



the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XXIX, Issue 3

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Mountain Brook, Alabama

AMWASTE GUIDELINES

Place carts (cans) curbside and 4 ft from a stationary object such as a mailbox, tree or power pole. Please bag garbage and recyclables and break your boxes down to place in your can on the 1st pick up day of the week. Amwaste will empty up to 3 cans but they need to be placed 2-3 ft apart so the tipper can pick them up. Backdoor pick up should follow the same guidelines.

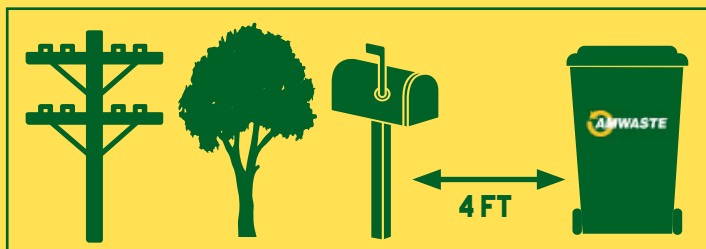
On your 2nd pick up day of the week, place household garbage and yard debris in your can. Bags of clippings, grass or leaves

need to be placed in your can. Please DO NOT leave 1 or 2 bags at the street with a small hand pile of limbs or one single limb. These need to be placed in your can for pick up.

Debris/bulk piles need to be separate from your garbage cans at the curb. Limbs, debris, bulk items and 10 or more bags can be placed at the curb for knuckle boom pickup. To find your knuckle boom pick up day, go to <https://www.mtnbrook.org>, Departments, Public Works, Waste and Leaf Pick Up Schedules.



USE THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE AMWASTE GUIDELINES VIDEO.



Mayor's Message

As typical, summer is a fun time in our city. Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 17th, for our Crestline Village Tent Sale. It's one of Crestline's biggest sales of the year, so grab a couple of friends and 'shop til you drop!'

Pizza anyone? We have so many great pizza restaurants in our city. Post Office Pies in Lane Park was recently recognized by the New York Times as one of the 'top 22 best pizza places in the United States.' Summer is a great time for friends and family to enjoy great food at our many restaurants throughout the City.

Let's stay in touch! I am well aware of the many inconveniences associated

with Jefferson County Sewer System's pipe replacement all across our City. Once completed, they follow up with road repaving. It has been a bit of a travel nightmare and often feels like a game of driving Whac-A-Mole! In a few months, we will begin construction on the roundabouts in Mountain Brook Village. There always seems to be a number of projects in the works around our ever-improving City. How can a resident keep up with all the construction? The single



best way is for you to join the City's text communication program. Once you join, we'll text you about major road closures as well as all other important events happening around Mountain Brook. We work hard to share only events and information we think will be of interest to you.

It is also a great way to keep up with City Council business. Each Friday before the Monday City Council meeting you will receive a text message with a link to both the Council's pre-meeting and formal meeting. A quick review will let you know what we are working on. If any topic is of interest to you, there are 'deep-dive' materials attached for your convenience. We welcome your opinions and input either in person, by Zoom, or email. To join our text communication system, text MOUNTAINBROOK to 91896. You'll immediately receive a text back indicating your request has been accepted.

PRSR STD
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MONTROE, GA

Mayor: Stewart H. Welch, III
CITY COUNCIL

Council President:

Virginia Carruthers Smith

Council Pro Tem,

William S. "Billy" Pritchard III,

Lloyd Shelton, Gerald Garner, Graham Smith

City Manager:

Sam S. Gaston, 802-3800

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

What's in This Issue?

- p. 1 Amwaste Guidelines
- p. 7 Board Appointments/Reappointments
- p. 6 Building Permit Activity
- p. 4 Citizen Appreciation Day
- p. 10 City Arborists work with Girl Scout Daisy Troop
- p. 3 City Budget and Financial Update
- p. 10 Compost is Still Available
- p. 7 Doo Your Part
- p. 6 Door-to-Door Solicitation
- p. 8 Drought Stress Impact on Trees and Plants
- p. 3 Fire Station Two Groundbreaking
- p. 2 Gardner Elected President of the Public Library Directors Association of Alabama
- p. 3 Heather Richards receives CMC designation
- p. 12-14 Library News
- p. 1 Mayor's Message
- p. 9 Memory Triangle Conversion to Native Habitat Meadow
- p. 11 Mountain Brook Schools News
- p. 8 Native Bee Hotel at City Hall
- p. 6 New Businesses
- p. 5 Quarterly Crime Statistics
- p. 4 Recent City Council Actions
- p. 2 Road/Sidewalk Improvements Update
- p. 6 Schedule of Meetings
- p. 1 Shop Mountain Brook First
- p. 7 Street Light Out
- p. 5 Text Alerts/Report an Issue
- p. 7 What is an Invasive Plant?



MOUNTAIN BROOK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SHOP MOUNTAIN BROOK & SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!

Visit <https://mtnbrookchamber.org> & Follow Us @mountainbrookchamber

Road/Sidewalk Improvements Update

Roundabouts at the US-280 ramps/Cahaba Road/Lane Park Road/Culver Road

Construction of the roundabouts at the intersection of the US-280 ramps, Cahaba Road, Lane Park Road, and Culver Road is anticipated to begin in the fall. A few minor utility relocations are already underway, and the project is scheduled to bid soon with clearing and grading work likely beginning in October. We would like to begin this work earlier, but since trees in Mountain Brook and the surrounding area provide potential summer roosting habitat for endangered bat species, the clearing cannot occur until October.

