



the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XXII, Issue 4

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License Renewals

Business license fees collected in fiscal year 2017 totaled \$2.9 million (8% of the General Fund budget).

Business license renewals for the City are due on January 1 and delinquent January 31. Licenses not renewed in a timely manner are subject to penalties and interest.

A business license is required for any commercial activity, trade, profession, occupation, including the leasing or rental of residential or non-residential real estate, whether or not carried out for gain or profit.

Home based businesses require the home occupation approval of the City Planning Commission and if approved, a home occupation permit is required in addition to a business license.

New businesses can apply for a license in person at the Mountain Brook City Hall or an application may be downloaded from our website at www.mtnbrook.org. The application is located under the Businesses tab.

If you have any questions concerning the renewal of your license or payment of taxes, please call our Senior Revenue Examiner, Jack Bankston, at (205) 802-3808 or the Revenue Department at 205-802-2400 option 4.

1 SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

Mountain Brook Ordinance 1997 prohibits the use of residential property, or a portion of that property, for short-term rental usage. Short-term rental is any period of less than (30) thirty consecutive days. This includes rentals such as, but not limited to, Airbnb, VRBO, Flip Key, etc.

SOLICITATION

Mountain Brook Ordinance 1997 prohibits itinerant vendors, peddlers, and solicitors from operating in the City without first having obtained a solicitor's permit and a business license.

One of the requirements for a solicitor's permit is the business must have written permission from each property owner that the business intends to visit. The letter must be addressed from the property owner to the City of Mountain Brook and must invite the business to visit that property.

This prohibition shall not extend to those that are engaged in activities associated with or supporting religious, charitable, governmental, educational, or political organizations or causes.

3 GRASS CUTTERS/TREE SERVICE

Anyone doing any type of business in the City must apply for a business license including grass cutters, landscapers, and tree trimming/removal. Any debris or yard waste produced by these contractors must be removed from the property by the contractor. The City does not pick up debris created by contractors. Homeowners should ensure that their contractor is licensed and require that they remove all debris from their premises.

ESTATE/YARD/GARAGE SALES

Estate/yard/garage sales are permitted in the City under specific conditions. Such sales may be conducted no more than once during a calendar year. Sales shall be limited to two consecutive days in duration. A permit is required for each sale. Permit applications may be found on our website www.mtnbrook.org by clicking "Businesses" on the top navigation bar and then "Garage Sale Permit Application" under "Forms."

License continued on page 2

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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

What's in This Issue?

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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

SHOP MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRST

www.mtnbrookchamber.org

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

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CONTRACTORS

Residents, please remember that when hiring a contractor to build, renovate, or repair your home or hiring a service company, to verify with the Revenue Department that they are licensed to work in the City by calling (205) 802-2400 option

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4. All construction work performed within the city limits must be permitted by licensed contractors. This includes alterations, painting, roofing, etc. In some instances the homeowner can function as their own contractor. Check with the permitting department at City Hall for more information.

Board Appointments/ Reappointments

APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed Lindsay Smith Puckett to the Board of Landscape Design to fill the unexpired term of Kelly Hulsey and to serve without compensation until September 12, 2019.
- Appointed Brian Barrett as a Supernumerary Member to the Village Design Review Committee to serve without compensation until August 28, 2020.
- Appointed J. Bennett White to The Emmet O'Neal Library Board to serve without compensation through September 30, 2021.
- Appointed Nancy Long to The Emmet O'Neal Library Board to serve without compensation through September 30, 2021.

REAPPOINTMENT:

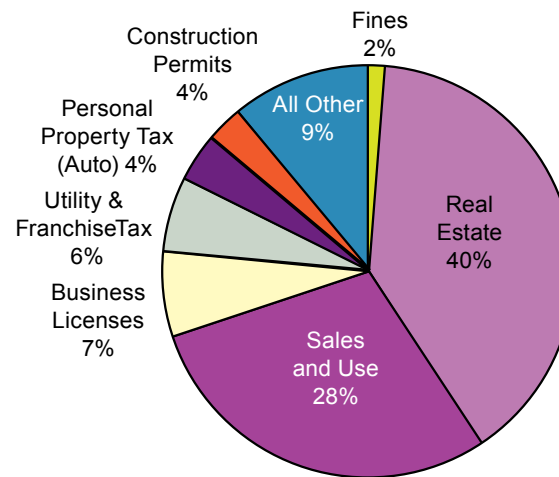
- Reappointed Jack Martin to the Finance Committee to serve without compensation until July 10, 2021.
- Reappointed Richard F. Simonton to the Board of Zoning Adjustment to serve without compensation until July 25, 2020.

2018 Budget Adopted

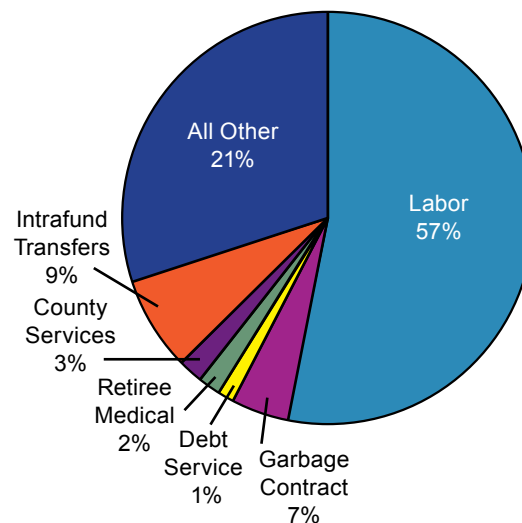
The City Council adopted the 2018 budget in September. The General Fund budget reflects a surplus of \$350,000. The General Fund revenue totals \$38.2 million representing a 2.3% increase over the fiscal 2017 budgeted revenue. Some of the more significant General Fund revenues include: →

The chart below depicts the relative share of the various sources of revenue in the General Fund:

2018 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET



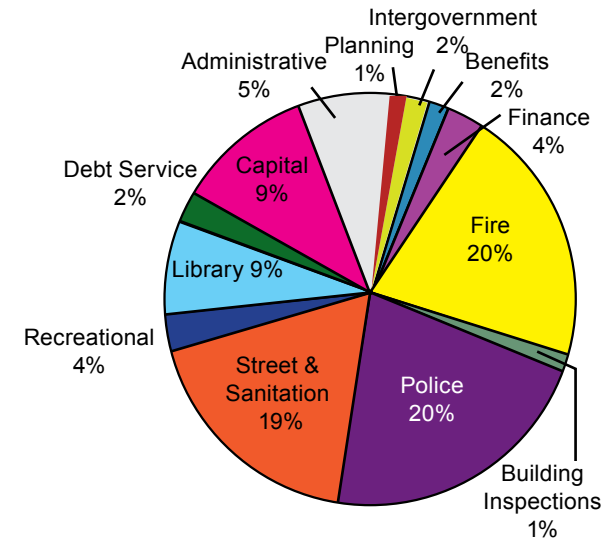
2018 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET



