Welcome New Mayor!

Stewart Welch will take office on Monday, November 7, 2016. We welcome him and look forward to his guidance and service.

Stewart shared his background and goals as Mayor:

GROWING UP IN MOUNTAIN BROOK:
Having been born and raised in Mountain Brook, I have always known that this was a special place. My home was located down a one-lane road not too far from the Water Works where, as kids, we would sneak in and fish. We all had horses and could ride wooded trails all day. As a youngster, Tarzan (starring Johnny Weismuller) was my favorite TV show and I used to cut tree vines and play Tarzan in the woods near my home.

I grew up in the Mountain Brook School system and was part of the second graduating class at Mountain Brook High School. I then spent four fun-filled years at the University of Alabama where I did “the fraternity thing” (SAE) and managed to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing.

Upon graduation, I returned to the Mountain Brook area to start my career which, today, includes two fee-only investment management and financial advisory firms.

BIGGEST LIFE LESSON (WHICH I LEARNED FROM MY FATHER):
Hard work solves a lot of problems!

DECISION TO RUN FOR MAYOR:
I have worked with numerous charities over the years but had never seriously considered a role in politics until I was approached about running for Mayor. My first reaction was, “Heck NO! There’s too much fighting between Mayors and Council Members.” Then I was assured, “Mountain Brook is different.” A bit of due diligence on my part proved that Mountain Brook is indeed very different. The Mayor and City Council members have a close working relationship and are backed up by an elite team of professionals led by the long-time City Manager, Sam Gaston. Also, the city is in great financial shape (thank you, Steve Boone!) which I attribute to decades of excellent leadership.

MY GOALS AS MAYOR:
Retiring Mayor, Terry Oden, is a legend around Mountain Brook. His steady presence and insightful leadership have helped shape Mountain Brook for over twenty years. So my first goal is, “Don’t mess it up!” City leaders have helped create a unique lifestyle with sidewalk planning, parks, sports, the Library and our beautiful villages filled with wonderful restaurants and shops. Given my business and financial background, I hope to further connect businesses to our residents. I would also love to figure out how to involve younger members of our community in city government and activities. As your Mayor, I would like to help make a great community even better and I am excited about the possibilities.

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Welcome New Councilman, Phil Black!

Phil Black is president and CEO of Simonton Swaika Black Architects, Inc., a commercial design firm in Birmingham. He is a current member of the Mountain Brook Planning Commission, having served over the past 4 years. He has also served on the Mountain Brook Board of Zoning Adjustments for 10 years; 5 years as its chairman. As an architect, Phil’s firm has been involved with many of the capital improvements to the various Mountain Brook school facilities over the past 18 years including the new school board office on Vine Street and the recent expansion of the Mountain Brook High School. He and his wife Susan attend St. Mary’s on-the-Heights Episcopal Church, have lived in Mountain Brook for over 32 years and raised their 3 children in the Mountain Brook School System.

A Message from Phil:
“I look forward to working with the other members of the council and our new Mayor to continue to improve the quality of living in Mountain Brook. Our city has enjoyed great leadership under Mayor Oden and the many fine councilors over the years. I plan to continue my involvement with the Planning Commission as the Council liaison. Because Mountain Brook is a land-locked municipality, with little available land for growth in either the commercial or residential areas, I believe the focus of the city leadership should be to assist with the continued improvement of amenities and infrastructure in our commercial areas while attracting and retaining high quality businesses. Our beautiful and livable neighborhoods should continue to be protected from speculative over-building and unwanted density by judicious use of the existing zoning and developmental ordinances, to keep the city’s carefully crafted Village Master Plan updated and relevant.”

“I am particularly interested in supporting our excellent school system in its mission of providing a high quality and engaging education for our students. I have been fortunate to work with two outstanding superintendents and be involved in the detailed planning of many of the system’s facilities. I have gotten to know many dedicated teachers and school board members. As a parent of children entering adulthood, who are Mountain Brook School System alums, I see the results of how our gifted teachers, staff and administrators prepare students for becoming productive members of their communities. I believe our school system is truly the crown jewel of our city.”

License Renewals

Business license fees collected for the year end September 30, 2016 totaled $2.8 million.

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

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.

New businesses may apply for a license by printing an application from our website www.mtnbrook.org. The business license application may be found by clicking “Businesses” on the top navigation bar and then “Business Application” under “Forms.”
Sometimes sitting on the Mountain Brook City Council is like having box seats at the symphony. At other times it’s like having front row seats at a boxing match. The meetings are normally entertaining and informative, they are occasionally raucous, but they are rarely dull. Over the eight years I have been on the Council, I have had the privilege of serving in the city government with Mayor Terry Oden and council members Virginia Smith, Billy Pritchard, Jesse Vogtle, Bob Moody, Amy Carter, Alice Womack and Lloyd Shelton. Everyone has always had the best interests of the City at heart in every decision made. We did not always agree, but everyone did what they felt was best for the city.

