the same time, we have to remember our core business. Our job is to prepare students for college and for the 21st century workplace. Both colleges and employment are changing very quickly. People who study this keep reminding us that employers are looking for a different set of skills than even 10 years ago. We simply can't educate our students adequately without keeping up-to-date in the world of technology.

Dale: Let's talk about technology safety. Whenever we talk to parents about technology, the most common questions have something to do with either Facebook or cell phones. Just in the last year or so you and I have stopped doing "Internet Safety" talks, as such, and instead are talking about young people and global connectivity. That connectivity has escaped the confines of networked computers into cell phones, game consoles, hand-held media devices, and so on. But, the safety concerns are still there. We know parents are giving their children cell phones at younger and younger ages and the average age at which kids get cell phones is dropping rapidly. Most parents talk about it as a safety issue. On the one hand, they give their kids cell phones at very young ages so that the children will be able to reach them

when they need them. That's a safety concern. On the other hand, they worry about their kids using the cell phones safely and responsibly.

Donna: We all struggle with it because it's all happened so fast. It's probably not even possible to know where it will go. I wonder if we'll see a time when whatever personal connectivity device people carry with them—including young people--will also be with them and used in school as part of the instructional process.

Dale: Textbooks will certainly have to change. They probably will be increasingly delivered through some kind of electronic means, small computers or so-called e-book readers. Do you think technology will make textbooks obsolete?

Donna: Electronic versions of textbooks on a tablet of device can be updated and refreshed continuously, unlike print versions which are very expensive for the publisher to revise. Textbook costs are soaring. One would hope that downloadable electronic versions of textbooks could sell for a considerably less than the bound versions. We've all been concerned in education that school bags are too heavy for students. A tablet device would be thin, light and could easily hold a full year's worth of books but weigh less than half of a typical textbook.

Dale: I think we are getting away from the idea that the content is all in the textbook and in the teacher's brain and that school is about transmitting that content to the passive student. That's been a movement in this school system for some time. This school system has been emphasizing engaging instruction and the active, participating learner for some years.



Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation



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We Need Your Support!

Now, more than ever, the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation **needs your participation** in our efforts. The schools are facing reduced State revenues for the foreseeable future, loss of federal stimulus money within the year, and decreases in property tax revenues until the economy recovers. Although the leadership of the school system is doing everything that it can to reduce costs, the decreases in revenue are posing mounting difficulty in meeting the needs of the students. Although the Foundation cannot solve the financial problems of the schools, it can **make a difference**. Your investment in our endowment will help the Foundation increase its grants to the schools. In order for our school system to continue on a path of excellence, it will need the opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement that the Foundation can provide. The Foundation helps with those “extras” that would not be possible otherwise. The success of our fundraising is dependent on your generosity. Please make a gift to the Foundation and help us continue to provide the support that makes the following comments possible:



“The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation grant of \$23,000 for videol audio equipment has changed the way our students gather and deliver Spartan2News which airs each morning to the student body. The new cameras provide hands-on learning opportunities as students learn camera techniques directly related to reporting and live broadcasting. Students are learning skills necessary to engage their listeners by writing, reading and delivering the script using the new teleprompters. Along with the teleprompters, new lighting creates a professional look. Communication between the studio and control room has been enhanced by means of a new two-way audio headset system. Currently we are designing a new set which integrates these tools and leads the program into the 21st century with the use of high definition.”

– Ron Seitel, Mountain Brook High School



“The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation grant of \$107,000 purchased two carts of mini laptops per elementary school for grades 2 and 3. The grade level cart of laptops is rotated among the classes for that grade level at each school. These laptops help to incorporate keyboarding skills into the curriculum. Keyboarding is a skill needed to assure that students are able to use technology in the most efficient manner possible. My students were so excited about the mini laptops that they decided to share their enthusiasm with the rest of the school through the school’s broadcast show. The students wrote a script explaining the benefits of learning keyboarding. After many practices and a few takes they filmed their presentation and created an original work using Windows Movie Maker. This type of enthusiasm for learning and engagement in learning would not have been possible without funding from the foundation.”

– Cindy Holt, Second Grade Teacher

Class Reunions

The Mountain Brook High School classes of 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 are preparing for their reunions. If you know of someone from those classes who might not have updated his/her contact information, please call or email the foundation office to provide that update – mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net or 414-0042.

The Class of 2000 will have its reunion on Saturday, July 10th. The class has established a website so that classmates can find out all the details of the Reunion and sign up for the events – www.mbhs2000.com.

Contact Information: Carmine Jordan, Executive Director, Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation
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