Source of Revenue	2017	2018	Percentage Change
Real estate tax	\$15,159,000	\$15,797,000	1.7%
Sales tax	11,141,000	10,869,000	(0.7)
License and franchise fees	3,336,000	3,459,000	0.3
Utility taxes	1,491,400	1,507,000	0.0
Automobile property tax	1,392,700	1,397,000	0.0
Construction permits	905,000	818,000	(0.2)
Fines	549,000	542,000	(0.0)
All other	3,337,995	3,797,884	1.2
Totals	\$37,312,095	\$38,186,884	2.3%

2018 General Fund expenses total \$37.9 million which represents a 1.7% increase from last year's budget. The charts below illustrate the functional and departmental allocation of the City's General Fund expenses: ↓

2018 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT





Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since July 10, 2017:

- Ordinance No. 1977- Prohibit parking along the west side of Wilderness Road between Kenesaw Drive and Fair Oaks Drive weekdays whenever school is in session between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Ordinance No. 1978- Provide for stop signs (2) on Wimbleton Drive at each of its two (2) intersections with Dunbarton Drive.
- Ordinance No. 1979- Provide for a stop sign on Shambley Drive at its intersection with Warrington Road.
- Ordinance No. 1980- Provide for a stop sign on Westmoreland Drive at its intersection with Ryecroft Road.
- Ordinance No. 1981- Lower the speed limit on Montevallo Terrace to 20 miles per hour and provide for punishment for violations.
- Ordinance No. 1982- Amend the permitted uses within the Local Business district to include medical/dental clinics as a conditional use.
- Ordinance No. 1983- Rezone property at 30 Dexter Avenue from Vine Street Transitional (office use) to Vine Street Transitional (mixed use).
- Ordinance No. 1984- Amending Chapter 2, Division 4, Sections 293 through 295 of the City Code (change the name and composition of the Tree Commission to Board of Landscape Design).
- Ordinance No. 1985- Provide for a stop sign on River Ridge Circle at Overton Road.
- Ordinance No. 1986- Provide for a stop sign on Oak Canyon Circle at Oak Canyon Drive.

- Ordinance No. 1987- Provide for a stop sign on Orleans Road at Brook Hollow Lane.
- Ordinance No. 1988- Amend the 2017 budget
- Ordinance No. 1989- Provide for a stop sign on Delmar Terrace Circle at Sheridan Drive.
- Ordinance No. 1990- Provide for a stop sign on Beech Court at Beech Circle.
- Ordinance No. 1991- Provide for a stop sign on Sheridan Drive at Greenbriar Lane.
- Ordinance No. 1992- Provide for a stop sign on Cold Harbor Circle at Cold Harbor Drive.
- Ordinance No. 1993- Provide for a stop sign on Canterbury Road at Village Circle.
- Ordinance No. 1994- Provide for a stop sign on Conrock Road at Rockhill Road.
- Ordinance No. 1995- Provide for a stop sign on Conrock Road at Westbury Road.
- Ordinance No. 1996- Provide for a stop sign on Spring Valley Circle at Spring Valley Court.
- Ordinance No. 1997- Amend the City Code with respect to short-term (less than 30-day) residential property rentals.

The City Council has approved the following projects since July 10, 2017:

- Authorized the execution of a professional services contract between the city and Carr & Associates Engineers, Inc. to prepare a topographical survey of the athletic complex in the amount of \$8,380.
- Awarded bid for the Emmet O'Neal Library moisture abatement and window replacement project to

Trawick Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$697,059.

- Authorized the temporary closure of Canterbury Road from its intersection with Cahaba Road to its intersection with Village Circle (right and left turns from Canterbury Road onto Village Circle will be allowed) effective immediately for as long as necessary for the traffic engineers and city officials to collect and evaluate data regarding how the closure impacts traffic flow, operation and safety at the 5-way intersection and surrounding roadways.
- Authorized the professional services agreement with Kelly Landscape Architects, LLC for the design of the field improvements at the Athletic Complex.
- Authorized a work authorization submitted by Sain Associates representing an addendum to the project previously authorized in Resolution No. 2016-189, with respect to the Cahaba Road/U.S. Highway 280 ramps/Lane Park Road/Culver Road roundabout project.
- Declared a 90-day moratorium on short-term rental activities through October 22, 2017 while the city studies and implements appropriate regulations of such business activities.
- Accepted the professional services proposal submitted by Sain Associates with respect to the Canterbury Road Closure (Resolution No. 2017-086) impact traffic study and authorized issuance of a purchase order and other documents necessary for the project.
- Rejected the one-time lump sum pension benefit payment authorized by the Alabama Legislature (Act 2017-367), and any similar future optional pension benefit increase, until the city's unfunded pension liability is less than or equal to 10% of the plan assets.
- Recommended the State of Alabama Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC) issue Retail Beer and Retail Table Wine licenses (On or Off Premises) to DHV, LLC (Nothing But Noodles) located at 2800 Cahaba Village Plaza.
- Recommended the State of Alabama Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC) issue a Restaurant Retail Liquor license to Cojak Investments of Mountain Brook (Another Broken Egg Café) located at 2418 Montevallo Road due to a change of ownership.
- Authorized the one-year contract extension with Public Resource Management Alliance Corporation (PREMA Corp) for business license revenue discovery services.
- Authorized an agreement with MT2 for shell casing removal and berm remediation at the firing range.
- Selected the Contech Structure (Option B) with respect to the Caldwell Mill Road Bridge replacement.
- Appointed Skipper Consulting, Inc. as the traffic consultant to study certain intersections with the city under the APPLE grant previously authorized in Motion No. 2017-082.
- Authorized a memorandum of understanding between the city and Jefferson County Commission with respect to storm debris clean-up and disposal.
- Authorized a contractor agreement for infield maintenance between the city and Morris-Shea Building Company for the community

Actions continued on page 4

Actions continued from page 3

recreational playing fields at the MBHS Athletic Complex.

