



the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

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Mountain Brook, Alabama

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XXII, Issue 1

Mayor's Message



in the nation! A team of people deserve credit for this including our former mayor, Terry Oden; our city council led by President Virginia Smith and President Pro Tem, Billy Pritchard, Alice Womack, Lloyd Shelton and Phil Black; Sam Gaston, our city manager; Steven Boone, our finance director; as well as all of our department heads.

Many people are surprised to learn that the mayor, city council members and all of the many other residents filling committee positions are non-paid volunteers. These folks are willing to dedicate monumental hours over multiple years with the goal of continuous improvement of an already great city. These are amazing unsung heroes who deserve our gratitude.

There are so many factors that make this a great city. Certainly, our school system, ranked among top school systems in the nation, is one of our greatest assets. Our more than 45 miles of sidewalks and walking trails have brought our residents outdoors to enjoy our beautiful surroundings that include our seven parks. We have

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Being new to the job of Mayor of Mountain Brook, I definitely have that 'duck-out-of-water' feeling! This is such a great city and so much to learn. My orientation involved visiting with every department head and we have amazing people working for our city. These are people who love their jobs and love their city, and it is evident not just with the department heads, but for every city employee with whom I have had the pleasure to meet.

Financially speaking, Mountain Brook is the best run city in the state as well as among the top

Residents' Survey Coming

The City of Mountain Brook has contracted with the ETC Institute to conduct a survey of city residents concerning municipal services and overall quality of life. ETC Institute, located in Olathe, Kansas, is a marketing, research, demography and statistical firm that has completed residents' surveys for Auburn, Dothan, and Vestavia Hills.



2,000 households will be randomly selected to receive this 7-page, brief survey by mail. It can be completed online. The online version will require a secure access to complete the survey. The resident survey will inquire about city services, public safety, and city communications. The survey will be distributed late January and the deadline of the survey is February 16th.

In 2014, a similar survey was distributed with a return rate of approximately 40%, which was higher than the national average of 10-20%. It is important for each resident who receives the survey to complete it by the deadline so the City obtains substantial feedback. The responses will allow the City to understand the concerns and desires of the residents and make strides to address them. In the previous survey, the main dissatisfaction was street lights and traffic congestion. Since this last survey, the city has made traffic improvements at eight (8) intersections and added many new street lights, as well as upgraded the street lights in our four (4) commercial villages, and on Mountain Brook Parkway to LED lights.

Do your civic duty and fill out the survey. Mountain Brook needs your feedback to be the best city it can be.

PRSR STD
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BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 40

Mayor: Stewart H. Welch, III
CITY COUNCIL
Council President:
Virginia Carruthers Smith

Council Pro Tem, William S. "Billy" Pritchard III
Alice Womack
Lloyd Shelton
Phil Black

City Manager:

Sam S. Gaston, 802-3800

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

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KEEP YOUR SALES TAX DOLLARS IN MOUNTAIN BROOK BY USING MOUNTAIN BROOK, NOT BIRMINGHAM, AS YOUR DELIVERY ADDRESS WHEN ORDERING ONLINE OR FROM CATALOGS.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOP
MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRST
www.welcometomountainbrook.com

New Animal Control Officer

Welcome Back, Preston!



We are pleased to welcome Preston Sloan as our full time Animal Control Officer. As many of you remember, Preston filled in when our previous Animal Control Officer, Ashley, was out on leave.

Preston must still complete some training, but he brings a wealth of “on the job” knowledge with him to the job. Preston has hit the ground running and is excited to return to his role as Animal Control Officer for the Mountain Brook Police Department and the Mountain Brook community. If the need arises, you can contact Preston at 802-3844 or sloanp@mtnbrook.org .

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a very robust athletics program and are proactively making field improvements to help meet increasing demand. Our Emmet O’Neal Library is the 5th most used library in Jefferson County and does an outstanding job of connecting with our students. The Chamber of Commerce, led by Suzan Doidge, is doing a great job of supporting the many retailers and businesses operating in our city. And we are very fortunate to have the quality and variety of businesses choosing to locate in Mountain Brook. Their success helps drive our success so I hope you will go out of your way to support them when you are shopping or choosing services.

What really makes this city great is YOU...the residents of Mountain Brook. My number one goal as mayor is to find more ways and more effective ways to communicate all that is going on in the city so you will have more opportunities to connect with our city government and our businesses, as well as our many events and activities. If you have any suggestions, please let me know by contacting the City Manager’s office at 802-3800 or gastons@mtnbrook.org. Together, we can make great things happen.

All my best,
Stewart Welch III
Mayor, City of Mountain Brook

Quarterly Crime Statistics

	3rd Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2016	Total 2016
Robbery	2	2	6
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0	0
Burglary/Residence	8	10	36
Burglary/Business	1	3	6
Theft	45	54	184
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	29	27	73
Auto Theft	4	2	10
Assaults (Other)	2	4	8
Identity Theft	20	19	81
Criminal Mischief	6	5	22
Drugs	20	18	83
Family Violence	10	8	26
Accidents	249	287	1,016
A With Injuries	21	19	74
A With Fatalities	0	0	1
Calls For Service	7,318	6,951	28,452
House Watches	630	372	2,073
Property Stolen	\$235,965	\$279,560	\$1,161,527
Property Recovered	\$63,280	\$77,970	\$183,102

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.