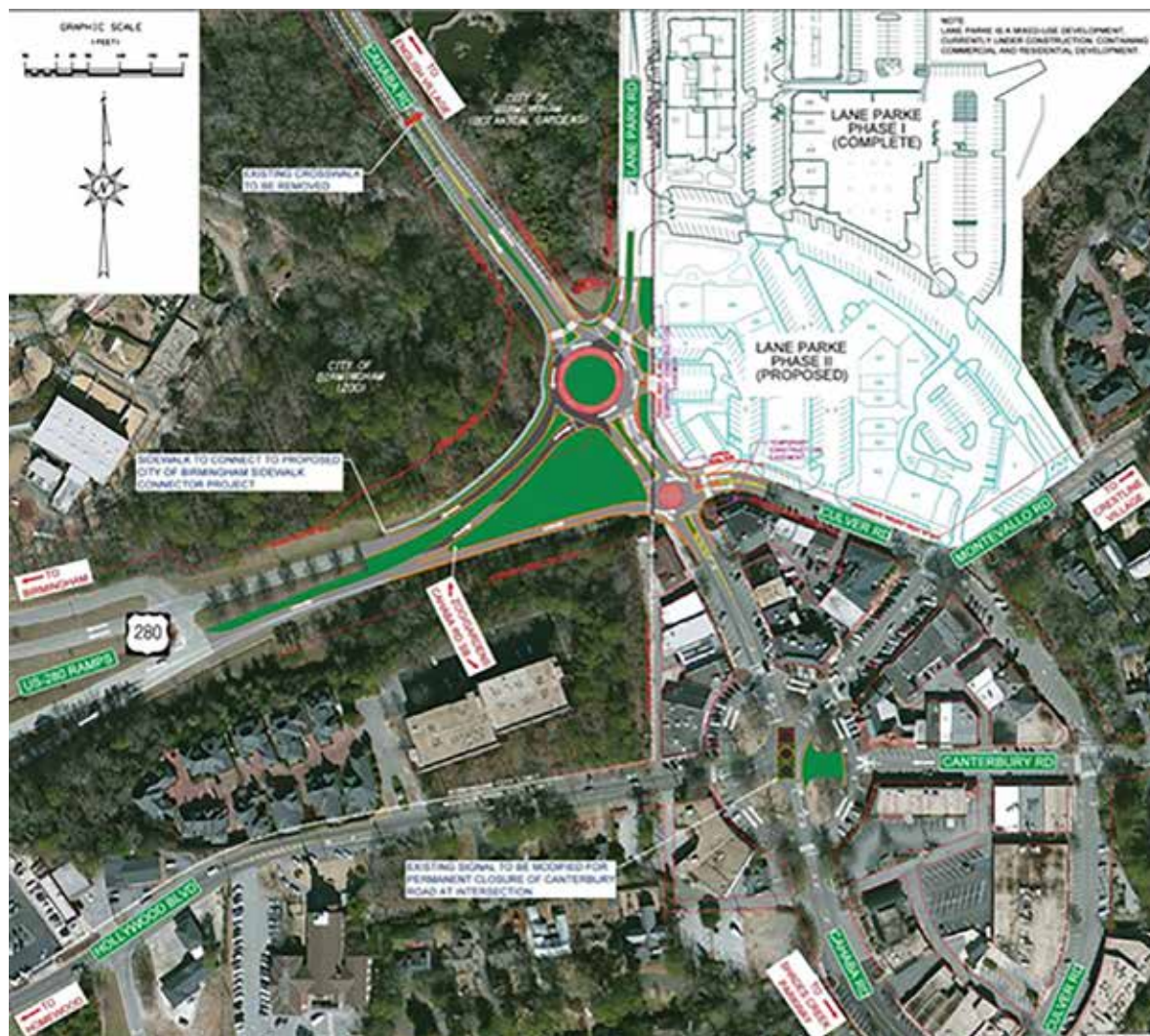
We will do our best to minimize that disruption as much of the construction will be done at night to avoid daytime lane closures during the week, and the intersection will remain open to traffic at all times. Upon completion, this project will create a welcoming gateway into the City, with landscaping and lighting improvements surrounding the roundabouts. We will be excited to see it completed!

Montclair Road Sidewalk Improvements

Design is approximately 90% complete for proposed sidewalk improvements along Montclair Road, and the City has acquired the small amount of additional right-of-way necessary for the project. The City of Mountain Brook received an award of federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for the project, which will extend from Country Club Road to Mountain Brook Park Drive. Most of the new sidewalk will be constructed along Montclair Road, although a short segment will be constructed along Shannon Lane to tie to existing sidewalk on Memory Lane. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall of 2024, pending project approvals needed from ALDOT.

Pine Ridge Road Sidewalk Improvements

The City has secured federal funding with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to design and construct a sidewalk along Pine Ridge Road from Overbrook Road to Old Leeds Road. Currently, the design of the project is approximately 75% complete, and we're in the process of acquiring right-of-way and temporary easements necessary for the project. Right-of-way or easements are needed from over 30 property owners, so this is a time-consuming process. We hope to complete the right-of-way acquisitions in about a year, which would allow for construction to begin in late 2025, pending ALDOT approvals.



Gardner Elected President of the Public Library Directors Association of Alabama

In February, Lindsay Gardner, O'Neal Library Director, was elected President of the newly formed Public Library Directors Association of Alabama (PLDAA). "I'm honored" said Gardner, "and excited to strengthen the network of library directors in our state."

PLDAA was formed to provide:

- a professional organization for library directors to promote and improve public library services in the State of Alabama
- to provide a forum for discussion among public library directors
- to promote the professional growth and unity of library directors
- to improve the visibility and effectiveness of public libraries with elected and appointed officials
- to provide a clearinghouse for the sharing of information and ideas relating to Alabama's public library system
- to provide a means for statewide communication, promotion, research and planning concerning public library services, operations, policy issues, regulations, and standards

Recently, PLDAA hosted Zoom meetings for library directors to discuss changes to the conditions required to receive state funding. Over 100 libraries were represented in those conversations.

"I am inspired by library directors in every region of the state who care deeply about their patrons and their communities and find innovative ways to encourage life-long learning," Gardner said.

The members of the PLDAA Executive Committee are President Lindsay Gardner (O'Neal Library), Vice-President Jessica Ross (Washington County), Secretary Craig Scott (Gadsden), Treasurer Chris Warren (Dothan-Houston County) and Members-at-Large, Kate Etheredge (North Shelby), Mandy Broadhurst (Guntersville), Rex Bain (Lawrence County) and Wendy Congiardo (Thomas Norton Public Library).

Congratulations to Heather Richards, City Clerk, on receiving CMC designation

On May 31st Heather Richards, City Clerk for the City of Mountain Brook, was awarded the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC). IIMC grants the CMC designation only to those Municipal Clerks who complete demanding education requirements and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, community, and state. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs, often totaling more than 120 educational hours, as well as have pertinent experience in a municipality. Please join us in congratulating Heather Richards on receiving this prestigious designation.



City Budget and Financial Update

The City's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30. For the year ended September 30, 2023, the City experienced a 13% increase in real estate taxes. Sales taxes decreased by 1%. Collectively, real estate and sales taxes account for about 65% of the General Fund revenues. For the year ended September 30, 2023, the City achieved a General Fund surplus of \$765,000 (compared to a budgeted surplus of \$181,000) and reported a General Fund balance of more than six months of operating expenses.

2024 is running ahead of budget projections with real estate taxes projected to increase by 7%. Sales tax collections are expected to come in about 1% more than the previous year. General Fund revenues for 2024 are projected to be \$54.2 million (more than 7.5% over the amount budgeted)

The 2025 budget development began on May 23 with a City Council work session. Departmental budgets were submitted to the Finance Director toward the end of June. The City Manager conducted the first review of the budgets with department supervisors in July and the Finance Committee will review the second draft of the budget in August. The City Council will also review the budget and Finance Committee recommendations in August or early September. The public hearing to consider the ordinance adopting the 2025 budget is tentatively scheduled for September 23. For more information, please visit the City's website (www.mtnbrook.org).

FIRE STATION TWO GROUNDBREAKING



On Monday, June 10th, Mountain Brook City leaders engaged in an official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fire Station Two. The station will be located at 3100 Overton Road and will be replacing the current Station Two on Loxley Drive. Stone Building Company is the general contractor for the project and should have it completed in 12 months.