- September 2017 was proclaimed “Global Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month.”
- Constitution Week was proclaimed on September 17 – 23, 2017.
- Authorized an agreement between the city and the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham regarding the APPLE grant-funded “Traffic Operations Study-Phase 2.”
- Approved the updated Sidewalk Master Plan of the City.
- Authorized the installation of a LED street light on a new pole in the vicinity of the Cahaba Road and English Village Lane intersection.
- Authorized eight (8) 3-year fire and emergency medical service agreements for commercial properties located in unincorporated Jefferson County.
- Authorized additional professional services to be performed by Sain

Associates for an addendum (Phase 2 Cultural Resources Study) to the project previously authorized with respect to the Cahaba Road/U.S. Highway 280 ramps/Lane Park Road/Culver Road roundabout project.

- Rejected all Mountain Brook Elementary playing field restroom bids.
- Authorized the expenditure of the remaining Phase 1 APPLE grant funds to be used to study the possible installation of sidewalks along a portion of Hagood Street.
- Proclaimed September 2017 as Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month.
- Proclaimed October 7, 2017 as Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day.
- Declared personal property owned by the city as surplus.
- Approved the continuation of benefits granted during leave without pay for employees.

- Authorized the petition for vacation with respect to the cul-de-sac on the west end of Ridge Crest Road.
- Authorized the Facility Use Agreement amendments for Mountain Brook Board of Education, Mountain Brook Athletics, and Mountain Brook Lacrosse.
- Approved the conditional office use application submitted by ARC Realty for property at 2718 Cahaba Road.
- Authorized the execution of the audit engagement letter with respect to the annual financial and single audit for the year ending September 30, 2017.
- Set a public hearing for October 23, 2017 to consider an ordinance to rezone parcels of land in the city from Single Family Res-A and R-1 to a PUD district in conjunction with the annexation of the county portion of the site into the City of Mountain Brook.
- Authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$700 for the beautification

of the Kennesaw Drive traffic island.

- Accepted the professional services proposal by Nimrod Long and Associates for landscape design services at the intersection of Mountain Brook Parkway and Cahaba Road in the amount of \$6,500.
- Established the employees’ and retirees’ monthly premiums for medical insurance effective for employee payroll checks dated October 6, 2017 and retiree premiums due on October 1, 2017.
- Approved increasing the salaries of all employees by two percent (2%) effective October 3, 2017.
- Authorized the contract between the city and Communico, LLC for the development of a website/mobile application for The Emmet O’Neal Library.

Door to Door Solicitation:

Anyone, whether or not a resident of the city going from house to house, or from street to street, taking or attempting to take orders for sale of goods, wares and merchandise, personal property of any kind whatsoever for future delivery or for services to be furnished or performed in the future, whether or not such person has, carries or exposes for sale a sample of the subject of such sale or whether such person is collecting advance payments on such sale or not.

This includes but is not limited to soliciting sales, performing un-requested/un-expected property inspections; the practice of passing out flyers, advertisements, papers, and or door knob hangers.

The prohibition shall not extend to those promoting or otherwise engaging in activities associate with or supporting

religious, charitable, governmental, educational or political organizations or causes.

The practice of going in and upon private residences in the city by itinerant or transient vendors, or peddlers who have not been so requested or invited by the owner(s) or occupant(s) of said private residence is prohibited in the City of Mountain Brook.

Citizens can report solicitation violations to the MB Police Dept. at 205-802-2415 or to the Revenue Department at 205-802-2400 Option 4.

Any itinerant or transient vendor, company, or individual that desires to solicit door to door may apply for a permit and license if they meet all of the necessary requirements. The details and requirements can be found on our website at www.mtnbrook.org.



Crosswalk Safety Tips

Whether you walk, bike or drive, take 5 seconds to follow crosswalk safety guidelines.

PEDESTRIANS:

- **Always cross at marked crosswalks.** *You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.*
- **Obey any pedestrian signals and look left-right-left.** *Make sure the road is clear in both directions before crossing.*
- **If a vehicle approaches, make eye contact with the driver to be sure he/she sees you before you cross.**
- **Look before walking past stopped vehicles.** *Do not cross just because a driver waves you on. Be sure all lanes are clear first.*
- **Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes.** *Otherwise, they are considered vehicles.*



BICYCLISTS:

- **Yield to pedestrians.**
- **Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes.** *Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.*
- **Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.**
- **Obey vehicular traffic signals and laws on the roadways.**
- **Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads and sidewalks.** *Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.*

DRIVERS:

- **Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.**
- **Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks.** *Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with crosswalks.*
- **Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders whose approaches to the crosswalk may be much swifter than those of pedestrians.**
- **Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross.**
- **Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.**
- **Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.**

Source: University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Reflective Clothing

FALL IS HERE!

If you usually walk or exercise early in the morning or late in the afternoon, please wear reflective clothing and/or a flashing light. MBPD still has some blue flashing armbands available if you need one.

Remembering to wear reflective gear and/or a flashing light while running, walking, or bicycling at night is very important. How many times have you been driving down a dark road and have to stop suddenly because you see something moving? Or how many times have you been exercising and felt like you came close to getting hit by a car? In either of these cases, was reflective gear being worn? Probably not.

Reflective gear and/or a flashing light gives the runner a better sense of awareness, and it gives drivers a better view of him or her. It is not enough to just wear bright clothing; reflective outerwear is designed to reflect to a driver's eye when approaching you. On cold nights, don't make the mistake of wearing your reflective vest under your jacket or sweatshirt. An alternative to reflective clothing could be reflective tape or bands that you can put on several parts of your body. The more body you cover, the better off you are.

Alabama law requires pedestrians to use a sidewalk "where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable." When a sidewalk is not available, either because there is not a sidewalk or because using an existing sidewalk is not practicable, pedestrians are to walk or run on the left side of the street and yield the right-of-way to vehicles in the roadway.

Mountain Brook City Ordinance requires individuals that walk, jog, or run in City streets during the hours of 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. wear either (a) reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back with a coverage of at least fifty (50) square inches or (b) strobe style continuously flashing lights at least two (2) inches in diameter between the waist and shoulders that are visible from the front and back.

When bicycling at night, make sure you have working lights on both the front and back of your bike. On the front, it should be a solid light. On the back, it should be a blinking light below the back of your seat allowing better visibility to cars and for recognition that you are a cyclist. Also, **DON'T FORGET YOUR HELMET!** It is just as important to wear a helmet as it is to make sure you have reflective tape on your helmet while night riding. Remember, covering your body with as much reflective gear as possible is the key!