Mountain Brook is fortunate to have so many people who genuinely want to volunteer and make the city a better place to live. We actually have more volunteers than we have places for them to serve. With full time City Manager Sam Gaston and Assistant City Manager and Finance Director Steve Boone running the day to day operations of the city, the Council and Mayor are more involved in setting the course or direction the city is to take than in the everyday running of the city. In some respects one of the best things the Council can do is to see that the city departments have what they need and then get out of the way and let the department heads do their jobs.

Mountain Brook is also fortunate to have very dedicated, well trained and conscientious department heads. Police Chief Ted Cook, Fire Chief Chris Mullins and before him Robert (Zeke) Ezekiel, Public Works Director Ronnie Vaughn, Park and Recreation Superintendent Shanda Williams, and Planning, Building and Sustainability Director Dana Hazen are constantly doing everything they can to make the city safe and enjoyable for its residents. They truly go beyond the mere requirements of their job descriptions to be helpful.

There are so many others, both paid and unpaid, that I cannot possibly mention all of them but I do want to thank Suzan Doidge at the Chamber of Commerce for everything she does for the city.

I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the City Council and I thank you for allowing me to do so.

Jack D Carl

Goodbye from Mayor Terry Oden

Well, this is the last in a long line of inspirational “Mayor’s Messages.” What can I say? After 20 years, so much water has gone over the dam and under the bridge, I really do not know where to start.”

“Suffice to say, as Mountain Brook residents, we have the very best of everything a city our size can offer. The City is well funded, well managed and responds to the needs and desires of its residents. We are recognized as having the best city services in the State plus the added amenities of an award-winning library and a first-class sports program. However, the core of our city is that we have one of the best school systems in the nation. We must continue to maintain this high standard.”

“My military hero ended his parting speech at the end of his career with the quote from an old song, "...old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Well, old mayors do die, but for now, I will just fade from the political scene with fond memories.”

“Sandra and I thank you for the great honor, privilege, and opportunity to serve the City of Mountain Brook and its residents for the past 24 years.”

Most sincerely,

Terry Oden
Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since July 11, 2016:

- **Ordinance No. 1955** – Amend Articles I, X, XI, XII of the City Code regarding office uses and medical clinics.
- **Ordinance No. 1956** – Restrict the use of mobile telephones within designated school zones during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.
- **Ordinance No. 1957** – Amended Chapter 14 of the Mountain Brook Municipal Code to state ‘Plus additional $1.00 fee per one thousand ($1,000.00) of value of non-residential construction as required by Ala. Act 2015-308.
- **Ordinance No. 1958** – Adopted the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.
- **Ordinance No. 1959** – Increased the salary of the City Manager.
- **Ordinance No. 1960** – Amended the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1 to include a surplus in General Operations.
- **Ordinance No. 1961** – Repeal Ordinance No. 1693 and to prohibit smoking in certain enclosed places and certain outdoor public places in the city.

The City Council has approved the following projects since July 11, 2016:

- Authorized the payment from the General Fund of $300,000 into the City of Mountain Brook Section115 (retiree medical insurance) Trust for investment in accordance with the City’s investment policy.
- Approved the conditional service use application for tutoring by Grade Power Learning at 81 Church Street (Crestline Corners).
- Authorized the extension of the cable franchise agreement between the City and Marcus Cable of Alabama, L.P. (dba Charter Communications) under the same terms and conditions until July 21, 2018.
- Approved issuance of Retail Liquor license to TLT Group Mountain Brook, LLC (Local Taco).
- Approved issuance of Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) licenses to Clubview Holdings, LLC (Dinner).
- Approved the vacation of part of South Cove Drive by the City of Mountain Brook to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.
- Authorized an amendment to Resolution No. 2011-193 to extend agreement with AT&T for Internet Protocol Services.
- Authorized the Billing Services Agreement and Business Associate Agreement between the City and EMS Management & Consulting, Inc. for ambulance billing services.
- Authorized Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC to perform selective demolition services at the Emmet O’Neal Library to determine existing water penetration conditions.
- Authorized the City to convey a 2012 Tahoe and Big Sky gun rack to the Town of Highland Lake.
- Certified Stewart Welch, III to be qualified for the elected office of Mayor and will commence on the first Monday of November 2016.
- Certified Virginia Smith to be qualified for the elected office of City Council Place 4.
- Approved Sign and Banner Policy in Memory Triangle in Crestline Village and on designated lamp posts in various locations in the City.
- Authorized a regular municipal election on August 23rd, 2016 and if necessary, a run-off election on October 4th, 2016.
- Ratified the execution of real estate closing documents for the development agreement between the City and Ajlouny Investments, LLC.
- Authorized the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority (MAX) fiscal 2017 Transit Service Agreement.
- Approved the installation of the four additional support structures within the public right-of-way in the vicinity of Montevallo Rd, Mountain Brook Parkway, and Hastings Rd for installation/expansion of small cell data network proposed by Crown Castle NB East, LLC.
- Authorized the City Manager to engage Stone & Sons Electrical Contractors to perform lighting upgrades.
- Proclaimed September 2016 as Myositis Awareness Month. Myositis is a general term for life-threatening and rare diseases.
- Authorized Fontenot Benefits & Actuarial Consulting for their actuarial valuation of the City’s retiree medical benefit plan.
- Authorized Skipper Consulting, Inc. to perform a traffic and pedestrian study of Vine Street, Dexter Avenue and Church Street.
- Authorized a public hearing regarding the adoption of an ordinance amending Section 129-295 of the City Code (open house, home tours).
- Authorized the master services agreement between the City and Public Resource Management Alliance Corporation.
- Authorized the transfer of two vehicles to the Livingston Parish, Louisiana Sherriff’s Office.
- Proclaimed the week of September 17th through 23rd 2016 as Constitution Week.
- Proclaimed September 2016 as Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month.
- Authorized to offer eligible city employees continuing health insurance benefits under the follow conditions: eligibility, insurance coverage, premium cost, and employees electing to retire under the provisions of this resolution.
- Rejected all bids received for the construction of a public safety training building.
- Ratified the engagement of Richard Riley Simpson under Brasfield & Gorrie to perform moisture abatement exploration services at the Emmet O’Neal Library.
- Authorized right-of-way acquisition for the bridge reconstruction for Old Brook Trail Bridge over Little Shades Creek, and Canterbury Road Bridge over Watkins Creek.
- Authorized preliminary engineering program for bridge reconstruction for Old Brook Trail Bridge.
- Authorized utility and construction for the bridge reconstruction and rehabilitation project.
- Authorized execution of an agreement for services between the City and Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.
- Approved the sale of surplus computer property by the City.
- Approved the lunchtime restaurant conditional use application for the Ice House at 2708 Culver Road.
- Authorized the settlement agreement with Alabama Furniture Market, LLC v. City of Alabaster.
Recent City Council Actions (cont.)

- Authorized the agreement between the City and Sain Associates in respect to the Phase 9 sidewalk construction, engineering, and inspection services.
- Authorized the tax and license auditing services to be performed by PReMA to the City.
- Authorized the City’s monthly Local Government Health Insurance Plan medical/dental insurance premiums effective October 1, 2016 as established by the State Employee’s Insurance Board.
- Accept the professional services proposal submitted by Gresham, Smith and Partners, with respect to engineering design services for the bridge replacement on Caldwell Mill Road over Little Shades Creek.
- Authorized the salaries of all employees of the City an increase by one and a half percent over their current salary.
- Awarded a bid for scheduled HVAC maintenance at The Emmet O’Neal Library to Metro Mechanical Services, Inc.
- Approved the installation of one new support structure in the right-of-way of Hastings Road.
- Authorized the creation of one police officer position for the City of Mountain Brook.
- Authorized additional professional services to Nimrod Long & Associates regarding the installation/construction of a pedestrian bridge over Watkins Branch.
- Authorized a professional services agreement between the City and Walter Schoel Engineering Company, Inc. regarding the installation/construction of a pedestrian bridge over Shades Creek.
- Awarded the bid for construction and installation of a pedestrian bridge over Watkins Branch to Gillespie Construction, LLC.

Building Permit Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
<th>2nd Quarter - 2016</th>
<th>3rd Quarter - 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Construction</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$12,861,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alterations/Additions</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>$13,934,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs/Other</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>$3,758,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>$30,554,442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quarterly Crime Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2nd Quarter 2016</th>
<th>3rd Quarter 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary/Residence</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary/Business</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaults (Other)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity Theft</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Mischief</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Violence</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A With Injuries</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A With Fatalities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls For Service</td>
<td>7,494</td>
<td>7,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Watches</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Stolen</td>
<td>$219,171</td>
<td>$235,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Recovered</td>
<td>$22,240</td>
<td>$63,280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Board Appointment / Reappointment

**APPOINTMENTS:**
The following Board appointments were made:
- Graham Leigh Smith – Mountain Brook Editorial Board
- Stephanie Maxwell – Mountain Brook Editorial Board
- Kelly Hulsey – Mountain Brook Tree Commission
- Elizabeth Poynor – Mountain Brook Tree Commission
- John Wilson – Mountain Brook Tree Commission

**REAPPOINTMENTS:**
The following Board reappointments were made:
- Penny Page – Emmet O’Neal Library Board
- Max Pulliam – Emmet O’Neal Library Board
- Chris Mitchell – Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Will Hereford – Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Sally Legg – Village Design Review Committee