CITIZEN APPRECIATION DAY



On April 27th, 2024, Mountain Brook hosted its annual Citizen Appreciation Day event. This year's event was bigger than ever with more bounce houses, a foam pit, trackless train, and touch-a-trucks. This free event had something for everyone. We want to thank you for making this event such a huge success and want to invite you to join us next year for even more fun!



Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since April 1, 2024:

- Ordinance No. 2157 - Amended Article XVI of the City Code Planned Unit Development (PUD).
- Ordinance No. 2158 - Amended Article XXV of the City Code Amendments.
- Ordinance No. 2159 - Amended Chapter 121 of the City Code General and Administration with respect to awnings.
- Ordinance No. 2160 - Amended Chapter 14 of the City Code with respect to fees for awnings and non-compliance.
- Ordinance No. 2161 - Amended Chapter 50 of the City Code with respect to Section 50-22- Designation of Streets for Local Traffic Only.

The City Council has approved the following projects since April 1, 2024:

- Awarded the bid for the Mountain Brook Fire Station No. 2 to Stone Building LLC.
- Approved the rate of pay for indigent defense services for the Mountain Brook Municipal Court.
- Approved the establishment of a native plant pollinator habitat at Memory Triangle.
- Expressed Gratitude to Brian Lucas for his service on the Parks and Recreation Board.
- Proclaimed May 12-18, 2024 as National Police Week.

- Proclaimed April 28-May 4, 2024 as Small Business Week.
- Recommended to the State of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board issue a Restaurant Liquor license to De La Huerta LLC (trade name: Fridas Cocina and Cantina).
- Executed an agreement with The Friends of Jemison Park for the Woodland Bridge Connector at Jemison Park.
- Accepted the proposal by Architectural Graphic & Design Specialties, Inc. for the wayfinding signage replacement panels within Mountain Brook.
- Executed an agreement with The Pave Team LLC for the Brookwood Forest Elementary School parking lot ramp.
- Authorized Sain Associates to prepare an application for a TAP grant for the installation of a sidewalk along Brookwood Road.
- Accepted the professional service agreement with Skipper Consulting Inc. for the traffic calming analysis and design for Halbrook Lane and Arundel Drive.
- Accepted the proposal with Alabama Power for the installation of surveillance cameras in and around Jemison Park Trail.
- Awarded the bid to CB&A Construction for the Mountain Lane and Montevallo Lane Area Drainage Improvements project.

- Approved the traffic calming recommendations for Halbrook Lane and Arundel Drive.
- Ratified an agreement with Lower Bros Tennis Courts for the repair and resurface of tennis courts at the Mountain Brook High School.
- Executed an agreement with the City of Homewood for lending fire trucks and other firefighting equipment whenever the necessity arises.
- Awarded the bid to CB&A for the North Woodridge Road sidewalk project.
- Approved an agreement with the State of Alabama Department of Transportation for the transfer of right-of-way on Cahaba Road.
- Approved the improvements to the scoreboards on Fields 3-6 at the Athletic Complex.
- Declared July 19 - 21, 2024 "Back to School" Sales Tax Holiday.
- Executed an agreement with the Fire Department and UAB PEM for the change of medical directors.
- Accepted the proposal submitted by Nimrod Long and Associates for the Locksley Drive Sidewalk Project.
- Executed an agreement with Cardinal Technology Consulting Services of Alabama for AT&T issues.

- Executed an agreement with Trobaugh and Company LLC for tax and license auditing services.
- Approved the beautification improvements on Stoneridge Drive traffic island.
- Executed a contractor agreement with Father Nature of Birmingham for the planter installation on Cahaba Road.
- Executed a social media and communications contract with Cotton State Media LLC (DBA Focus Creative Birmingham) for the social media management, communications consulting, videography, photography, and graphic design services for Mountain Brook.
- Accepted the proposal with Sain Associates for the survey of Overton Park.
- Executed an agreement with Birmingham Stone LLC for the Woodcliff Park stone sign.
- Recommended to the State of Alabama, ABC Board the issuance of a Special Events Retail license to TRO, inc., (trade name: Otey's Fest), 224 Country Club Park parking lot.
- Approved the change order No. 1 for the North Woodridge Road sidewalk project.
- Approved the Eagle Scout project submitted by Joseph Spencer III regarding the installation of ¼ mile markers along city trails and parks.
- Approved the conditional use application submitted by Craig Martin for a pet grooming facility at 2921 Cahaba Road.



Quarterly Crime Statistics

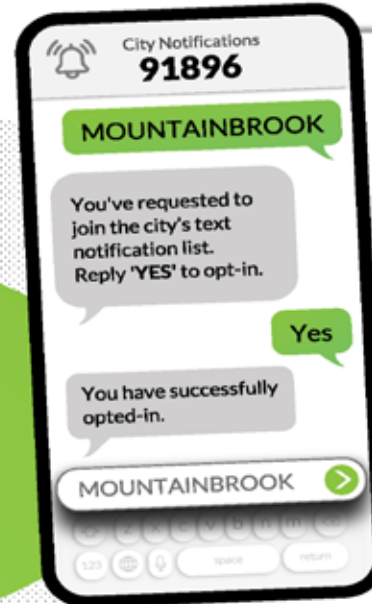
	1st Quarter 2024	2nd Quarter 2024
Robbery	1	3
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0
Burglary/Residence	10	6
Burglary/Business	0	2
Theft	47	42
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	11	19
Auto Theft	3	1
Assaults (Other)	5	1
Identity Theft	22	14
Criminal Mischief	13	11
Drugs	32	33
Family Violence	8	5
Accidents	200	235
• With Injuries	12	6
• With Fatalities	0	0
Calls For Service	6701	7465
House Watches	243	354

WANT TO HELP US LOWER THESE NUMBERS?

1. Lock your vehicle.
 2. Take your keys.
 3. Do not 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 are not at home.
- See it! Hear it! Report it!** Let us know when you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

RECEIVE TEXT ALERTS

City of Mountain Brook **TextMyGov**
Text Alerts
 Get city updates sent directly to your phone via text message.



Sign up to receive city text message notifications!

Opt-in today,

Text **MOUNTAINBROOK**
 to: **91896**



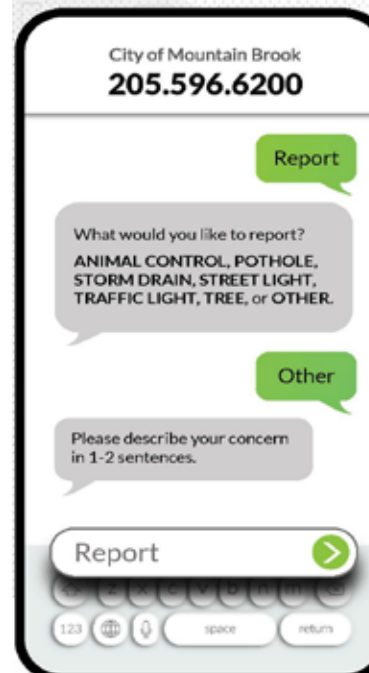
What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
- Message frequency varies. Notifications may include: **Upcoming Events, Road Closures, and Council Meetings.**
- You can text **STOP** at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

REPORT AN ISSUE

City of Mountain Brook **TextMyGov**
Need to report an issue?