Holiday Safety Tips

FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

With the holiday season fast approaching, it is especially important for each of us to be cautious and alert when shopping. Crime typically tends to increase significantly during the holiday season. Often with the stresses of family get-togethers, seasonal parties, and all sorts of other holiday festivities, we tend to be in a rush. Our level of alertness may not be what it should be. These are exactly the times and opportunities criminals are looking for, someone who appears to be inattentive and not being mindful of their surroundings. In other words... an easy target. There are steps you can take to significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim:

- Lock your cars and homes.
- Use debit or credit cards if possible. Or, carry just enough cash to pay for your errands. If you must carry large amounts of cash, separate it into amounts needed and place in different pockets.
- Be extremely careful using ATM machines. Use them in populated places and constantly pay attention to what is going on around you.
- If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body. Always keep it zipped or fastened.
- Park as close as you can to the mall or store where you will be shopping.
- Park only in well lit areas if possible.
- Have your keys ready to open your vehicle before you exit the store.
- Remember exactly where you parked.
- Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less fatigued.
- When you are hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of ID and credit cards returned to you before leaving.
- Use an escort or store security if you have too many packages or if you are leaving after store closing times.
- Keep gifts or packages out of plain view inside your vehicle.
- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows of your residence.
- After opening gifts, break down boxes and packaging of expensive items such as electronics or from high-end stores. Put them in plastic bags to hide the fact that you have valuable items like them in your home.
- Carry a cell phone and have emergency numbers readily available.

Remember that practicing these steps can go a long way in ensuring that you and your loved ones are not easy targets for would be robbers and thieves. If we all practice due diligence throughout the holiday season, we can greatly reduce the chances of being taken advantage of during what should be a joyous time of year.

(Re-printed using material from the Alabama Fusion Center and Mountain Brook Police Department)



A warning siren (also known as a tornado siren) is used to provide an emergency warning of approaching danger. The City of Mountain Brook currently has six outdoor warning sirens. They are located at Crestline Elementary, Brookwood Forest Elementary, Mountain Brook High School, Mountain Brook Elementary, Mountain Brook Fire Station #2 (Locksley Drive) and Mountain Brook Fire Station #3 (Old Leeds Road).

The Outdoor Warning System is activated from the Jefferson County EMA Emergency Operations Center Control Point at Birmingham City Hall. It is activated by personnel from the Emergency Management Agency when the need arises, either for significant weather alert, a national emergency, or the monthly test.

The monthly test is conducted at 10 am on the first Wednesday of each month. The test may last up to three minutes, however, during a true emergency, the siren can be activated continuously if needed.

When the public hears the siren, they need to tune in to their local media outlet, radio, TV or other portable devices to hear any announcement as to what the emergency is and what appropriate actions should be taken.



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.



Quarterly Crime Statistics

	2nd Quarter 2017	3rd Quarter 2017
Robbery	3	1
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0
Burglary/Residence	8	5
Burglary/Business	0	1
Theft	42	35
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	51	30
Auto Theft	6	8
Assaults (Other)	4	3
Identity Theft	31	19
Criminal Mischief	10	6
Drugs	16	13
Family Violence	8	9
Accidents	260	234
A With Injuries	17	19
A With Fatalities	0	0
Calls For Service	7,549	7,860
House Watches	313	452
Property Stolen	\$1,137,379	\$362,817
Property Recovered	\$233,317	\$198,624

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 871-4608
LIBRARY BOARD	3rd Tues.	4:30 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
BOARD OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN	3rd Tues.	5:15 p.m.	City Hall
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	City Hall

Garbage Service Holidays



Waste Management will observe the following holidays. If your pickup falls on one of these dates, pickup will be delayed 1 day for the remainder of the week.

**THANKSGIVING DAY –
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017**

**CHRISTMAS DAY –
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY –
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018**

Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	2nd Quarter - 2017		3rd Quarter - 2017	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	19	\$11,083,536	13	\$4,987,300
Alterations/Additions	102	\$16,738,286	99	\$10,777,450
Repairs/Other	236	\$4,975,923	287	\$5,454,519
Totals:	357	\$32,797,745	399	\$21,219,269

COMPARISON OF YEAR - 2016

Permit Type:	2nd Quarter - 2016		3rd Quarter - 2016	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	16	\$12,861,071	23	\$16,115,541
Alterations/Additions	116	\$14,325,817	93	\$11,274,408
Repairs/Other	206	\$ 3,763,753	188	\$ 3,969,069
Totals:	338	\$30,950,641	304	\$31,359,018

Loose Leaf Collection

The City of Mountain Brook contracts with Waste Management for the pickup of loose leaves. The 2017 -2018 leaf collection will begin on October 30, 2017 and end on March 1, 2018. By now you should have received an information letter from Waste Management with the schedule included. If you did not receive a letter or have misplaced it you can visit the city's website (www.mtnbrook.org) for the full schedule.

Please have your leaves at the curb prior to the beginning of your round. Place leaves only at the curb for this collection, and do not include items such as branches, rocks, or bags within the leaf piles. Also, do not have your leaf piles staged 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.



New Businesses

HEALTHCARE

- Cook, Shelia, (dba\ Coleidoscopes), 15 Office Park Circle, 205-427-2423
- St. Jude Medical, 407 Office Park Drive, 205-994-1771

WHOLESALE TRADE

- REP ACTIVE, INC, 134 Lorena Lane, 205-370-0459
- Wear Your City LLC, 53 Pine Crest Road, 205-617-6584

RETAIL

- Pam Evans Interiors, Inc., (dba\ Maison), 2841 Culver Road, 205-253-8850

PERSONAL SERVICES

- Holland Williams Photography, LLC, 101 Hillsdale Road, 850-384-6709
- Jaramillo, Shannon, (dba\Shannon Jaramillo Massage Therapy), 402 Office Park Drive, Suite 205, 205-370-8769

PERSONAL SERVICES

- Lee, Margaret, (dba\ Margaret Lee Services), 3752 Locksley Drive, 205-913-4408

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Law Office of Rachel A King, LLC, 14 Office Park Circle, Suite 106, 205-868-1555
- Sewell Legal, LLC, 4 Office Park Circle, 205-730-1928
- Johnson, Victoria M, (dba\ Miller Interiors), 3813 Halbrook Lane, 205-790-1094
- Marshall & Shaw LLC, 58 Vine Street, 205-410-1356

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



D.I.Y. Oak Trees

September to November is the perfect time to collect oak acorns and grow trees. White oaks are the easiest to use because they will germinate during the same season, whereas red oaks will not germinate until the following spring. With either group, make sure you collect viable seed. Allowing them to lie on the ground results in a large number being ruined by various insects that intrude to feed or lay eggs (the hole is small but visible). A “float test” can weed out most of the duds. Simply dump the acorns in a bucket of water and keep the ones that sink.