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2017 Budget Adopted

The City Council adopted the 2017 budget in September. The General Fund budget reflects a surplus of $736,000. The General Fund revenue totals $36.9 million representing a 3% increase over the fiscal 2016 budgeted revenue. Some of the more significant General Fund revenues include:

- Real estate tax
- Sales tax
- License & franchise fees
- Utility taxes
- Automobile property tax
- Construction permits
- Fines
- All other

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Revenue</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real estate tax</td>
<td>$14,311,000</td>
<td>$14,809,000</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax</td>
<td>10,640,000</td>
<td>11,141,000</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License &amp; franchise fees</td>
<td>3,173,000</td>
<td>3,336,000</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility taxes</td>
<td>1,541,100</td>
<td>1,491,400</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile property tax</td>
<td>1,291,300</td>
<td>1,392,700</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction permits</td>
<td>1,137,000</td>
<td>905,000</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines</td>
<td>573,000</td>
<td>549,000</td>
<td>(0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>3,217,870</td>
<td>3,337,995</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals $35,884,270 $36,962,095 3.0%

2017 General Fund expenses total $36.3 million which represents a 2.8% increase from last year’s budget. The charts below illustrate the functional and departmental composition of the city’s General Fund expenses:

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Schedule of Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING</th>
<th>DATE/TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITY COUNCIL*</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Mon.</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARD OF EDUCATION</td>
<td>2nd Mon.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARY BOARD</td>
<td>3rd Tues.</td>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARK &amp; REC. BOARD</td>
<td>2nd Tues.</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT</td>
<td>3rd Mon.</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANNING COMMISSION</td>
<td>1st Mon.</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE</td>
<td>3rd Wed.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREE COMMISSION</td>
<td>3rd Tues.</td>
<td>5:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</td>
<td>3rd Thurs.</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Businesses

INSURANCE AGENCIES AND BROKERAGES
- Yeary & Moore, LLC, 2106 Cahaba Road, Suite B, 205-443-3400

INFORMATION AND DATA SERVICES
- Deposits Online, LLC, 2 Office Park Circle, Suite 8, 205-503-4017
- IllumiCare, Inc., 402 Office Park Drive, Suite 260, 205-719-8595

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIOS AND PORTRAIT SERVICES
- Molly Pearce Clark, (dba\Molly Clark & Associates), 52 Fairway Drive, 205-222-8200

BROKERAGE AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES
- Chip Grinkmeyer, 600 Olde English Lane, Suite 104, 205-968-9222

RETAILERS
- Creative Audio and Visual Systems, LLC, 2 Dexter Avenue, 205-266-8391
- ISHI 30A, LLC (dba\ISHI), 2417 Montevallo Road, 205-874-9920
- Kinnucan Enterprises Inc. (dba\Kinnucan Specialty Outfitters), 201 Rele Street, 334-887-6189

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES
- Comfort Enterprises LLC, 16 Office Park Circle, Suite 17, 205-520-9320
- Companion Animal Practices North America, LLC (dba\Liberty Animal Hospital), 3810 River Run Drive, 205-970-0411
- Deborah Lucille Kerr, 3929 Forest Avenue, 414-704-9504
- Law Office of G. Michael Stripling (dba\G. Michael Stripling, Attorney at Law), 4168 Old Leeds Lane, 205-322-4715
- Niche Interiors, LLC (dba\Matthew G Bees), 2718 Cahaba Road, 205-657-5136
- Parnell Thompson, LLC, (law) 200 Office Park Drive, 205-528-2652
- S2F Logistics, LLC, 3 Office Park, 205-912-8429

Safety Light Arm Bands

In April of this year the Police Department purchased armbands that light up. Officers have distributed almost 600 armbands to anyone walking or running that did not have proper lighting or reflective clothing per Mountain Brook City Ordinance Sec 46-7.

Sec. 46-7. - Use of city streets and roadways by pedestrians.
During the hours of 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m., individuals shall be permitted to walk, jog, or run along and upon city streets and roadways, as long as said individuals are within six feet of the edge of the street or roadway, and provided that said individuals shall wear either:
1. Reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back that covers at least 50 square inches; or
2. Strobe style continuously flashing lights at least two inches in diameter between the waist and shoulders that are visible from the front and back.
(Ord. No. 1665, § 1, 6-13-2005)

Officers began handing the armbands out on April 22. The encounters also gave officers an opportunity to explain the Mountain Brook ordinance and discuss the safety aspects of proper reflective clothing and/or the flashing lights. The armbands were an instant success! Citizens started tracking down officers asking for the armbands. All 200 were distributed in less than a week!