Schedule of Meetings

CITY COUNCIL	2nd & 4th Mon.	7:00 p.m.	City Hall <i>(Call 802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting)</i>
BOARD OF EDUCATION	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office
LIBRARY BOARD	3rd Tues.	4:45 p.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
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE	3rd Wed.	8:00 a.m.	City Hall
TREE COMMISSION	3rd Tues.	5:15 p.m.	City Hall
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	City Hall

Board Appointments / Reappointments

- APPOINTMENT**
- Appointed Stephanie Maxwell to the Editorial Board to serve without compensation through October 10, 2020.
 - Mayorial Appointment of Mike Mouron to the Planning Commission to serve without compensation through November 7, 2022.
- REAPPOINTMENT:**
- Reappointed Bill Wyatt to the Parks & Recreation Board to serve without compensation through January 23, 2022.

Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	3rd Quarter - 2016		4th Quarter - 2016	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	19	\$13,065,541	10	\$ 6,039,530
Alterations/Additions	93	\$11,144,408	82	\$10,474,255
Repairs/Other	188	\$ 3,969,069	170	\$ 4,666,670
Totals:	301	\$28,179,018	262	\$21,180,455

Permit Type:	2015		2016	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	53	\$35,960,617	55	\$36,686,682
Alterations/Additions	380	\$48,682,877	374	\$47,469,568
Repairs/Other	816	\$17,079,776	758	\$16,522,730
Totals:	1,249	\$101,723,270	1,187	\$100,678,980

New Businesses

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

- Bezshan LLC, (trade name: B. Prince), 271 Rele Street, (205) 871-1965

ELECTRONIC/INTERNET SHOPPING, MAIL ORDER

- L.P.D. LLC, 208 Fairmont Drive, (205) 313-4540
- Little Wooden Hanger LLC, 3545 Spring Valley Terrace, (205) 965-8886
- Pink Tribe Inc., 4910 Stone Mill Road, (205) 238-9106

FINANCIAL SERVICES (INSURANCE AND MORTGAGE)

- Guild Mortgage Company, 2700 Highway 280, Suite 180, (803) 467-6699
- Iron City Insurance Brokers Inc., 14 Office Park Circle, Suite 110, (205) 705-3267

REAL ESTATE AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES

- Income Property Management LLC, 6 Office Park Circle, (205) 322-6000
- Vinoski, Monica M, (trade name: Agent for LAH), 2800 Canterbury Road, (205) 568-0575

PROFESSIONAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES

- Athletic Upgrade LLC, 2830 Culver Road, (205) 422-7168
- Baker, Karen, (trade name: One FOUR Design), 201 Nash Circle, (205) 910-0353
- Blanton, Dr., J. H., 4453 Fredericksburg Circle, (205) 901-0199
- College Bound Birmingham LLC, 119 Hillsdale Road, (205) 515-5841
- Holt, Julia, (trade name: Designs by Juls), 168 Fairmont Drive, (205) 837-2977
- JB and Company LLC, (trade name: JB & Co), One Office Park Circle, Suite 201, (205) 478-0455
- Katherine Bramlett Designs LLC, 2933 Canterbury Road, (205) 767-6436
- Law Office of W. Drake Blackmon, 166 Peachtree Road, (205) 533-1122
- Swindall Law Firm LLC, 3 Office Park Circle, Suite 230, (205) 775-7820
- Woodland Dental Consulting, 715 Euclid Avenue, (205) 871-9964

ARTS AND SPORTS

- Millsaps Murals and Designs Inc., 906 Crestview Drive, (404) 668-1394

FOOD SERVICES

- CB7 of Mountain Brook, (trade name: Char Bar No. 7), 900 Jemison Lane, (704) 752-9600
- Southern Coffee Co., (trade name: Revelator Coffee), 291 Rele Street, (949) 350-1486
- TLT Group Mountain Brook LLC, (trade name: Local Taco), 920 Lane Park Court, (205) 410-9443

Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since October 10, 2016:

- **Ordinance No. 1963 – Amend Mountain Brook Municipal Code pertaining to the declaration of water service emergency.**
- **Ordinance No. 1964- Modify the existing one-way operation of Vine Street between Dexter Avenue and the western edge of the Board of Education parking lot.**

The City Council has approved the following projects since October 10, 2016:

- Authorized traffic and parking controls/changes recommended in the pedestrian and traffic study conducted by Skipper Consulting, Inc. for Vine Street pedestrian crossing and Piggly Wiggly access, intersection of Vine Street at Dexter Avenue, and Church Street pedestrian crossing.
- Ratified and adopted the fiscal 2017 budget of the Mountain Brook Emergency Communications District.
- Ratified the transfer of \$291,553 from the Emergency Communications District operating fund to the City of Mountain Brook General Fund to reimburse the city for E911 dispatch labor costs and related supervision for the year October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.
- Expressed gratitude to Bill Warren for his service on the Tree Commission.
- Declared 1987 International school bus surplus and authorized its sale at public internet auction.
- Recommended to the State of Alabama, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the issuance of a

Special Events Retail License to Event Concessions, Inc.