To start seedlings, use a good, spongy potting soil mix with sphagnum moss. In an 8 ounce Styrofoam cup, punch 3-4 pencil-sized holes in the sides near the bottom. Fill to the top and settle the soil leaving about an inch watering space. Place the acorn horizontally, barely under the surface. Water until it drains at the bottom. Place cups, protected, on a southern aspect, and never let the soil get completely dry.

When the stalk grows 5-6” and the first set of leaves spread (usually mid-spring), gradually increase exposure time to outside sun and air. Set the trees

outside during the day and return them to protection at night. Watch that late frost! When the second flush of leaves emerge, transfer trees to a tall quart-size container using the same potting soil and water schedule. Inspect the vertical root to see it is not circling the container. Depending on growth rate, it may be necessary to transfer to a larger shrub container if you intend to plant them in the ground come fall, and especially if you want to wait until the following spring to turn them out. This prevents development of detrimental root defects. Finally, do not be afraid to plant more seedlings than the space can accommodate, in terms of mature trees.

Assume that half of the seedlings will not survive that long. Also consider planting groups of seedlings, and do not feel obligated to achieve exact spacing. This will get you started, but there are important considerations down the road. Seek planting and young-tree pruning advice from a professional forester or certified arborist to ensure long term success.

Don Cafaro
City Arborist



Flashing Crossing Signs Installed

The City of Mountain Brook recently installed two new flashing crossing signals on Euclid Avenue at West Montcrest Drive. Early this year in response to residents’ concerns regarding the safety of the crossing, the city hired traffic engineer Skipper Consulting, Inc. to study the existing signage and pavement markings. As a result of this study, it was recommended by Skipper Consulting that the city consider installing two in-sign-face LED flashers.

Christmas Tree Recycling 2017



The Mountain Brook Board of Landscape Design has arranged a tree recycling program that enables you to drop off bare trees at the Birmingham Zoo. The trees will then be recycled and processed into products that can be used as resources to help benefit Mountain Brook and the surrounding Birmingham areas.

Mary Kate Hughes, a member of the Leadership Mountain Brook Board of Landscape Design committee, said “It is important to help maintain Mountain Brook’s reputation for preserving the environment. By helping recycle old Christmas trees we can prevent them from going to waste and also benefit the community.”

This year the Board of Landscape Design hopes to have more people participate in the tree recycling.

Trees can be dropped off December 26th to January 9th during normal business hours. The drop off will be held in the Zoo’s picnic area near the parking lot.

It is important that trees are bare – no decorations, lights, garland or stands – to make the recycling process easier.

Tree Removal

Recently, instances of contractors leaving piles of debris behind, upon completion of the job, have increased concurrently with the increase in tree removals and clean up following last year’s drought and various storms this season. This has reached the point where it is putting a measurable strain on city resources. This is a relatively uncommon scenario in which all Mountain Brook residents can provide direct valuable assistance, simply by being aware of the following: any person or entity (“contractor”) that receives payment for any job that produces waste or debris, **MUST** haul away said debris from the premises. Whether it is an honest mistake or something else, please remember, if/when a contractor states or suggests that “the city” or “Waste Management” will haul away debris, that there are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this policy. Doing so will avoid unnecessary hassle and expense for the city and residents alike. If there are any questions about a contractor and the status of their license, contact Terri Vickers or La Tonya Nash 802-2400 prompt 4. To report a contractor piling debris in violation of this ordinance, please call Steven Gay, Public Works Supervisor, at 802-3870 or 802-3867.



Overton Park
New Playground
Equipment



Three new pieces of playground equipment have been placed at Overton Park. The new pieces were chosen because of accessibility for children with special needs and include a sensory wave arch that can be climbed on and has interactive panels, a sensory seat that spins, and stationary musical chimes.

These three exciting pieces were donated in memory of Mallory Carper, the daughter of Jan and Charlie Carper. As a child in a wheelchair in the 80's and 90's, she had limited access to playgrounds. Her family and friends felt the best way to honor her memory was to help make other children with special needs as happy

as she was and provide more playing options for them.

These new pieces, along with others that were donated in memory of Cameron Cole, Jr. three years ago, make Overton Park a park every child can enjoy.

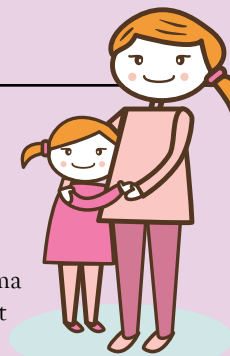
Mountain Brook Schools Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Mountain Brook school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in any of its programs and activities, or in matters of employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. It is against the policy of the Mountain Brook Board of Education to have different rules or regulations on the basis of sex in employment, including recruitment, hiring classification, and other terms, conditions or privileges of employment. The Board, in accordance with Title IX (20 U.S.C. 51681, et seq.), strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in its programs or activities, or any matters of employment. The prohibition includes sexual harassment based on sex, sexual assault, as defined by law and Board policy. Sexual harassment and sexual assault complaints

should be filed and reviewed under the Board's sexual harassment policies (G-32, J-49). All other complaints under Title IX will be filed and reviewed according to the Board's general complaints and grievance procedures (G-34, J-41). The Superintendent is authorized and directed to designate a Title IX Coordinator, whose duties will include, but not be limited to receiving and responding to Title IX inquiries and complaints. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Dale Wisely-Director of Student Services (Title VI), Dr. Susan Cole-Director of Personnel (Title IX), Dr. Missy Brooks-Director of Instruction (Title II), Mrs. Shannon Mundy-Special Education Director (Section 504). Contact Information: 32 Vine Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213, 205-871-4608.

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, 205-414-3836.



Emmet O'Neal Library News

It's Happening at Emmet O'Neal

Programming:

Visit us at www.eolib.org to view more program details and to register.

November

- Monday, Nov. 13, 4:00pm – STEAM Powered: Catapults
 - Tuesday, Nov. 14, 5:30pm – Family Night: Peanuts Thanksgiving Movie
 - Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:00 pm – Bookmania: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
 - Monday, Nov. 27, 6:00 pm – Breakout Book Club
 - Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6:00 pm – Hot Off the Press
- No programs the week of Thanksgiving

December

- December 1 – 21, all day every day – Find our Elf on the Shelf & win a prize
 - Wednesday, Dec. 6, 3:00pm – Etc.: Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Holiday Hairdo
 - Hullabaloo Monday, Dec. 11, 4:00pm – STEAM Powered: Star Wars Science
 - Tuesday, Dec. 12, 5:30pm – Family Night: Atlantic Coast Theatre's The Snow Queen
 - Monday, Dec. 18, 6:00 pm – Breakout Book Club
 - Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6:00 pm – Hot Off the Press
- No programs the weeks of Christmas and New Year's

January

- Monday, Jan. 8, 4:00 pm – STEAM Powered: The Science of Cold
- Tuesday, Jan. 9, 5:30pm – Family Night
- Thursday, Jan. 18, 6:00 pm – Bookmania: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
- Monday, Jan. 22, 6:00 pm – Breakout Book Club
- Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6:00 pm – Hot Off the Press

CHILDREN & TEENS

Book Clubs Galore!