The Police Department continued to get requests for the armbands, so in May we re-ordered 200 more. The re-order arrived in late May. After 2 more weeks of distributing them, the Department has less than 50 left at this time. To say the least, the armbands have proven to be a very positive public relations tool for the Police Department.

Loose Leaf Collection

The hot days of summer have finally moved along and the cooler days of fall have arrived. We have all enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage and now as the colors fade and the leaves begin to drop, it is time to begin the curbside removal of the loose leaves. The City of Mountain Brook contracts with Waste Management for the pickup of the loose leaves. The 2016-2017 leaf collection will begin on October 31, 2016 and end on March 1, 2017. By now you should have received an information letter 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, your bagged leaves will be serviced on your regularly scheduled trash collection day.
The holiday season is fast approaching, and with it unfortunately comes increased crime. Here are a few things you could do to help protect yourself:

When Shopping...
• Pay attention to your surroundings…. if someone seems to be watching you, they may be sizing you up for a crime.
• Try to park in well-lit areas. Lock your vehicle’s doors.
• Do not leave anything of value visible inside your vehicle. Lock your vehicle.
• Avoid placing valuable items in the trunk in public. Lock your vehicle.
• Don’t leave your purse in the shopping cart unattended...you’re making it easy for someone to steal or pilfer your purse.

COMING HOME LATE AT NIGHT:
• Avoid shortcuts that are not well traveled or well lit.
• Know which stores are open in your neighborhood late at night. If you suspect that you are being followed, stay away from lonely quiet blocks and head for a store you know to be open.
• When walking to your vehicle, keep your keys in your hand until you are safely inside for added protection.
• If someone drops you off at home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside before they leave.
• If a motorist bothers you while you are walking, turn around and walk in the opposite direction of the vehicle. If you feel unsafe or threatened, call 911.

AT HOME YOU SHOULD:
• Always lock your doors. Always lock your car doors at home also.
• Have your key ready before you get to the door you are entering.
• Make sure your entrance area is well lighted.
• List only your last name and first initial in your mailbox.
• If a stranger wants to use your phone for any kind of call (from business to emergency)......... Keep him out and you make the call for them!
• Any problems or in doubt? Call the police!
• If you arrive home and find your door open DO NOT GO INSIDE. Call the police from a cell phone or neighbor’s house and ask them to meet you.

Call the Police if you see suspicious activity:
• If you see someone suspicious in your yard or your neighbor’s yard call the Police immediately!
• Working together we can reduce and/or eliminate many of the crimes occurring in the City of Mountain Brook, but it all begins with the citizens of Mountain Brook calling in suspicious or criminal activity. Be active; get involved in helping make your community a safer place.
• Report any suspicious activity to the Mountain Brook Police Department (205) 871-3535 (non-emergency) or 911 (emergency). Program your cell phone with the number. 911 calls from cell phones are sometimes routed to other agencies depending upon which cell tower the call transmits to.

Wear Reflective Clothing
Fall is here and the days are getting shorter. If you usually walk or exercise early in the mornings or in late afternoons please wear reflective clothing and/or a flashing light. Mountain Brook Police Department 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 had 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 gear as you might be sized up for a crime.

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.

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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!
“Replanting our Villages”

You likely noticed earlier this year that numerous majestic but aging oaks had to be removed from our villages due to rot and other structural concerns. In April in Mountain Brook Village, a White Oak was cut down which had been planted in the 1920s in front of Gilchrist when visionary Robert Jemison, Jr. and nationally-recognized landscape architect Warren Manning first developed that intersection. A few weeks later in May in English Village two more oaks were removed in front of the Redmont Gardens Apartments that had been planted in the 1940s when Jemison & Co. developed the area.

With the loss of the oaks this past spring and the expectation that more of the Jemison-era trees planted in our villages will soon need to be replaced, our city arborists Don Cafaro and Michael Gill have been actively working to both replant and prepare for future replacements. With recommendations from the Mountain Brook Tree Commission, six new oaks will be planted near Redmont Gardens to replace not only the two removed earlier this year but also four more which had been cut down earlier this decade but not replaced. Additionally, three more oaks will be planted in English Village along Cahaba Road and a new Willow Oak has been planted in front of Gilchrist.

To better monitor the health of our mature canopy, this summer a canvass was completed of every tree located within Crestline, English, and Mountain Brook Villages. With the assistance of the city’s GIS Manager Hunter Simmons, the Tree Commission now has a computer database of not only the GPS coordinates of every tree in our villages, but its species and in some cases estimated age. Moving forward we will also record the date any new trees in our villages are planted as well as where they were obtained. All of this information will allow for prompt, thoughtful replanting of our villages in accordance with the city’s Master Tree Plan.