Send a Text Message

Skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's text messaging service to quickly report an issue on the go.

24/7 Smart Texting Service

Reporting an issue to the city is easier than ever and can be done at any time.

Simply text the word **REPORT** to our smart texting number. You will then be prompted to type in the keyword for the type of issue you are reporting and guided through a few easy steps to complete your report.

You can report issues such as: **ANIMAL CONTROL, POTHOLE, STREET ISSUES, DRAINAGE, or OTHER**

Get Started

Text **Report** to: **205.596.6200**

Save our text messaging number to your phone to access it anytime you need it!

Msg & Data rates apply. View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions



Door-to-Door Solicitation

The City of Mountain Brook has an ordinance that prohibits solicitations in most cases.

Ordinance No. 1930, Chapter 26, Section 26-290 requires that all transient/itinerant dealers, vendors, and or other salespeople who make door to door calls, or those who may set up in a temporary location, to first obtain a business license to do so.

This includes individuals, firms, corporations, companies, associations, partnerships, agencies, or representatives of a business who attempt to sell, solicit orders for sale of goods, services, or merchandise.

It also includes the distribution of handbills, newspapers, or other forms of advertising.

The only exception to this ordinance is for those that are engaged in activities associated with or supporting religious, charitable, governmental, educational, or political organizations or causes.

The Mountain Brook Police Department must be notified prior to sending out any door to door solicitors. Permission to allow a background and criminal check to be performed is required.

The requirements for a solicitation license are:

The applicant must have a written invitation from each individual resident that they intend to visit prior to a license being issued. This letter must be mailed from the resident directly to the City and include the resident's name, address, and phone number. All residents will be contacted to verify the invitation.

- Applications must be completed ten days prior to business commencing in Mountain Brook.
- A valid photo identification for all salespersons/solicitors must be provided.
- A bond in the amount of not less than \$100 and no more than \$1,000 must be posted.
- Applicants must comply with all City Ordinances and State laws.

The hours of door to door operation are limited to 9:00 am through 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

New Businesses

CONTRACTORS

- Knox Home Services, 3124 Warrington Road, (205) 427-0460

PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- Confluence Ventures Inc., 2500 Watkins Road, (205) 602-6979
- Crestside Consulting, (dba\ Crestside Consulting), 3649 Crestside Road, (205) 901-2222
- Cunningham Financial Group, LLC, 2908 Pumphouse Road, (205) 326-7364
- David C. Skinner LLC, 300 Office Park Drive, (205) 871-9566
- Fant, Suzzan, 2839 Cahaba Road, (205) 907-9999
- Haden House Interiors LLC, 333 Eaton Road, (601) 863-9576
- James Kennedy Events LLC, 755 Montgomery Drive, (334) 868-2001
- Monroe, Shelley, (dba\ Shelley Graphics), 836 Euclid Avenue, (205) 879-7008
- Pollard, Ashley M., 6 Office Park Circle, Suite 215, (205) 382-8441
- Senior Supports LLC, 121 Elm Street, (205) 305-2218
- Springboard HR, (dba\ Springboard HR LLC), 601 Euclid Avenue, (205) 552-3738
- The Material Guys, 2949 Montevallo Road, (205) 547-9748
- Threads, Inc., 3829 River Oaks Road, (205) 907-4585

CLOTHING, FOOD SERVICE AND RETAIL

- De La Huerta, LLC, (dba\ Fridas Cocina & Cantina), 2031 Cahaba Road, (832) 457-6532
- Feast Bham LLC, (dba\ Feast Bham), 81 Church Street, (205) 881-9225
- HFD No. 55 Inc., (dba\ J Crew Factory), 2800 Cahaba Village Place, (212) 209-2782
- MJ Cory LLC, (dba\ Shop MCs), 2734 Cahaba Road, (256) 452-1627
- Monkees of Mountain Brook LLC, 2006 Cahaba Road, (205) 783-1240
- Shorebreak Mountain Brook LLC, (dba\ Surf Hound), 2721 Cahaba Road, (404) 936-4535

Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	1st Quarter - 2024		2nd Quarter - 2024	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	3	\$ 3,493,153	7	\$ 11,807,525
Alterations/Additions	168	\$ 25,298,162	186	\$ 28,982,094
Repairs/Other	166	\$ 5,621,147	159	\$ 5,290,998
Totals:	337	\$ 34,412,462	352	\$ 46,080,617

COMPARISON OF PREVIOUS YEAR

Permit Type:	1st Quarter - 2023		2nd Quarter - 2023	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	3	\$ 4,110,000	15	\$ 12,857,625
Alterations/Additions	76	\$ 20,213,860	87	\$ 18,075,151
Repairs/Other	184	\$ 6,836,435	215	\$ 32,498,218
Totals:	263	\$ 31,160,295	317	\$ 63,430,994

Schedule of Meetings

CITY COUNCIL	2nd & 4th Mon.	7:00 p.m. <i>(Call 205-802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting)</i>	City Hall
BOARD OF EDUCATION	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office 205-871-4608
LIBRARY BOARD	3rd Tues.	8:45 a.m.	Library
PARK & REC. BOARD	2nd Tues.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT	3rd Mon.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
PLANNING COMMISSION	1st Mon.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
VILLAGE DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE	3rd Wed.	9:00 a.m.	City Hall
BOARD OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN	1st Tues.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	City Hall
EDITORIAL BOARD	Quarterly	8:15 a.m.	City Hall

Board Appointments/Reappointments:

- Reappointed Jenifer G. Kimbrough to the Board of Education with the term of office to end May 31, 2029.
- Reappointed Branden Plowden to the Board of Landscape Design with the term of office to end April 27, 2027.
- Reappointed Cleo Kathryn Gorman to the Village Design Review Committee with the term of office to end May 29, 2027.

Street Light Out?

Alabama Power Company maintains almost 400 street lights on the streets and alleys of our City. However, they do not regularly check for street lights that are not working. If you see a street light that is out, please report it to the City Manager's office at (205) 802-3800 or gastons@mtnbrook.org so the City can coordinate its repair with Alabama Power Company.



PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

What is an Invasive Plant?