The Emmet O'Neal Library now offers three kids' book clubs each month. Which one is right for your child?

- **Breakout Book Club, for emerging readers and their adults** – Read the book of the month with your child at home, then come together to enjoy food, games, and crafts that encourage further engagement with the story and with other readers. Book selections are listed on our programming calendar.
- **Bookmania, for 4th – 6th graders** – Read the Harry Potter book for the month and come share your opinions, gripes, and favorite moments



over pizza. Follow up the discussion with a Potter-related game or craft. Check our programming calendar each month to see which book we're reading.

- **Hot Off the Press, for 3rd – 6th graders** – Read any book you want. Over pizza, tell everyone about your book and hear about the stuff other kids are loving (or detesting). You'll also get the scoop on a slew of brand new books as Miss Morgan does live book talks to tempt readers of any taste into a taking home a fresh armload.

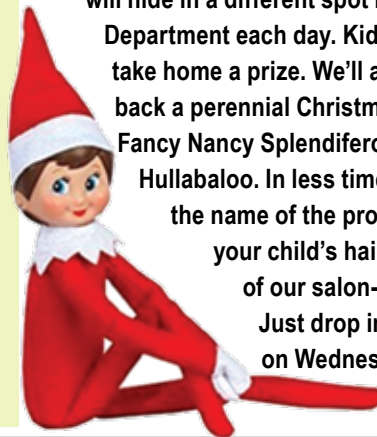
All book clubs have limited space, so be sure to sign up online ahead of time at www.eolib.org.

TEENS



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

We've gotten the official word from the North Pole: our Elf on the Shelf is returning in December! From Dec. 1 through Dec. 21, the elf will hide in a different spot in the Children's Department each day. Kids who find him can take home a prize. We'll also be bringing back a perennial Christmas favorite, the Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Holiday Hairdo Hullabaloo. In less time than it takes to say the name of the program, you can have your child's hair fancy-fied by one of our salon-worthy librarians. Just drop in during salon hours on Wednesday, December 6.



The Emmet O'Neal Library Hosts the International Games Day Celebration

Everyone loves games and there's no better time or place to revel in the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat than The Emmet O'Neal Library's International Games Day Celebration on Saturday, November 4th. The library will host a full day of fun and competition with a wealth of board, card, roleplaying, and video games. There will be food and prizes, but most importantly, there will be fun. Send your teens to this all day extravaganza on Saturday, November 4th from 9 am – 5pm. If you need some more library fun, check out the teen trivia contest on Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 pm.

Exam Preparation

In December students are encouraged to use the library to study for their exams. We open our large meeting room for students to utilize as they study for their finals. We also provide a variety of snacks and drinks to encourage our students to excel on their tests.

Emmet O'Neal Library News



Star Wars: The Last Jedi hits theaters on December 15, so we're celebrating with another Star Wars Week. We'll be using The Force to amplify all our regular programming with Star Wars-themed costumes, crafts, and games. Dress as your favorite character and prepare to battle Darth Vader, train as a Jedi, wield a light saber, and more. Come or come not. There is no try.

(left) A young Jedi-in-training uses the Force to battle Darth Vader during our first-ever Star Wars Week.

(below) Parents and kids made living comics at September's Breakout Book Club, a program for emerging readers and their adults to engage with a book together.

Finding a Great Book

We have new ways to help you find a great kids' book. Check out goodreads.com/emmetonealkidsreads for curated lists of books on particular levels or themes. To receive a monthly e-mail of our recommendations, send a message to kidsreads.eol@gmail.com. You can also use that e-mail address to ask for a recommendation on any topic, level, or genre. If you visit our website, www.eolib.org, you can find all those monthly recommendations in PDF form. And don't forget to stop by and see us in person – we're always ready to help you and your child find a stack of great reads.



Standing Room Only Events

Standing Room Only is the Library's program series for young professionals in the community. Bring a friend and join in the fun!

- Nov. 17th 6:30pm – Standing Room Only - Great Brookie Bakeoff Competition – Create a unique recipe and bring ingredients for your signature challenge to bake on site in our easy bake ovens AND stir up the competition in the secret technical challenge. Ages 21 & Up. Space is limited. Registration required and begins October 9th.
- Jan. 19 6:30pm – Standing Room Only - Lender: A Literacy Mixer - Single, new to town, or looking to make new friends? Bring a book or two to swap and join us for hors d'oeuvres, adult beverages, and simple games. Ages 21 & Up.

for the grown ups

Celebrate the Season with Dickens!

This December, the Library has a gift for you! On Thursday evening, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. the Emmet O'Neal Library will host a live reading of Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol". We will open the doors at 6:30 p.m. with cookies and hot chocolate followed by an hour-long reading of this favorite holiday classic. It's also Crestline Village Open House, and we will be featuring some of your friendliest neighbors, shop keepers, and librarians as characters in the reading. Don't miss this event!



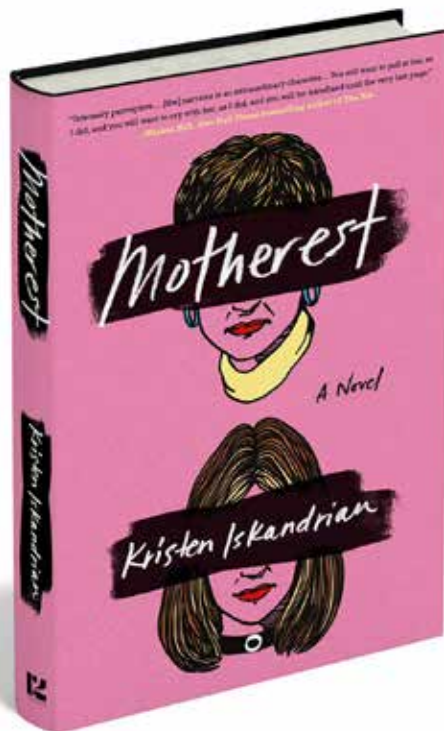
Emmet O'Neal Library News

Kristen Iskandrian at EOL

Please join us in welcoming Kristen Iskandrian to Emmet O'Neal Library on Sunday, December 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Kristen is the author of the acclaimed new novel "Motherest," a book which the New York Times called "fearless" in a recent review. In the book we meet Agnes, a college student who not only has to deal with being away from home and navigating college, but who is also processing upheaval in her family life. The novel gently explores what it means to be a mother, a daughter, and a friend.