- Authorized the execution of service agreements to the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Symphonic Association, McWane Science Center, Jefferson/Blount/St. Clair Mental Health Authority, Exceptional Foundation, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham Botanical Society, Prescott House, Birmingham Zoo, Alabama Veterans' Memorial Foundation, Jefferson County Historical Commission, and All In Mountain Brook.
- Accepted Sain Associates' professional services proposal with respect to the APPLE-funded Mountain Brook sidewalks study.
- Proclaimed November 17, 2016 "World Pancreatic Cancer Day in Mountain Brook."
- Authorized the installation of two street lights on existing poles located at 4004 Royal Oak Court and 4028 Royal Oak Circle.
- Authorized the execution of an Agreement for Services between the city and Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham with respect to an 80% APPLE-funded Mountain Brook Sidewalks Study.
- Authorized the execution of an audit engagement letter for the city's annual financial and compliance audit as of and for the year ending September 30, 2016.
- Granted an underground utility easement to Alabama Power Company with respect to the city's landfill property and proposed storage building.
- Authorized the execution of an agreement for the city's participation in a law enforcement task force overseen by the U.S. Secret

Service and Jefferson County District Attorney.

- On October 19, 2016, the Mayor issued a declaration of water service emergency pursuant to the BWWB declaration of a Stage 3 Drought Warning.
- Inaugurated Mayor Stewart H. Welch III and City Council member Philip E. Black
- Approved the election of the City Council President Virginia C. Smith
- Approved the election of the City Council President Pro Tempore William S. Pritchard III
- Appointed Council representatives to the:
 - Planning Commission (voting member) - Philip E. Black
 - Board of Zoning Adjustment (liaison) - Virginia C. Smith
 - Parks and Recreation Board (liaison)- Virginia C. Smith
 - Emmet O'Neal Library Board (liaison)- Lloyd C. Shelton
 - Board of Education (liaison) - William S. Pritchard III
 - Finance Committee (voting member)- Lloyd C. Shelton
 - Villages Design Review Committee (liaison) - Alice B. Womack
 - Editorial Board - Virginia C. Smith
 - Tree Commission (liaison) - Virginia C. Smith
 - Chamber of Commerce (liaison) - Alice B. Womack
 - Parking Committee - Philip E. Black
 - Municipal judges - Stewart Welch III
 - Public safety departments - Stewart Welch III
 - All In Committee (voting member) - William S. Pritchard III
- Appointed the members of the Mountain Brook City Council as the Board of Commissioners of the Mountain Brook Emergency Communication District and nominated Virginia C. Smith Chairman of the Emergency Communication District Board.
- On November 4, 2016, the Mayor issued a declaration of water service emergency pursuant to the BWWB declaration of a Stage 4 "Extreme Drought Emergency."
- Recognized Mayor Lawrence T. Oden for his outstanding service to the city.
- Authorized the installation of a 150 watt LED street light on an existing pole located between 4040 and 4044 Royal Oak Court.
- Authorized the execution of an agreement with ETC Institute with respect to the city's resident survey.
- Authorized the execution of a professional service agreement with Sain Associates with respect to the city's ADA Transition Plan.
- Recommended the State of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board issue Restaurant Retail Liquor license to Charbar No. 7 located at 900 Jemison Lane.
- Awarded the bid to Safford Construction in the amount of \$440,000 for the construction of the joint fire and police training facility.
- Accepted the professional services agreement with Sain Associates with respect to a feasibility study and related services for the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Cahaba Road/Culver Road/U.S. Highway 280 /Lane Park Road.
- Ratified the execution of the Preferred Pay Plan Agreement Addendum with respect to the

city's workers' compensation plan effective February 1, 2016.

for the year ended September 30, 2016.

- Recognized Council member Jack D. Carl for his outstanding service to the city.
- Created a labor supervisor position for the Parks and Recreation department to be filled at the discretion of the City Manager.
- Authorized the installation of LED street light across the street from the property located at 4324 Little River Road.
- Authorized the execution of a construction agreement between the city and Specialty Turf Supply, Inc. with respect to improvements to Field No. 7 at the Athletic Complex.
- Authorized the execution of a 3-party expense sharing agreement between the city, Mountain Brook Board of Education and Mountain Brook Athletics for improvements of the softball field at the Athletic Complex totaling \$8,480.60
- Authorized the execution of an agreement with Brown Mechanical Contractors, Inc. for the relocation of a fire service line (water main) in conjunction with the Phase 5b sidewalk project.
- Amended Resolution No. 2016-104 with respect to the specific location of the small cell support structure BRM004 in the public right-of-way at the intersection of Montcrest Drive and Montevallo Road.
- Authorized the city to participate (50:50) with the City of Homewood in an (80:20) APPLE grant funded feasibility study of [pedestrian] improvements of the Hollywood Road bridge over U. S. Highway 280 (the city's share of the 20% local match not to exceed \$6,000).
- Ratified the transfer of cash/surplus between funds as of and
- Reaffirmed the city's commitment to promote safe workplace guidelines with respect to the city's workers' compensation program.
- Authorized the execution of an agreement with Con-site Services, Inc. for the grinding and removal of trees and organic materials stockpiled at Public Works.
- Authorized a professional services agreement with Gresham, Smith & Partners for the design of the Caldwell Mill Road bridge replacement.
- Authorized maintenance agreement between the city and ISBI Cahaba Village, LLC and Cahaba Village Properties, LLC with respect to the "agreement for the Cooperative Maintenance of Public Right of Way" previously authorized in Resolution No. 2014-118 on September 22, 2014.
- Authorized the agreement between the city and C.S. Beatty Construction, Inc. with respect to its donation of materials and services for the installation of a trail loop and memorial bench along Jemison Trail.
- Authorized payment up to \$677 for plant materials and mulch and provide city labor and equipment to plant the ferns and spread the mulch at the Williamsburg Circle entrance.
- Authorized payment up to \$1000 for materials and provide city labor and equipment to install beautification improvements at the Gaywood Circle traffic island.
- Accepted proposal submitted by Bhate Geosciences Corporation for foundation testing of the Watkins Branch Pedestrian bridge in consideration of an amount not to exceed \$2,250.