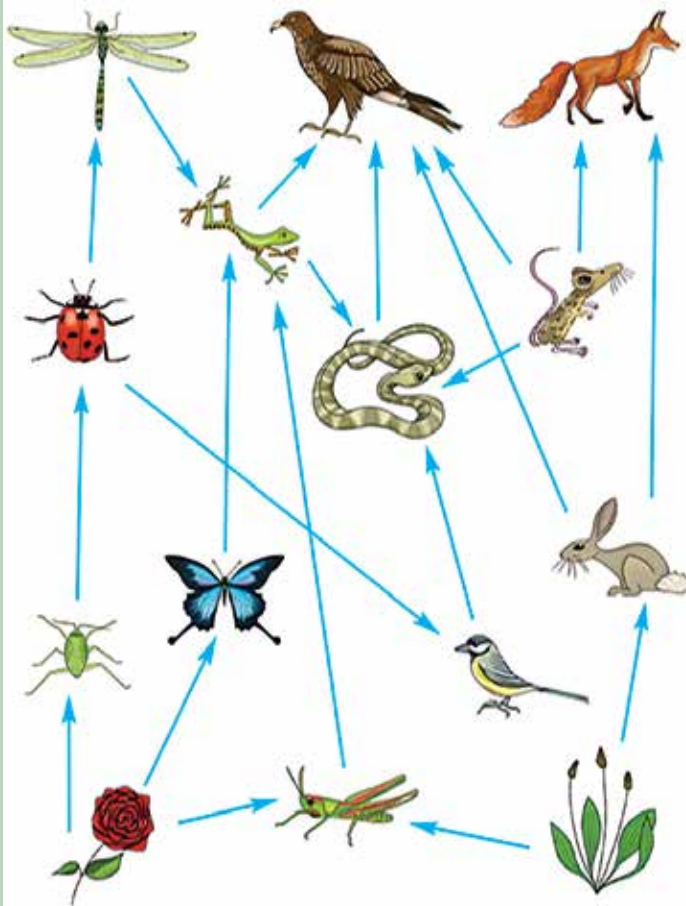
Let's start with the difference between a native plant and an introduced plant. Short answer: a **native plant** is one that has evolved with the native insect population present in our ecosystems today; therefore it can support complex food webs at the base of the food chain. An **introduced plant** is one that has been introduced from an ecosystem outside of its evolutionary homeland.

Why does it matter? Introduced plants do a poor job of supporting native insects and bird populations (birds rely on caterpillars to feed their young... 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to raise one nest of baby songbirds!).

Okay, then are all introduced plants harmful? No.

While introduced plants aren't doing much to assist our native ecosystems, some do more damage than others; we call the damaging plants **invasive species**. What is an invasive species? Non-native invasive species are easily spread and increase their populations rapidly, and they do it at the detriment of native plant populations that support the local food web. With no natural enemies from their homelands to keep them in check, non-native invasives gain a distinct advantage over natives, choking them out of ecosystems that depend on them.

What are a few examples of particularly aggressive non-native invasives? Bradford Pear, Mimosa, and Privet are common examples that we see spreading all throughout Alabama. And of course, we're all too familiar with Kudzu. For a list of 13 egregious invasives that disrupt Alabama ecosystems go to: www.mtnbrook.org/mbee/page/natives-introduced-invasives



NATIVE PLANTS BRING LIFE



Doo Your Part

Please Doo Your Part! and clean up after your dog. This problem exists at all of our parks, trails and sidewalks. The City provides disposable bags available for your use in our doggie stations at all of our parks and trails. Please properly dispose of your bag after use. If you see any that need to be refilled, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (205)802-3877. **Reminder: NO DOGS are allowed on the playing fields.**



Native Bee Hotel at City Hall

If you haven't seen the bee hotel at City Hall come on by and take a look! This bee hotel is designed with nesting cavities for native, solitary bees. When you come to observe you don't need to be worried about a bee sting. These bees don't live in a hive or make honey, so they are not aggressive (nothing to defend!). We primarily have tiny mason bees and leafcutter bees laying their eggs in the hotel.

Mason bees create cells inside the nesting cavities using

mud, and leafcutter bees line their cells with small bits of leaves and flower petals. After the eggs are installed in the spring and summer, the bee larvae will overwinter in these cavities and emerge the following spring.

Solitary, native bees are super important to the stability of our native ecosystems! So when you visit the bee hotel please be mindful of the delicacy of the nesting cavities and do not disturb. Sadly, we've had many problems over the past year

with young visitors making a "peg-game" out of the bee hotel; relocating nesting tubes inside holes in the logs (see photo). Do us a favor and share the purpose and importance of the bee hotel with MB youth, and let's all enjoy the wonders of these fascinating creatures!

Learn More at MBee, AL: www.mtnbrook.org/mbee/page/bee-hotels



Drought Stress Impact on Trees and Plants



What can we do to help our thirsty plants affected by drought stress this season? The first thing to remember about drought and plant/water relations is that it is virtually impossible to reverse the effects of drought stress once they manifest. The good news is that it is a condition that can be prevented with a little forethought and moderate expense!

The traditional rule of thumb is that plants should receive supplemental water during a week that sees less than an inch of rain; and this coincides with the start of the growing season. Unlike turf lawns with their shallow roots, shrubs and trees generally do not benefit from sprinkler systems. It's recommended that a large volume of water be applied as deeply as possible, which is best done with drip emitters, bubblers, or soaker hoses that run for an extended period at very low pressure. Not quite sure what works best for you? A good landscape maintenance professional will be able to help you determine the best setup depending on soil type, drainage and number of plants.

Along with irrigation, the site should receive various treatments to ensure that all that water gets to where it needs to go without competition. This includes removing pesky weeds, mulching to help reduce evaporation, and improving soil to increase the rate of infiltration and percolation.

Many factors influencing the health and vitality of trees and shrubs leave us out of control and forced to react. Water is an easy way we can contribute that makes a significant impact and will pay real dividends in the midst of our hot Alabama summer.

Memory Triangle Conversion to Native Habitat Meadow

You may have noticed that in the spring of 2024 the Memory Triangle lawn was literally "uprooted" as a result of the county sewer project. The City recognized this literal blank-slate-mud-slick as an opportunity to make a meaningful investment in the ecological diversity of Mountain Brook!

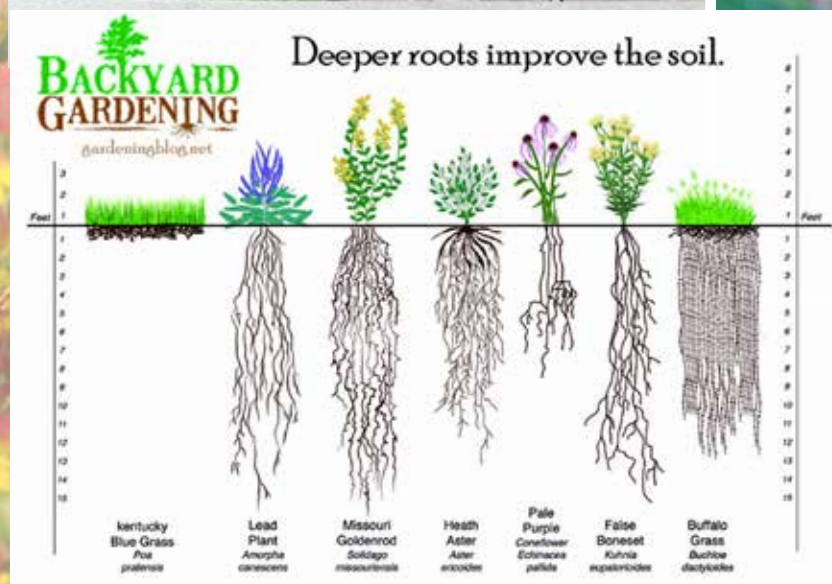
The 12,000 square foot traffic island was previously limited to three trees and grass. Grassy lawns do little to support ecological food webs, and even less to slow down stormwater run-off since their roots are roughly 6 inches deep. Native plants, on the other hand, have roots that are 12-15 feet deep! This means that native plants are superbly equipped to stabilize soils and sequester carbon (pull pollution out of the air and put it deep into the soil, where it actually nourishes the underground microbial world)! Due to their deep root systems, native plants need no irrigation, and they have been trained over centuries to thrive in our southeastern climate and weather patterns!