Sim S.W. Johnson
Mountain Brook Tree Commission Chairman

MAP Mountain Brook Update

Last September, MAP Mountain Brook went live. During the past year we completed many fundamental projects for the city’s internal use, such as collecting streets and addresses for our E9-1-1 system, map books for the Fire Department, and mapping infrastructure such as sewer lines. While we will continue to build our internal infrastructure, the next year will focus on projects targeting public use. The first of which, our parcel viewer, is now available.

Our parcel viewer provides property information for all parcels within Mountain Brook. Until a fully functional website is developed, the parcel viewer can be found by visiting www.mtnbrook.org and clicking Departments: Planning: Zoning Map. Properties are color-coded based on their zoning assignment. Each parcel is clickable and will display an information box containing a variety of data pertaining to that parcel. A few highlights to make navigating the parcel viewer easier are listed below.

• The heading of each information box (click on a parcel to bring up the information box) lists the zoning for that parcel.
• The second link “Property Tax Info” links to Jefferson County’s tax information page.
• The third link “Link to Zoning Code” takes you to our zoning requirements, such as setbacks and permitted uses.
• At the top of the page there is a search box, similar to online maps such as Google or Bing. Type an address to quickly find your property.
• There are five icons below the search bar. Each icon is a tool described below:
  1. The first, the print tool, is self-explanatory.
  2. The second, are bookmarks that allow you to move around the city quickly.
  3. The third lists available layers. For instance, you can turn buildings on/off depending on your needs.
  4. The fourth is a measuring tool to measure distance or area.
  5. The fifth is a customizable search tool.
• If you have any questions about the parcel viewer, feel free to contact Hunter Simmons at simmonsh@mtnbrook.org. Next up, we will develop a website intended to organize and share what GIS information we have available for public consumption. So be on the lookout, it will be coming soon.
The City of Mountain Brook Public Works department is currently working on a project to restore lighting to some of the original masonry entrance gate columns that were built in the late 1920’s when the city was first being developed by Robert Jemison, Jr. These masonry gates served as boundaries and provided a welcome to Jemison & Co.’s “Mountain Brook” at the time. Not all of the columns were built to accommodate a light fixture and at this time we are not sure if this was by design or simply the result of available power source or lack thereof. Through the years, some of the fixtures have been replaced, and in some cases, it looks as though the fixtures slowly deteriorated and were never replaced. The fixtures that have been replaced appear to have been done at different times and do not match or function properly.

Steven Gay, Public Works Supervisor, has taken the lead on this project and worked hard locating fixtures that closely resemble the original light fixtures. Three fixtures have already been installed, one at Overbrook Road and Mountain Brook Parkway and two at Overhill Road and Montevallo Road. Six more locations will have lights installed this fall. They are:

- Beechwood Road and Old Leeds Road
- Canterbury Road and Montevallo Road (2)
- Cherokee Road and Old Leeds Road
- Cherokee Road and Hwy 280 (2)  
  Note: Available power source may slow this location.

The City of Mountain Brook has collaborated with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to install emergency generators at four intersections on U.S. Highway 280. The city owns and maintains the lights, but ALDOT retains authority over them. This project has been a desire of the city for many years. Last year the city received authorization from ALDOT for the installation. These generators should keep the traffic lights at these intersections functioning any time that normal power is lost at the locations. The generators and automatic transfer switches will provide an auxiliary power source for the city-owned and maintained traffic lights. The intersections are:

1. U.S. 280 at Office Park
2. U.S. 280 at Cherokee Road
3. U.S. 280 at Rocky Ridge Road
4. U.S. 280 at Green Valley Road
This winter, the Library's long-time Director, Sue DeBrecht, will be retiring. Ms. DeBrecht has been at Emmet O'Neal Library for thirty-two years. Before her work at Emmet O'Neal, Sue had a long history of library involvement. Her first job, shelving books at Webster Groves Public Library, paid 50¢ an hour. After receiving her Masters from the University of Missouri, Sue worked at the Louisville Free Public Library Memorial Branch as a Children's Librarian. Later, she opened the first Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Kentucky. She was also the first Librarian to initiate a summer reading program for the blind and physically handicapped. In the 1980s, Sue came to Mountain Brook to work with Pat Moore at Emmet O'Neal. From 1985 to 1987 she was the Children's Librarian, then, in 1987, Ms. DeBrecht was named Assistant Director. After Pat Moore retired in 1990, Ms. DeBrecht was named Library Director. In that time, Ms. DeBrecht has overseen the creation of the Mountain Brook Library Foundation as well as the construction of the building we have today. In 2012 Ms. DeBrecht received the State Library Association’s highest honor when she was named Eminent Librarian. The past 25 years have seen many changes. We asked our Director about some highlights from her career at Emmet O’Neal:

What is your favorite memory of the past 25 years?
There are too many to choose from! The first thing that comes to mind is Hogwarts. We had the most fun over the years dressing up as characters, pretending to run a school of magic. The kids had a great time, but I think the Librarians had more fun! After Hogwarts I would say having Khaled Hosseini at the Library just after his first book, The Kite Runner, came out. Many of our patrons had read the book, but he wasn’t a huge name yet. Also, the 50th anniversary event with Doris Kearns Goodwin was a once in a lifetime moment! We used to host sleepovers in the old building where we would go down to the basement with a flashlight and look for ghosts. That was fun too!