LANE PARKE

Phase 1 of the retail component is alive! Stop by to explore Kin-nucan's Specialty Outfitters, The Local Taco, A'Mano, M&S Hand-made Furniture, B Prince, p2 Platinum Pilates, Revelator Coffee, CharBar No.7 and Western Market! Phase 2 of the retail component will begin with the demolition of the previous Western, as well as the Smith's and Ollie Irene lease spaces in mid-January. In mid-March a new Regions Bank will begin construction, as well as the construction of new infrastructure. The new culvert (which will connect to the Birmingham Zoo) will run beneath Lane Park Road. To review the approved and amended plans for Lane Parke go to the Planning Department page of the City's website (www.mtnbrook.org).

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.



Safety Tips to keep you and your family safe:

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.

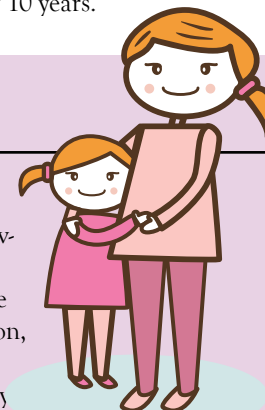
- A smoke alarm should be installed on the ceiling or high on the wall.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Call 911.
- Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.

Child Find Notice

Special education services for children with disabilities are provided in accordance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Amendments of 2004 and Alabama Act 106. Child Find is an attempt to locate and provide appropriate educational and related services to all children with disabilities between the ages of birth to 21.

If you are the parent of a child

with disabilities who is not receiving services, or if you would like more information, please contact Shannon Mundy at the Mountain Brook Board of Education, Special Education Department, 414-3836.



PARKS & RECREATION NEWS!



Swings added at the Tot Lot

The Tot Lot now has two additional swings, giving a total of six swings on which kids can play. There are three bucket swings, two belt swings, and one ADA swing. Some of the other play structures were re-arranged to make room for the new swings as well as to improve visibility.

Heritage Beeches Exclusive to Arbor Day Festivities

For decades the City of Mountain Brook has given away free trees as part of our Arbor Day celebration, but this year a special offering will be made available to the public. Two years ago, the Friends of Jemison Park joined together with the Mountain Brook Tree Commission to collect seeds from American beeches (*fagus grandifolia*) growing natively in Jemison Park. The beeches are descendants of our area's 10,000 year old Ice Age forest and have thrived within the floodplain of Shades Creek and Jemison Park for centuries. It is the beige leaves of the American beeches which we see still clinging to limbs in winter when all other deciduous trees within the park along Overbrook Road, Mountain Brook Parkway, and Cahaba Road have long since dropped their leaves.

After the American beech seeds were collected in the fall of 2015, local nurserywoman Rebecca Cohn potted up the seeds with guidance from Birmingham Botanical Gardens Director of Education Henry Hughes and has been growing the saplings until the beeches were of sufficient size to be viably planted out in our lawns and borders.



Friend of Jemison Park, Alice Wells Johnson, collecting American beech seeds in 2015

This March, each first grade student in the Mountain Brook School system will be given a Jemison Park Heritage

Beeches continued on page 7

Long-Term Drought Effects

Though some people surely felt the effects of the associated water restrictions (those residents and businesses that tend to use a higher amount of water otherwise), trees and shrubs have, and will continue, to show drastic effects. Many plants that were not already known to be dead before the onset of dormancy simply will not flush out come spring time. Others will return, exhibiting crowns of varying percentages of their former size. There will be an elevated demand for tree removals, as well as pruning to remove portions of dead wood (i.e. crown cleaning). No amount of water or care can rejuvenate dead tissue.

Tree owners should consult with their arborist

and together consider which action is needed; where pruning appears to be within reason, this includes weighing the cost of pruning to that of removal, relative to an idea of the aesthetic quality of the tree after cleaning. Keep in mind that instances of damage, injury, or stress do not exist in a vacuum. There is a cumulative effect that, over time, increases susceptibility and magnifies the impact of each subsequent injury. The main factors influencing the likelihood of plant recovery and long-term survivability include:

- condition at onset of drought
- age/size
- species

- historical site disturbances (construction-related root loss, soil compaction, etc)
- feasibility of providing sufficient supplemental water to the plant going forward

The drought of 2016-2017 was unprecedented in many areas across the south, particularly in terms of the number of consecutive days without any measurable rainfall. According to the NOAA, during the drought as much as 98% of Alabama's land area was classified as being under severe, extreme, or exceptional drought. Previous records were smashed, with most locations exceeding 65 rainless days.



Beeches continued from page 6

Beech. The gifts to these impressionable future leaders of our community educate the students about the importance of maintaining our native tree canopy and also serve to evenly distribute the special trees throughout our city limits. These trees provide a connection to our beloved Jemison Park, but because the American beeches are grown from seeds with local provenance, these native trees provide habitat and sustenance for birds and wildlife that our non-native trees do not.

In addition to those trees given to all first graders, a limited remainder will be made available to residents on a first-come first-served basis through the Mountain Brook Tree Commission and Leadership Mountain Brook as part of the city's Arbor Day tree giveaway on March 18, 2017 from 9:00 am to noon at four local groceries: the Crestline Piggly Wiggly, the Mountain Brook Western, Whole Foods, and the Overton Road Publix. Mountain Brook residents who do not arrive in time to receive a Jemison Park Heritage Beech will be offered additional native trees of southern red oak (*quercus falcate*), white oak (*quercus alba*), sweetbay magnolia (*magnolia virginiana*), and red maple (*acer rubrum*). For additional information about the Arbor Day tree offerings and where best to plan ahead to plant them follow @mountainbrookarborday and @simswjohnson on Instagram. Happy planting!