Memory Triangle will be planted with a native seed mix that will stabilize the soil, prevent run-off, and provide native vegetation that will support a wide variety of pollinators and birds. The proposed seed mix has been specifically designed for this Triangle by Roundstone Native Seeds, the same company that the City used to help design the seed mix for the recent Jemison Park restoration.

The design of the Triangle will include a 10-foot wide semi-formal grassy turf strip of native Buffalo Grass around the perimeter. The interior of the Triangle will be planted with a seed mix of native long-grasses (season 1) and native wildflowers (blooming in season 2). This change in vegetation for the Triangle will have a more relaxed (less formal) look to it than what has traditionally grown in this location.

To view a summary of the ecological benefits of each native plant to be installed go to: www.mtnbrook.org/mbee/page/memory-triangle-conversion-native-habitat. To view photos of all proposed plant species, follow the same link and scroll to the bottom of the page or click on the QR code below.

Watch us grow and #RootfortheMeadow by sharing about it on your favorite form of social media!



City Arborists work with Girl Scout Daisy Troop

City Arborists Don Cafaro and Jerry Weiss helped Girl Scout Daisy Troop 26113 plant dogwood trees at a recent scout outing. The girls learned about trees, and how to plant and care for them. As a result, the Scouts earned their Arbor Day Patch.



PUBLIC WORKS

Compost is Still Available

The City of Mountain Brook Public Works Department still has plenty of compost available for your gardening needs. Although spring is our busiest season for compost sales, the fall of the year is also a good time to add compost to your garden and other planted areas.

The city recycles the loose leaves collected each year in the fall and winter. The loose leaves are collected each year by Public Works crews from November 1 to March 1 as a service to the citizens. The leaves will then be dumped at the Public Works

facility at 3579 East Street, Mountain Brook Alabama 35243, near Rathmell Soccer complex. (use Birmingham if entering into GPS). The leaves are pushed into piles, turned, and as a result of decomposing, become compost, a useful gardening by-product of the leaves.

Citizens of Mountain Brook may come to the Public Works facility and receive the compost at no charge if they load themselves. Public Works employees will load it mechanically for a fee of \$20.00 per pickup load. Non-residents may purchase

the compost for \$15.00 if they load themselves. We will load compost for \$20.00 per pickup load or \$30.00 per scoop to load larger trucks.

The compost operation is available Tuesday through Friday 7:00 am - 11:00 am and 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm. If you have questions regarding compost you may contact Mountain Brook Public Works at (205) 802-2390.



Mountain Brook Schools Update

Letter from Dicky Barlow

Hey everyone! I hope you had a terrific summer break and enjoyed time with your family and friends. We are gearing up for another fantastic school year in Mountain Brook Schools and I want to share with you some highlights from last year as well as some news for the new school year.

Last school year was one to remember! We had 318 students graduate from the high school and they are already on their way to do great things. Of those 318 graduates, 24 were named National Merit Finalists. Our robotics program sent more teams (8) to Worlds Competition than any other program in the world. MBHS Athletics took home 10 state championships across nine different sports. Students in our Fine Arts programs had their talent and work displayed at the state and regional level. And let's not forget about our MBHS Dorians dance team who won the National Championship in February!

Among the many other accolades and accomplishments, this summer we took time as a school district to reflect on last year and ways to grow and improve. Our faculty and staff completed over 10,000 hours of professional development learning new ways to enhance their craft and better serve our students.

We are excited to welcome nearly 40 new faculty and staff members this year! Each year, it is a privilege to have the chance to personally meet with our new employees and get to know them as they have the chance to learn more about our school district and community. We are excited to announce our new school administrators as well. Amanda Lilley (Crestline) and Megan Simmons (Mountain Brook Elementary) were each named Assistant Principal at their respective schools in June. Additionally, in the spring we announced Dr. Heather Mays as the new Principal at Mountain Brook Elementary. She is already doing a fantastic job there!

We want to remind you that your child's well-being and safety is our top priority. Each year, we evaluate our safety measures and practices to ensure we keep all those in our care safe and that they feel welcomed. In addition to striving for providing an effective, challenging, and engaging education, we want all of our students to feel known and cared for each day that they come to school. True hospitality and care for the individual has been a focus of ours and I hope to see that continue to permeate throughout our school district and community.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children and we are excited about what is to come this school year. See you soon!

Dicky Barlow
Superintendent, Mountain Brook Schools



Amanda Lilley



Megan Simmons



Dr. Heather Mays

O'Neal Library News

ADULT DEPARTMENT

The O'Neal Library app is the best place to keep up with all the amazing programs being added all the time! Another great benefit is not having to carry your library card. The app saves it all so it's ready when you need it. In addition to storing your library card for anytime access, you can easily request library material, access research databases, and tap the Events icon to display up-to-the-minute library programs you can register for right on your phone. Some of the exciting offerings coming up are listed below, but we're always adding more. Download the app today, regularly check the events calendar online, or sign up for our weekly event e-newsletter to be notified about the latest and greatest additions. Registration is required for most of our programming, available on the website calendar at www.oneallibrary.org.

Adult Special Programs

- Tuesday, August 6, 5-7pm: Great Short Stories on Film presents Smoke Signals
- Wednesday, August 7, 10am-noon: Mahjong Experienced Players & Beginners – Registration Required
- Friday, August 9, All Day: World Cross Stitch Day Visit and Stitch
- Sunday, August 18, 7-10pm: Under the Mountain film series, Long Weekend
- Tuesday, August 20, 6:30-8:30pm: 80s Adventure film series, The Princess Bride
- Wednesday, August 28, 6-8pm: Sustainable Style Clothing Swap
- Wednesday, September 18, noon-1pm: Retirement Planning Part 1
- Wednesday, October 2, 6-8pm: Ages 21+, Nightmare on Oak Street DIY Haunted House craft – Registration Required

Gentle Yoga - With Marie Blair

- Tuesdays, 10-11am

Bookgroups

Great Short Stories Group

- Monday, August 12, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, "This is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona" by Sherman Alexie
- Monday, September 9, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, "Bringing Up Baby" by Hagar Wilde

Now available at the 2nd floor service desk for in-library use, our Sensory Kit is designed to support the sensory needs of teens and adults and to help neurodivergent patrons have a more comfortable time in the library. All are welcome to use the Sensory Kit. From fidgets to noise-canceling headphones to weighted lap blankets, items in the kit are intended to reduce anxiety and frustration and increase focus.