What is the funniest thing that’s happened to you at the Library?
The time in the old building when the commode exploded on me. I was picking porcelain out of my hair for days!

Who is your most memorable patron?
Dennis Covington, who used to drop his children off at school, then come to the Library to write his books.

What would surprise people about your job?
The huge amount of administrative work; managing the building, materials, staff, budgeting, HR management. It’s a LOT! Another challenge to my job is staying current. The Library is a digital space as well as a physical space. So managing all the fast moving digital changes, staying current on what our patrons want, and figuring out how to deliver it to them, well that’s a challenge!

What are you planning for retirement?
Oh, the normal activities ... travel! My daughter is getting married in April, so that will take up a large part of my retirement! And I will continue to volunteer with the Wenonah High School Girls Basketball team. I have been a huge supporter for 16 years now!

Who would play you in a movie about this library? And would it be comedy or drama?
It would be a comedy, starring Julia Roberts.
It’s Happening at Emmet O’Neal

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

November
• Tuesday, Nov. 8, 5:30pm – Family Night: B’ham Children’s Theatre: Little Engine That Could
• Monday, Nov. 14, 4:00pm – STEAM Powered: Snap Circuitry
• Wednesday, Nov. 16, 3:30pm – Etc.: Raptor Show
No programs the week of Thanksgiving

December
• Monday, Dec. 12, 4:00pm – STEAM Powered
• Tuesday, Dec. 13, 5:30pm – Family Night: Movie – Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
• Wednesday, Dec. 14, 3:00pm – Etc.: Fancy Nancy’s Splendiferous Holiday Hairdo Hullabaloo
No programs the weeks of Christmas and New Year’s

January
• Monday, Jan. 9, 4:00pm – STEAM Powered
• Tuesday, Jan. 10, 5:30pm – Family Night: That Puppet Guy Lee Bryan’s Dr. Dinosaur
• Wednesday, Jan. 18, 3:30pm – Mo Willems Party
• Thursday, Jan. 19, 6:00pm – Hot Off the Press Book Club

Birmingham Children’s Theatre brings *The Little Engine That Could* to EOL on Tuesday, November 8.

New Book Group: Hot Off the Press

The book club is back and better than ever!
Starting Thursday, January 19, your 4th – 6th graders can stay on the cutting edge of reading by taking part in Hot Off the Press, a book group focusing on the latest titles in middle grades books. Be sure to sign up online ahead of time. Spots are going to fill up fast for this brand new program.

Retired Children’s Department Head Carol Melton returned as a stylist for last year’s Fancy Nancy Holiday Hairdo Hullabaloo.
Emmet O’Neal Library News

Christmas is just around the corner, which means it’s almost time for the Elf on the Shelf to return. All through the month of December, take some time to hunt for the Elf on the Shelf in the Children’s Department. The elf moves overnight, so you can play every day – and kids who find him earn a prize. ‘Tis also the season for the Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Holiday Hairdo Hullabaloo. Drop in between 3:00 and 5:00 on Wednesday, December 14, to have a librarian transform your child’s hair into a photo-worthy holiday creation.

Managing Assets During Retirement: A Lunch & Learn Seminar

Speaking of retirement! On Tuesday, November 15th at noon the Emmet O’Neal Library and Bob Agnew, Senior Financial Advisor with Agnew Investment Management, LLC, an affiliate of the Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, will partner to offer a Retirement Planning Strategies presentation. This lecture will focus on managing assets during retirement with an emphasis on cash flow. This very timely and informative presentation is aimed at anyone in retirement now or saving for retirement.

This seminar is a lunch & learn program. Lunch is free, but registration is required. To register, please contact Katie Moellering, Adult Services Librarian, at 205-445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.
Yule Ball Announced

It is with great pleasure that the Emmet O’Neal Library presents the Yule Ball on FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16. Wizards and muggles of all ages are invited to attend. A Harry Potter Trivia Tournament will begin the evening. Winners of the Trivia Tournament will be announced at the Ball which will feature live music of both the Wizard and Muggle varieties.

THIS EVENT IS FREE.

Please register your trivia team of 4-6 people with the Library by calling the Adult Department at 205-445-1121.

The Library encourages ALL ages to register, especially families! This all ages program will begin at 6:30 pm. Trivia will run from 7-8:30 pm. The Yule Ball will commence at 9:00 and end at 11:00 p.m.

Wizards are encouraged to wear dress robes, Muggles, please wear formal wear!