Right of Way Utility Repairs and Maintenance Projects

Right-of-way (ROW), whether singular or plural, is defined as the surface and space in, upon, above, along, across, over and below any public streets, avenues, highways, roads, courts, lanes, alleys, boulevards, ways, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes, including all public utility easements and public service easements within those places, as the same now or may hereafter exist, that are within the city's corporate boundaries and under the jurisdiction of the city.

This is the piece of property between your property line and the person across the street from you known as a public right of way. In a residential street it is common to be 40-100 feet wide. Half of this distance is often noted as measuring from the center line of the roadway to a point in your yard. Places on Brookwood Road vary between 75-100 feet on the same stretch depending on what year it was developed and zoned. Any private improvement

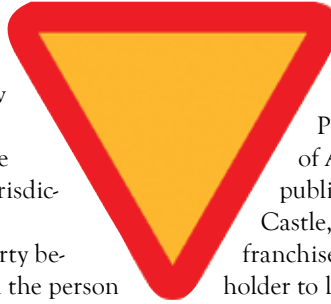
that is permitted through the city, the resident agrees to a Right of Way Encroachment Agreement basically stating by the owner that if or when the encroachment is removed or altered by the city or utility company the encroachment is replaced at the owner's expense.

Right of way construction is managed and controlled through the Public Service Commission of Alabama and locally non-public utilities (AT&T, Crown Castle, Spectrum) may enter into a franchise agreement with the ROW holder to locate or perform work within the public right of way. Companies such as Alabama Power, Alabama Gas Company (Alagasco), Birmingham Water Works Board and Jefferson County Sewer System have paid for rights as agreed upon to maintain or replace their service equipment within the ROW with set standards of site stabilization (ADEM/EPA), asphalt and sidewalk patching (Public Works Inspector)

and traffic control items (usually off duty law enforcement).

Most utility companies have a government liaison who works closely with each city to maintain a good relationship of coordination and planning for most projects to prevent poor publicity for inconveniences such as noise, traffic during school pick up times and damage to newly paved streets or sidewalks. Most companies use several subcontractors who perform this work either as a prepared contract or an on call emergency status. We sometimes receive a complaint but, overall once each project is complete there is better service available and most sites return to their pre-disturbance appearance. If you at any time have any question about our Right of Way and what our rights are regarding this process, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 802-3812 or email at merchantg@mtnbrook.org.

Glen Merchant
Building Official



Leaf Collection Update

Loose-leaf collection service will be ending on March 1, 2017. Please refer to your schedule to confirm the remaining collection dates for your area. If you do not have your schedule handy it can easily be accessed on the Mountain Brook webpage at (www.mtnbrook.org). Leaves brought out after the beginning of the final round must be bagged for collection. Also, please do not have your leaf piles in close proximity to the storm drains. If you choose to bag your leaves, then your bagged leaves will be serviced on your regularly scheduled trash collection day. Larger trash items should be placed near the curb for knuckle-boom truck collection.

You may or may not know that the loose-leaf collection is part of the City's refuse contract with Waste Management. The collected leaves are hauled to our Public Works facility at 3579 East Street, near the Rathmel Soccer Complex. The leaves are pushed into piles, turned, and as a result of decomposing, become compost, a useful gardening by-product of the leaves. To learn more on how to go about getting compost and any costs, go to the Public Works page of the Mountain Brook website and click on Refuse/Compost and then Compost Policy.

We would like to say thank you for your assistance with the collection and composting of the leaves. Hopefully you can use some of the compost in your flower or vegetable beds this spring. Compost is free to Mountain Brook residents if you load it yourself and can be picked up at our Public Works facility.

We wish each of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Sidewalk Projects Update

Phases 5b and 9 of the city's sidewalk program have started.

Phase 5b is along the north side of Lakeshore Parkway from Cahaba Road to the first traffic light on the east end of Brookwood Village Mall. Pedestrians can use this future section of sidewalk to access the existing sidewalks along the entire length of Lakeshore Parkway. The present pedestrian crossing on Mountain Brook Parkway will be relocated to the intersection of this road with Cahaba Road, and a pedestrian foot bridge will be constructed over Watkins Branch to give access to Watkins Branch walking trail. This project is expected to be completed in late spring.

Phase 9 is along Brookwood Road, Crosshill Road, Woodvale Road and Oakdale Drive. It begins at the east end of Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church and ends at the entrance to the high school where it will link-up with two other sections of sidewalks. This project is expected to be completed in late summer.



Take Pride in our City

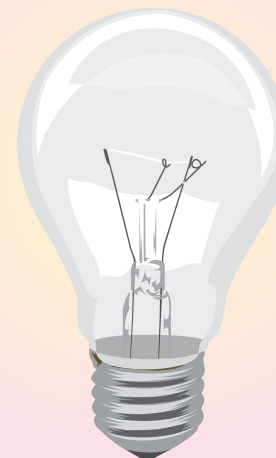
Do your part to keep Mountain Brook clean and attractive. Litter is not only unattractive but costly to clean up. Trash and litter should be properly deposited in a waste container or recycling bin. Large trash items should be left at the curb (not in the street) for pick up by Waste Management.