Residents within the Mountain Brook city limits can now enjoy a new All Access experience from the New York Times Online. Your complimentary access includes everything The New York Times offers. Visit oneallibrary.org/nytimes-all-access to get started. Users must be a resident in Mountain Brook city limits and 18 years or older to gain access.

- Monday, October 14, 6:30-7:30pm, "Supertoys Last All Summer Long" by Brian Aldiss

The Bookies Book Club

- Tuesday, August 13, 10:00am - 11:30am, TBD
- Tuesday, September 10, 10:00am - 11:30am, TBD
- Tuesday, October 8, 10:00am - 11:30am, TBD

Books & Beyond Discussion Group

- Tuesday, August 27, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Dinosaurs
- Tuesday, September 24, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Math
- Tuesday, October 29, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Magic/Magicians

Crafterday! Open Crafting Sessions

- Saturday, August 10, 9am-noon
- Saturday, October 12, 9am-noon

Medicare Made Clear: - What You Need to Know

- Wednesday, August 14, 10am-noon
- Wednesday, September 25, 10am-noon
- Wednesday, October 9, 10am-noon
- Wednesday, October 30, 10am-noon

Library Board Meetings

- Tuesday, September 17, 8:45 am
- Tuesday, October 15, 8:45 am



The O'Neal Library App Is Your Ticket:
For checking out books, attending events, accessing movies, travel guides, language-learning, audiobooks, and a whole new world!
Download the App for Apple or Android Today

Even as summer ends, the spooky fun continues at Under the Mountain! This August 18, we have a movie for all the lovers out there: Colin Eggleston's *Long Weekend* from 1978! This psychological thriller of bad romance and atmospheric dread is set in the Australian outback and features the tagline, "Their crime was against nature...Nature found them guilty!" Ah, what a perfect way to say goodbye to summer.

On September 14, the O'Neal Library welcomes best-selling novelist Victor LaValle to Under the Mountain! LaValle is the author most recently of the revisionist horror/western *Lone Women*; and his books *The Changeling* and *The Devil in Silver* have both been adapted into television series. LaValle is the winner of two Shirley Jackson Awards, two British Fantasy Awards, and three Bram Stoker Awards. He will be joining us at the library for an author event, with a Q&A and book signing to follow. Until then, check out our upcoming events online and learn first-hand why Under the Mountain is your destination for the strange and eerie.

- August 18—*Long Weekend* @ 7pm
- September 14—Author Victor LaValle @7pm



O'Neal Library News

Children's Department

TEENS

Friday, August 16, all day: Back to School Snacks & FAQs!

Ask a librarian about free resources or for a book recommendation and receive a free snack!

Teen Advisory Board

- Monday, August 26, 4:30-6pm
- Monday, September 9, 4:30-6pm
- Monday, October 7, 4:30-6pm

Game On

- Friday, September 6, 3:30-5pm
- Friday, October 4, 3:30-5pm



Teen Crafts

- Wednesday, September 11, 4-5pm
- Wednesday, October 9, 4-5pm

DIY Yums

- Wednesday, September 18, 4-5pm
- Wednesday, October 30, 4-5pm

Library Loot Book Club

- Thursday, September 19, 4:30-5:30pm
- Thursday, October 24, 4:30-5:30pm

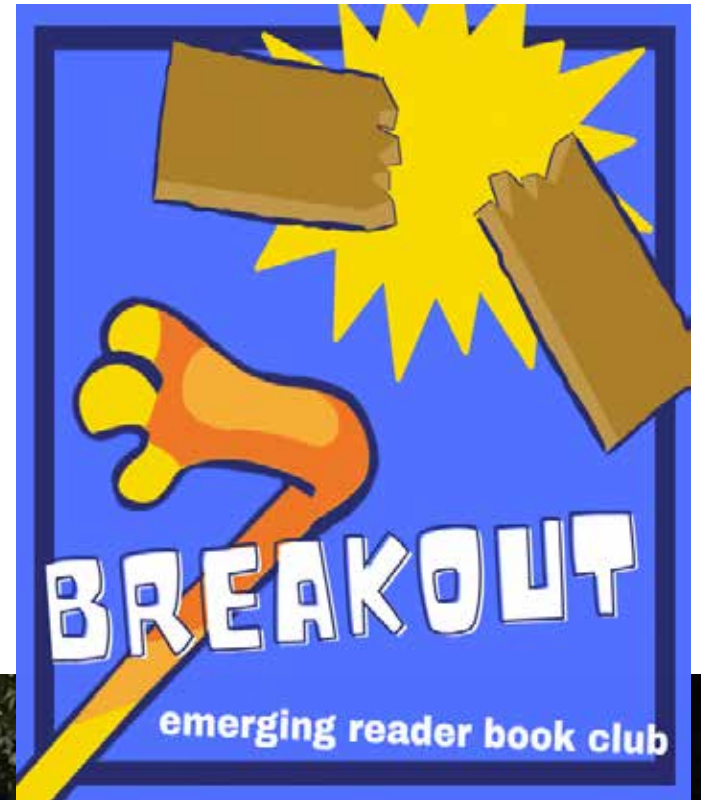


Breakout Book Club for New Readers

Everywhere you look, there are book clubs of all sorts – for women, for men, for readers of mystery and romance and literary fiction. But did you know there's a book club dedicated specifically to your child who is just beginning to read alone? It's true – it's Breakout Book Club! Sign up online ahead of time and come pick up a copy of the month's book, then read it with your child at home. When it's time for book club, head to the Library together for an hour of art, movement, games, and book chat aimed at helping you and your reader engage with the story as a team in a way that builds enthusiasm for future reading adventures. The next Breakout Book Club is September 9. Spots are limited – sign up today at oneallibrary.org!

Save the Date: A Night Dark and Grimm

The Library's annual family fairy-tale festival, A Night Dark & Grimm, will be the evening of Friday, October 18, and will feature an enchanted world of fairy tale game booths, crafts, prizes, snacks, and costumed characters inside and outside the Library.



O'Neal Library News

Art and Creativity at O'Neal Library

"You'd be amazed how discovering a new way to stick things together can up our game," says Children's Library Assistant Rachel Owens from atop a ladder, where she is in the process of hanging a roller coaster from the ceiling. "Stronger magnets, new kinds of Command strips, printable peel-and-stick paper...oh, and our old favorites, fishing line and duct tape. A pool noodle can become just about anything if you have the right adhesive."

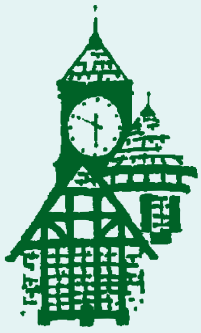
Owens is responding to a question that patrons often ask as summer reading decorations start to take shape: who does all this, and how? In the case of the roller coaster, the materials are a line of pool noodles, a pair of garden hoses, and some strategically cut foam board. Other areas of the department feature floor-to-ceiling trees made of twisted paper, mountain backgrounds printed and hung from the ceiling, a tornado brought to life with plastic pipes and polyester fill, and silver umbrellas turned into alien spaceships. Frequent library user Sheree McCall is less interested in the materials and more interested in the process. "I used to think they hired someone to come decorate for summer. When I found out it's all done by staff, I wanted to know how in the world they came up with all this!" McCall says.