Kristen Iskandrian's work has been published or is forthcoming in Tin House, Zyzzyva, Crazyhorse, EPOCH, and Ploughshares, among others. Her story "The Inheritors" was included in The O. Henry Prize Stories 2014 as a Juror Favorite. She was a Juror for The O. Henry Prize Stories 2015 along with Tessa Hadley and Michael Parker. She has a BA in English from the College of the Holy Cross, and an MA and PhD in literature and creative writing from the University of Georgia. Born in Philadelphia,

Kristen currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with her husband and two daughters.



A Letter from the Director

The Battle of the Books

by Lindsy Gardner

When Amazon launched the first Kindle e-book readers, the sale of e-books soared. Many early promoters claimed that print books would be obsolete in a decade. In 2008, when asked whether bibliophiles would abandon print books in favor of digital, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said, "We're not going to keep riding our horse to work just because we love our horse."

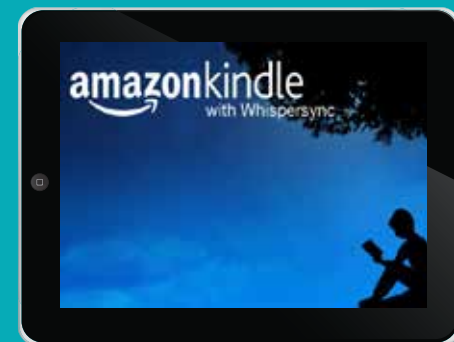
Bezos was mostly right. E-book sales exploded from 2008 to 2014, but in 2015 those sales seemingly plummeted. Why? First of all, the largest publishers demanded higher prices for e-books in 2015, so fans of Grisham, Patterson, etc. would pay the same for the print or digital version. As a result, print sales increased modestly, and e-book sales decreased dramatically ...but only for the largest publishers. Sales of independently published e-books have continued a meteoric rise, especially in genres like romance. So, who is winning the battle? Based on unit sales in 2016, e-books sold about 125 million, while print books sold at 150 million. I think the real winner will be decided based on how sales of independently published e-books perform over the next five years.

How does the battle for the book affect the Emmet O'Neal Library? As of June 2017, print books still have the largest circulation at around 201,000, but e-books are not far behind at about 123,000. How do librarians feel about the new revolution? We are just happy when folks are reading. Period!

If you are interested in checking out e-books from Emmet O'Neal Library, you'll need to have your library card number handy. Download the Libby by Overdrive app or the Hoopla app and get started! Your friendly, local librarians are always ready to assist. Call 205.445.1101 for more information.

Sources:

- "Print vs Digital, Traditional vs Non-Traditional, Bookstore vs Online: 2016 Trade Publishing by the numbers." *Author Earning*, authorearnings.com/report/dbw2017/. Accessed 20 Sept. 2017.
- Alter, Alexandra. "The Plot Twist: E-Book Sales Slip, and Print Is Far From Dead." *The New York Times*, 22 Sept. 2015, www.nytimes.com/2015/09/23/business/media/the-plot-twist-e-book-sales-slip-and-print-is-far-from-dead.html?mcubz=1. Accessed 20 Sept. 2017.



The Holocaust

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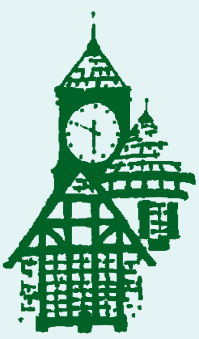
Emmet O'Neal Library, 50 Oak Street, Mountain Brook, 205-445-1121

Holocaust In Film 2018

Our popular series, the Holocaust In Film, returns in January 2018 with four new films chosen for the series by Dr. Andre Millard, a Professor of History at UAB with an emphasis in popular culture. Dates and times for the films are

- Thursday, January 18th
- Thursday, January 25th
- Monday, January 22nd
- Thursday, February 1st

For more information, including titles, please contact Katie Moellering at Emmet O'Neal Library at 205-445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us



THE VILLAGES OF

MOUNTAIN BROOK



Holiday Happenings in Mountain Brook

English Village Holiday Open House

Nov 29th, 5:00-8:00

Mountain Brook Village Holiday Open House

Nov 30th, 5:00-8:00

Holiday Parade in Mountain Brook Village sponsored by Swoop

Dec 3rd @ 3:00

Cahaba Village Holiday Open House

Dec 5th, 5:00-8:00

Crestline Village Holiday Open House

Dec 7th, 4:00-7:00

Save the Date

Jan 23rd, 11:00-1:00 | Chamber Annual Luncheon Honoring Jemison Award Winner Dr. Neal Berte @ Grand Bohemian Hotel | Register at mtnbrookchamber.org

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Chamber Luncheon Featuring Dan Starnes Nov. 8th, 11:00-1:00