Additionally, pets should be curbed at all times and never soil our sidewalks, playing fields or your neighbor's yard. Pet owners should immediately and properly clean up any accidents that may occur.

"Don't just do what's your responsibility, do what needs to be done." ~Pivot



Street Light Out?



Alabama Power Company maintains nearly 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 802-3800 or gastons@mtnbrook.org so the City can coordinate its repair with Alabama Power Company.

Emmet O'Neal Library News

Special Programs

February

- Tuesday, Feb. 7, 5:30 pm
– Family Night: Interactive Music with the AL Symphony Orchestra
- Wednesday, Feb. 8, 3:00 pm
– Etc.: Make Valentines for Children's Hospital
- Monday, Feb. 13, 4:00 pm – STEAM Powered: Dissecting Frogs (must register)
- Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:00 pm – Hot Off the Press Book Club (must register)



March

- Monday, Mar. 13, 4:00 pm
– STEAM Powered: Pi Day (must register)
- Tuesday, Mar. 14, 5:30 pm – Family Night: David Stephens All Hands Productions Puppet Show
- Thursday, Mar. 16, 6:00 pm – Hot Off the Press Book Club (must register)
- Monday – Friday, Mar. 27-31 – Etc.: Roald Dahl Spring Break

April

- Monday, Apr. 10, 4:00 pm
– STEAM Powered: Little Bits Nanotechnology (must register)
- Tuesday, Apr. 11, 5:30 pm – Family Night: B'ham Children's Theatre – Wake Up, Brother Bear
- Thursday, Apr. 20, 6:00 pm – Hot Off the Press Book Club (must register)

Children's
Department

SUMMER
READING
KICKOFF

★ ★ SUNDAY, MAY 21ST ★ ★

C ★ A ★ R ★ N ★ I ★ V ★ A ★ L

New This Year for Upper Elementary

Don't forget to sign up your 4th, 5th, or 6th grader for our two new upper elementary programs. One Monday afternoon a month, STEAM Powered zooms in on a skill in science, technology, engineering, arts, or math and brings new enthusiasm to the topic with hands-on experimentation. Hot Off the Press is a brand new book club where kids who have read a recently published book can talk about it with their friends over pizza. It's happening monthly, too. Register for both programs online at www.eolib.org.



Art Reception

Did you know that our Storytelling Room doubles as an art gallery for work by local elementary school students? Each month we show teacher-selected pieces from a different school. To honor the featured artists, we host a monthly reception for the students, families, teachers, and any other community members who would like to attend. You can drop by any time during library hours to see the student artwork, and check the Children's Department calendar if you'd like to attend an art reception.

Making Valentines

Each year, we ask you to help us make Valentines to send to the patients at Children's Hospital. This year, stop by for our Etc. event on Wednesday, February 8, between 3:00 and 4:30, to participate in the Valentines For Children's Hospital program. We'll provide all the supplies for you to make two Valentines: one for a child at the hospital, and one for you to take home and give to someone special. All you have to bring is your creativity and talent!

Emmet O'Neal Library News

An Evening with the Author

Patrick deWitt Saturday, March 18th

The exuberant young Canadian writer Patrick deWitt hit the ground running with his debut *Ablutions: Notes for a Novel*, a funny and dark addition to road fiction that would sit more than companionably on the shelf next to *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. But it was with his second novel, *The Sisters Brothers*, that he found his brilliant, distinctive voice. *The Sisters Brothers*, which is set in Oregon and California during the mid-19th Century, is like a combination of Cormac McCarthy at his best and the Coen Brothers at theirs, with perhaps a dash or two of Sam Peckinpah and *Deadwood* thrown in. Eli and Charlie Sisters are hitmen who have been sent by their mysterious boss, The Commodore, to kill the slippery, affable Herman Kermit Warm for purportedly stealing from him. Instead, the brothers join up with Warm when it is revealed that Warm has developed a formula that reveals the location of gold hidden in riverbeds; what they don't initially realize, however, is that the formula is ruinously toxic. The book is a riotous, surreal, and bloody picaresque of jaw-dropping reversals and black comedy as well as a moving evocation of conscientiousness acquired too late. It is a comic masterpiece and was shortlisted for the 2011 Man Booker prize.

deWitt's most recent novel, *Undermajordomo Minor*, is like an Eastern European folk tale composed of moth wings and decay and dripping castle walls; it shares affinities with the short stories of Steven Millhauser, *The Princess Bride*,



the Gormenghast novels of Mervyn Peake, and the gorgeous prose of the great 19th century Swiss writer, Robert Walser, himself a tremendous influence on Franz Kafka. Like *The Sisters Brothers*, *Undermajordomo Minor* takes bizarre detours that are curiously apt once you've arrived at your destination. As Daniel Handler said in his glowing review of the book, "Undermajordomo Minor feels less like a postmodern exploration—a take if you will—and more like the genuine article, a tale that engages us and haunts us just like the best tales of yore".

Standing Room Only, the Emmet Oneal Library's event series for adults over 21, is delighted to present an evening with Patrick deWitt on Friday, March 18, 2017. The tickets are \$20 and will be available for purchase at the Reference Desk. deWitt will give a talk and sign books and there will be an audience Q & A. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information about this event, please contact Amanda Westfall at 205-445-1119 or amandaw@bham.lib.al.us.