The decorations are definitely a team effort. The eight employees of the Children's Department start with the year's summer reading theme, which is selected by a national collaborative. At O'Neal Library, the Children's Department staff brainstorm broad possibilities for fleshing out the theme in a way that creates an immersive environment for kids visiting the library. For example, when the theme was "Make a Splash: Read!" they chose to create a water park. Once the librarians decide on a direction, they begin tossing out specifics. What do we need to make a convincing water park? Slides? Pools? A ticket booth? Lost and found? Pinterest is often a helpful springboard for ideas as a decoration map of the department evolves. Finally, before the ladder-toting and scissors-stealing begins, the last planning step is determining what materials and processes will be best for construction. This phase can be a series of trials and errors – someone's incredible idea may end up being too difficult to fabricate. It's not unusual for the librarians to change course several times before finding what works best.

Under the directorship of the late Sue DeBrecht, the Children's Department began to be granted carte blanche to embody their creative decorative visions, as long as they respected the then-new building, says former Children's Department Manager, Carol Melton. "When you have a talented staff and the community's response is overwhelmingly positive, how can you not try to top the previous year every time?" laughs Melton. She recalled the creativity of former Children's Assistant April Moon who dreamed up and built a tiki hut one year. The decorations have only grown more elaborate as staff members have joined the team and leadership has changed. Now, Mountain Brook Elementary School librarian Libby Kiyak makes a point to visit the O'Neal Library Children's Department each summer to see the decorations. "Every year, they just totally outdo themselves."

While creating an enchanting world is exciting and rewarding in itself, the goal is always to cultivate enthusiasm for books in the Library's youngest patrons. Taking a break from the roller coaster, Owens watches a preschooler enter the Children's Department, mouth agape, and utter a quiet, "Woooooow," as he takes in the scene. "That," says Owens, "is why we do all this. That kid is going to want to spend time here, which will lead to him plugging in to programs and summer reading, which may even draw his other family members to become involved as well. Who knows? Maybe he'll grow up a reader because he falls in love with the Library this summer."





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THE VILLAGES OF

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MOUNTAIN BROOK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

Birmingham Culinary Forum



Frank Stitt

Highlands Bar and Grill, Chez
Fon Fon & Bottega Restaurant



Stacey Craig

The Bright Star Restaurant



Jorge Castro

Sol y Luna &
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Chris Hastings

Hot and Hot Fish Club
& Oven Bird

AUGUST 21ST | 11:00AM

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Summer Social



Our recent Summer Social at the Grand Bohemian Art Gallery was a sold-out success, where members enjoyed drinks, appetizers, and made valuable connections.

Thank You Mountain Brook

Readers and Advertisers!



August 2, 1990



SERVING THE OVER THE MOUNTAIN AREA SINCE 1990



OCTOBER 27

Harvest on Hoyt, A Community Supper

November 21

Crestline Holiday Open House

December 5

Mountain Brook Village Holiday Open House

December 8

Mountain Brook Holiday Parade

December 12

English Village Holiday Open House



New Members

- Alabama Aquarium & Pond Services
- Yellowhammer Roofing
- Alabama Appliance
- Allen Mortgage
- 5 Dexter Salon
- Frida's Cocina & Cantina
- Bandwagon
- The Village Printer
- Dalton Health Direct Primary Care
- Drew Odum Alfa Insurance
- Pinnacle Bank
- Scale Watchers Rx Birmingham
- Curry Corner
- On-Site Productions
- Jeni's Ice Creams
- Hillary Weiss, LAH Sotheby's Realty
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- Chill Chariot Bar



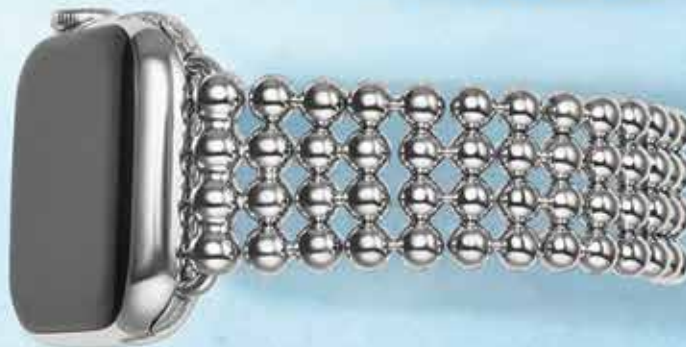
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Alabama Oncology Foundation, April 11th

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Leaf 'N Petal 50th Anniversary, April 15th



RIBBON CUTTINGS



UPS Store, April 30th



Tribe Hair Co., May 1st



Frida's Cocina and Cantina, May 9th



Weissman Orthodontics, June 20th



Jeni's Ice Cream, June 25th



Scale Watchers Rx, June 27th



Mobilizing the community for academic excellence.

The Mission of the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation is to mobilize community support and resources for the academic improvement of the school system. Funds raised become part of a permanent endowment.

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MBGives.org

The Foundation exists to provide financial support to meet the academic needs that are beyond the current scope and means of the school system. The Foundation's work is based on the needs of the school system as a whole.

More Innovation and Resources!

Foundation Approves Grant

A grant total of \$587,696 will be given to Mountain Brook Schools for the 2024-2025 school year from its Endowment Fund. Of that grant, \$242,000 will be directed toward professional learning opportunities for Mountain Brook teachers including math coaches at each elementary school, Phonics First training, an annual summer learning conference and its Institute for Innovation grants.

The Foundation also allocated \$263,737 of that grant toward technology resources such as Chromebooks for every teacher and student in the district as well as an updated and more user-friendly website for Mountain Brook Schools.

Other highlights from the grant include funding for each school's library and a new virtual reality software program for Mountain Brook Junior High and High School classes called Prisms VR. For more information, visit MBGives.org.



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MORE RESOURCES**

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180**

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**We Give180 To Support
Mountain Brook Schools**

The Foundation's Give180 Campaign kicks off as Mountain Brook students head back to school. This annual campaign asks each family to donate \$1 or more for the 180 days of learning through Mountain Brook Schools. The goal is 100% participation and if each family in the district participates, we will raise at least \$450,000. To be a part of this year's Give180 effort, please mail a check to the Foundation at 32 Vine Street, 35213 or make a donation at MBGives.org.

INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION:

Mountain Brook Schools launched the Institute for Innovation program in 2015, and its mission is to establish a culture of innovators within the school system. Through an annual granting process funded by the Foundation, Mountain Brook teachers are encouraged to submit ideas for grant consideration. Innovative ideas funded through the Institute for Innovation can serve as pilot projects and if successful, implemented throughout the school system. Each year, more than \$40,000 in grants are awarded to Mountain Brook teachers as a part of the Institute for Innovation, and these grants have been agents of transformation for many classrooms in all six schools in the district.

For more information on past recipients, please visit MBGives.org.