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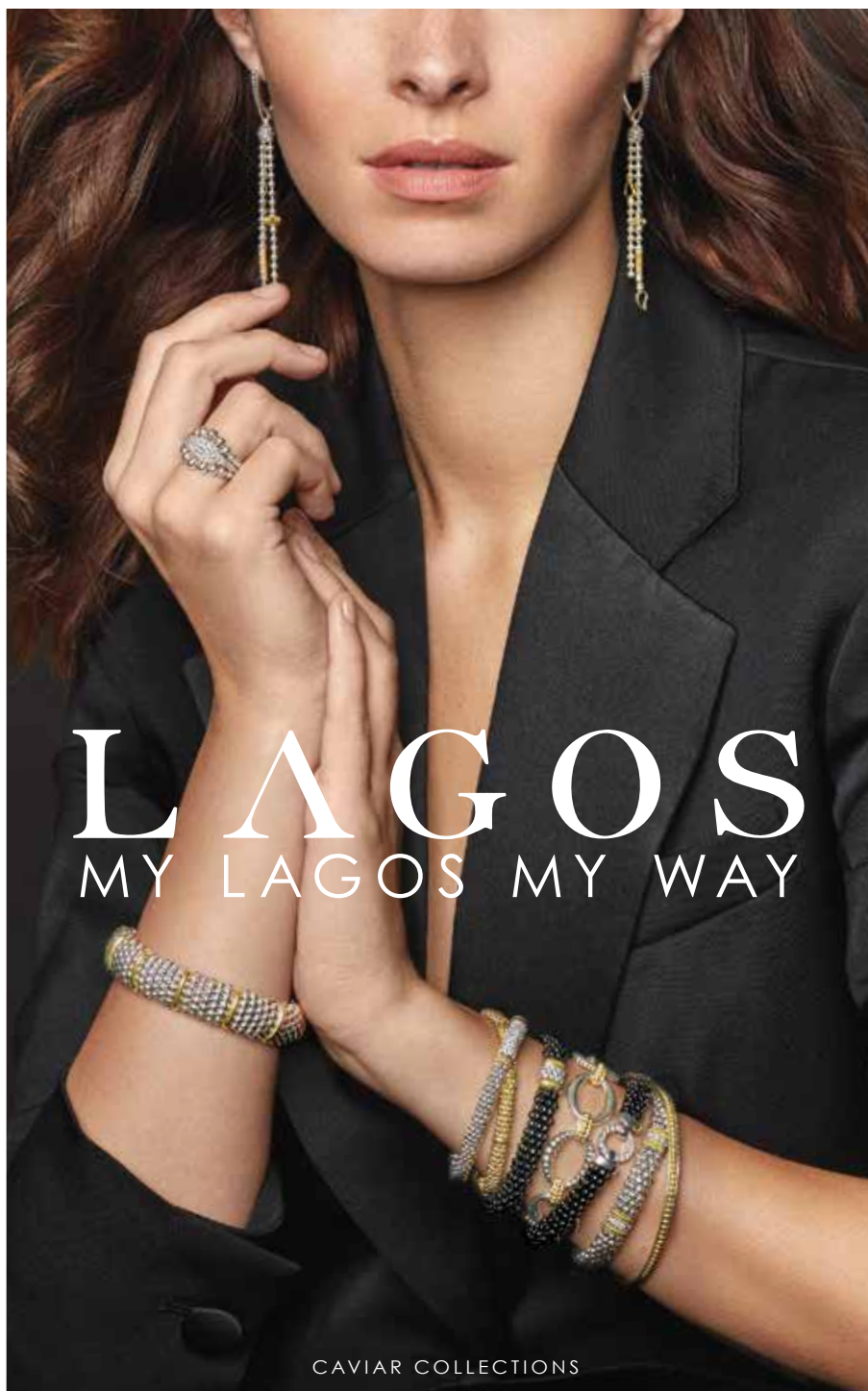
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Retreat at Mountain Brook Ribbon Cutting



R&R Liquor Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting



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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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.



\$86,150

(Gifts & Pledges as of 10/06/2017)
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Mimi & Fred Renneker III
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Class Gift Program Drives are Underway

The Foundation's Class Gift Programs have kicked off along with the new school year.

Gift Programs are in place for our new Kindergarteners, the Class of 2030, as well as the current Mountain Brook High School Classes of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Kindergarten parents are invited to participate in the One More Month Campaign established to encourage parents to make their first annual donation to the Foundation in the same amount they would have paid each month for preschool, day care, or the like prior to their child entering Mountain Brook Schools as a Kindergartener. Donations can still be made through the Foundation's online giving page.

The Class Gift Programs of 2018 - 2020 are under the direction of wonderful parent leadership and have set their goals from \$90,000 - \$100,000. Gifts and pledges are received anytime between students' sophomore and senior years. The class gifts will remain in existence so graduates can contribute to make donations through reunions and alumni events for years to come.

PARENT CLASS CAPTAINS FOR THE THREE PROGRAMS ARE:

2018

Lori & Eddie Allen
Carol & Jorge de la Torre
Bridget & Steven Sikora

2019

Bebe & Butch Burkett
Renee & Scott Fenn
Langston & Will Hereford

Stephanie & Stephen Steinmetz

2020

Tona & Brent Hitson
Elizabeth & Tom Jernigan
Lori & Perry Smith
Laura & Jesse Vogtle

Donations to these programs can also be made online through the Foundation's website.

Class Gift Totals

2018

\$45,576

2019

\$23,140

2020

Just Starting!



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.

NEW WEBSITE & ALUMNI PLATFORM FOR THE FOUNDATION



October was a very exciting month for the Foundation as it rolled out its newly designed website with an online alumni directory.

The new website www.mtnbrookschooldsfoundation.org was created through a partnership with FRED Communication by Design.

“Our former Foundation Board Member and Mountain Brook Schools’ parent Derick Belden, the owner of FRED, has worked with us to create a beautiful, fluid space for parents, students, alumni and friends to find out the latest news, events and projects of the Foundation,” said Executive Director Stephanie Maxwell.

All Mountain Brook High School graduates are encouraged to visit the new Alumni Page on the site to register and update their contact information. For more information, please contact Stephanie at 205-414-0042.



Foundation Presents Annual Award to Mountain Brook Schools - \$410,801 for the 2017-2018 School Year!



Members of the MBCS Foundation presented a commemorative check in the amount of this school year’s award, \$410,801.00, to Mountain Brook Schools at the MBHS football game against Hoover on September 8, 2017. Pictured from l. to r. are William Nicrosi, John Burton, Amanda Hood, Dr. Stephen Favrot, Dr. Dicky Barlow, Elizabeth Dunn, Alice Womack, and Stephanie Maxwell.

The 2017 Every \$1 Counts Faculty & Staff Appeal was a great success as teachers and staff across the system donated over \$14,850 to the Foundation.



Picture l. to r. are members of this year’s Every \$1 Counts leadership team: Ashley Crossno, Kimi Blanton, Bryan Rosenstiel, Co-Chair Holly Martin, Shannon Millhouse, and Co-Chair Brannon Aaron. Not pictured are Cynthia Loggins, Suzan Brandt and Katy Caughran. Thank you, faculty and staff, for this and all you do every day for our students!

Foundation’s ED to Represent State of Alabama on the NSFA Industry Leadership Council

Stephanie Maxwell, Executive Director of the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation in Mountain Brook, has been selected for the National School Foundation Association’s Industry Leadership Council. Individuals selected for the Industry Leadership Council are considered thought leaders in the industry and understand the value of our collective national efforts in raising the knowledge base, profile and impact of the education foundation industry.



Planned gifts are a way to help the students of Mountain Brook beyond your lifetime without affecting your current cash flow. If you have already made plans to include the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation in your estate plan, please notify the office so we can include you as a member in the Foundation’s Legacy Society, and thank you.