Four Perfect Pebbles A HOLOCAUST STORY

By Lila Perl and
Marion Blumenthal Lazan



Marion Lazan Wednesday, March 22, 2017

The Emmet O'Neal Library is honored to present a very special evening with Holocaust survivor and author Marion Blumenthal Lazan. Please join us for this rare opportunity to hear a survivor share her compelling Holocaust experience, as well as her life lessons learned. Mrs. Lazan will discuss her memoir *Four Perfect Pebbles*, co-written with Lila Perl. The book will be available for purchase and gladly signed by Mrs. Lazan. For more information, please contact Katie Moellering at 205-445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.

Emmet O'Neal Library News

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

- **February 23rd – Friends of the Library Book Sale Preview Party – admission via Friends membership or \$25 donation at the door.**
- **February 24th – 26th – Friends of the Library annual Book Sale!**
- **March 5th 2-3 p.m. – Mountain Brook resident, Lisa Cross on Disney Travel**
- **March 9th 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – UAB's Neuroscience Café featuring Jeremy Day and Cayce Paddock on the topic of Substance Abuse and Addiction: From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutics**
- **March 16th 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Teen Self Defense with Eric Cottingham, 2nd degree black belt and librarian!**
- **March 18th 6:30-8:00 p.m. – An Evening With the Author: Patrick deWitt – ticket required**
- **March 22ND 6:30-8:00 p.m. – An Evening With the Author: Marian Lazan Blumenthal, Holocaust Survivor and author of Four Perfect Pebbles – FREE**
- **April 13th 6:30-8:00 p.m. – UAB's Neuroscience Café featuring Rajesh Kana and Justiin Schwartz on the topic of Autism: From Behavior to Brain**
- **April 25th 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Saving for Retirement in Your 20s and 30s**
- **April 28th 6:30 p.m. – Standing Room Only Weaving project; registration required**
- **April 29th – Antiques & Treasures event with John Jones; registration required**

Preview Party and Book Sale

If you are a book lover, your favorite time of the year is just around the corner – the Friends of the Library annual book sale is here! Our Preview Party for Friends members will be held on Thursday evening, February 23rd. Members of our Friends group are invited to a special Preview Party where they get first dibs on rare, out of print, and popular items. Wine and cheese will be served in our first floor book sale room where coffee table books, rare and collector's editions, and those fun "finds" can go home with you! You will also have a chance to visit the basement book sale room to get the first shot at our children's books, DVDs and books on CD. We have a large and



varied selection of history, religion and cookbooks as well. If you are not already a member of the Library's Friends group, you can join for \$25 a year which will give you access to the special Preview Party on Thursday night.

Don't miss the regular book sale either! It will begin on Friday, February 24th and end Sunday, February 26th.

Do you have donations you keep meaning to drop off for the Friends? By all means, bring them! We accept donations throughout the year. Simply drive up to the Library's back door and ring our doorbell. Someone can help you get books out of your car and provide you with a donation receipt.

Antiques & Treasures @ EOL

SAVE THE DATE: April 29, 2017

On Saturday, April 29th John Jones returns to Emmet O'Neal Library for a day of antiques as treasures to benefit the Library. Many of you will remember Mr. Jones who led an antiques program at our 50th Anniversary celebration a few years ago. Mr. Jones, a fine art broker and consultant, has worked on popular television shows such as Antiques Roadshow. His passions include fine paintings, silver, Asian and decorative arts. This spring, we will offer a more in-depth antiques experience with Mr. Jones. For the price of a ticket, you will be able to bring your item to the library and meet with Mr. Jones who will give an estimate of value and historical information about your item. Tickets will be sold for the event, and there are a limited number, so please purchase your tickets in advance! Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased at the Library's 2nd floor reference desk, or online. For more information, please contact Katie Moellering at 205-445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.

Makerspace Happenings

The Emmet O'Neal Library opened its Digital Makerspace on the second floor of the library in the summer of 2014. The first of its kind in Alabama, the Makerspace includes a 3D printer, a 3D scanner, a video green screen, two video rendering workstations, a laser cutter, and several other digital tools. Community members are encouraged to use this creative workspace by reserving time to create their own projects using the available tools. Nominal fees are assessed for 3D printing. In the fall of 2016, Emmet O'Neal began offering online exam proctoring, video conferencing, and audio conferencing to the services available in the Makerspace. These services have become very popular over the past couple of months. Contact Marylyn Eubank, IT Manager, at 445-1115 or marylynw@bham.lib.al.us for information about reserving time or scheduling an exam in the Makerspace.

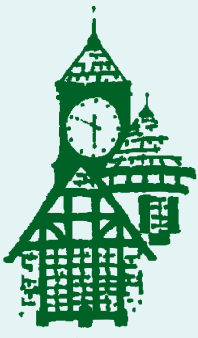
Money Smart Week - Save for Retirement Better, Smarter, and Faster!



Money Smart Week will be celebrated the week of April 23rd at Emmet O'Neal Library. We will offer a special program for patrons in their 20s, 30s, and 40s who are looking at ways to maximize their retirement savings. Join us Tuesday evening, April 25th as we welcome Bob Agnew who will talk about how we can begin to save money for our retirement earlier, better, and smarter.

In addition, please make sure to like the library's facebook page and follow us on Instagram and twitter. We will be sharing a lot of smart money advice that week, you won't want to miss it!

For more information about this program, or other Money Smart Week activities, please contact Katie Moellering at 205-445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.



MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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THE VILLAGES OF MOUNTAIN BROOK

*To my fellow Mountain Brook residents
and those visiting our community,*

Welcome, one and all! Mountain Brook is such a unique place that I am honored to call home. From its small town, welcoming feel to all of the exciting amenities that are available, Mountain Brook is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family, and as a result continues to be ranked among the top in the nation.

I am originally from Galveston, Texas and moved to Birmingham in 1991 to do my residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAB, one of the top programs in the country. It was during my residency that I met my husband, Perry, who is an anesthesiologist at UAB. Perry and his family grew up in Mountain Brook, so shortly after getting married in 1995, we moved to Mountain Brook to start our family, in part because of the top-notch educational opportunity provided by the Mountain Brook school system, which is consistently ranked at or near the top statewide, along with how family-friendly the community and businesses are. While growing up in Galveston, my father served as mayor of Galveston, which provided me with an opportunity to see first-hand the importance of having a city that is able to provide opportunities

for families and businesses to thrive and prosper. This has allowed me to even more to appreciate what makes Mountain Brook so special - not only having such a great school system but also the uniqueness of its villages and shopping districts, each providing its own unique character while offering great places to shop and dine along with a host of attractions and family-friendly events throughout the year. Most importantly, Mountain Brook boasts the best residents who truly love and care about one another and their community and making it the very best it can be!

As president of the Chamber of Commerce, I am looking so forward to all the opportunities available in our community for 2017 from luncheons throughout the year to the Village 2 Village 10K race in March, our annual Homecoming, Halloween, and Christmas parades, along with all the village open houses, market days, and tent sales which provide outstanding shopping and dining opportunities. My goals for the upcoming year include finding new opportunities to help promote and grow businesses in the Mountain Brook area along with helping to raise awareness about the importance of residents continuing to shop, dine, and play local. This allows



us to keep our tax revenue strong which in turn allows the city to continue to provide the very best in city services, parks and recreation, sidewalks, and many more of the amenities and services that make Mountain Brook the unique and special community that it is. The Mountain Brook Chamber has over 400 members and our board is made up of community members who have the best interest of our community and its residents and businesses at heart. The Chamber remains committed to providing an opportunity for our members to prosper and succeed by partnering with the business community, city government, school foundation, and community at large, and we are proud to be part of such an exciting, vibrant, and growing town.

Wishing you and your family all the best in 2017, and remember to shop, dine, and play local!
Sincerely,

Lori A. Smith, M.D.



SPOTLIGHT ON ITALY: INAUGURAL CHAMBER TRIP Oct. 26- Nov. 3, 2017

\$3399 per person

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hotel & taxes, 10 meals, sightseeing, & more!
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MARCH 11



MARCH 11

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VALENTINE'S DAY IS TUESDAY THE 14TH

Did you know that an orchid bloom can last 4-6 weeks (on average)? Let us "dress" one up for your special valentine. Besides orchids, we have wonderful blooming arrangements of every size and color. Gift certificates are also available.



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FEATURING A
"WASHINGTON UPDATE"
WITH THE HONORABLE
GARY PALMER

(U.S. Representative-6th Congressional District Alabama)

Breakfast

Tuesday, February 21

Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel
1000 Riverchase Galleria, Birmingham, AL 35244

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Congressman Palmer – who is in his 2nd term representing Alabama's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives – will provide an update on events in Washington. This event is co-hosted in collaboration by:



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

sign up at www.shelbychamber.org.

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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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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.

New Board Members, Committee Member Elected for 2017

January 1st brought new members to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation Board of Directors.
David Malone '92,



Malone

Lucy Thompson Marsh '99, Kristin Ritter and Craig Stephens were elected to serve four year terms at the Board's November meeting.



Thompson Marsh

These new members replace **Lloyd Shelton '80** who had served since 2001; **Hollis Gieger, Jr. '76**



Ritter

and **Lisa Rutherford**, both who had served since 2005; and **Anna McLaughlin** who had served since 2013.



Stephens

In addition, **Chris Trotter** was appointed to the Foundation's Investment Committee to replace former member **Ken Polk**. The Foundation is most grateful for these members' service and generosity during their terms and looks forward to many more years of success with its newest members.



Trotter

Speaker Spotlight 2017
 Featuring
Sir Ken Robinson



Thursday, March 9, 2017
 Wright Center, Samford University
 6:30 PM

Sponsorships, Ticket Sales and Meet & Greet Options Available at
www.mtnbrookschooolsfoundation.com



You've seen Sir Ken Robinson on TED. Now see him in person.

Internationally Acclaimed Expert on Creativity and Innovation and Author, Finding Your Element, The Element and Out of Our Minds.

Exciting Spring for MBCSF

February and March are busy months for the Foundation.

February is We Love Teachers Month. This is the perfect time to say thank you to favorite teachers with a donation to the Foundation in their honor. Donations can be made by mail or through the website.

March is an amazing month as the Foundation brings Sir Ken Robinson to the Wright Center at Samford University on March 9th.

Sir Ken Robinson is an internationally known acclaimed expert on creativity and innovation, and the author of The Element, Finding Your Element, and Out of Our Minds.

Tickets are available through the website. Get yours today!



WE LOVE OUR TEACHERS MONTH!

Honor your teachers with a donation to the Foundation this month!




The 2016 Foundation Holiday Card included artwork by Mountain Brook Elementary 6th Grader Angelena Manova. Angelena originally drew the picture which included the quote by John F Kennedy, "We must take time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives," as cover artwork for a binder of thanks from the MBE 6th Graders to the Foundation for its support. Angelena is pictured with MBCSF Executive Director Stephanie Maxwell.