Just for Teens @ EOL

- November 5th – Game On! 1-4 p.m.
- November 9th – Teen Advisory Board 5 p.m.
- November 17th – Teen Trivia: Thanksgiving Edition 6:30 p.m.
- November 19th – International Games Day 12-5 p.m.
- December 3rd – Game On! 1-4 p.m.
- December 5th – Teen Advisory Board 5 p.m.
- December 12th – 15th – Exam Breaks!
- December 14th – Late Night Study Session 6-9 p.m. PIZZA!
- December 16th – YULE BALL! TRIVIA! DRESS ROBES!
- December 20th – Hayao Miyazaki Film Fest 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

iPad Stations

We are in the process of replacing our touch screen computers for preschool and lower elementary aged kids with iPad stations. These new devices are loaded with the latest and greatest in edutainment for little ones. Kids will have such a good time manipulating monsters, machines, and music notes, they won’t realize they’re learning in the process. We keep an eye on reviews of children’s apps to make sure we can bring you outstanding new games in science, engineering, math, literacy, technology, and fine arts. Next time you’re in the Children’s Department, take a few minutes to browse the iPad stations. Your kids will thank you, and you might even discover an app or two that you’d like to download for use at home.
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State of the City Luncheon with the new Mayor and City Council

Come and meet our new Mayor Stewart Welch III and Mountain Brook City Council including new member Phillip Black, along with council members Billy Pritchard, Alice Womack, Virginia Smith and Lloyd Shelton.

Friday, November 18th, 11:30 at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
Register at welcometomountainbrook.com or call the Chamber office at 871-3779.

A legend in his own time

Mayor Oden speaks to the Leadership Mountain Brook class about his life with the Secret Service
Fresh Fraser Fir Christmas Trees
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Custom Arrangements

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The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce welcomes Molly Wallace to their team as Project Manager. Molly, originally from Montgomery, is a graduate of Furman University and has a background working for numerous non-profits. Some may recognize Molly from her Camp Skyline days, in which she worked as an Assistant Director for the camp, recruiting new camp families and hiring summer staff. Molly is married to Carter, a pediatric resident for UAB, and she is mom to Anna Wells, age 16 months.
new officers were elected at the August 29, 2016 Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation’s Board of Directors Meeting. Alice Womack, Immediate Past Board President, passed the leadership of the Foundation to newly elected President Dr. Stephen Favrot and his Executive Committee beginning on September 1st. The new committee includes, Dr. Favrot, Paige Daniel ’90, President-Elect; John H. Burton, Jr., Treasurer; William K. Nicrosi II, Development Chair; Charles M. Smith ’98, Investment Chair; Key Hudson ’00, Programs & Needs Chair; Alice Womack, Immediate Past President; and Glenn E. Estess, Jr. ’72, Counsel.

Class of 2016 Leaves Behind Legacy & Time Capsule

Parents of the Class of 2016 graduating seniors worked with the Foundation over the past three school years to raise over $82,200 as a legacy for the class. Along with the parents’ efforts, Student Gift Captains and Foundation Ambassadors Meghan Beck, Mathilde Sharman and Laney Smith worked to build awareness of and raise funds for the Foundation. As their last class effort, Beck, Sharman and Smith coordinated the compilation of Class of 2016 Time Capsule that their class will open at their 25th Year Reunion. Pictured above (l. to r.) with a few items from the capsule are 2016 Ambassadors Meghan Beck, Mathilde Sharman and Laney Smith.

Faculty and Staff Participate in Every $1 Counts Campaign

Over 267 members of Mountain Brook Schools’ faculty and staff participated in the Foundation’s Every $1 Counts Campaign for a total of $14,643 in gifts and pledges. The Campaign was led by MBJH Faculty Member Larry McCain and MBS Technology Director Donna Williamson. McCain and Williamson were joined by representatives from each school and central office – Sandy Ritchey, crestline; Beth Dean, Cherokee Bend; Christy Christian, Brookwood Forest; Tanya Anastasia, Mountain Brook Elementary; Holly Martin, MBJH; Jessie Creech, MBHS; and Janice Grammer, Central Office. Pictured below are some of these campaign volunteers with donors from their locations.

Foundation Presents 2016-2017 Award to MBS

Prior to Mountain Brook’s varsity football game against Tuscaloosa County, Mountain Brook Schools Superintendent Dr. Dicky Barlow and Board of Education President Brad Sklar were on hand to accept a commemorative check from members of the Foundation’s Board of Director’s in the amount of $389,873.00 – the Foundation’s donation to the school system for this academic year. Pictured l. to r.: Amanda Hood, MBHS Principal; Dr. Dicky Barlow, Superintendent; Brad Sklar, MB Board of Ed President; John Burton, MBCSF Treasurer; Dr. Stephen Favrot, MBCSF President; Charles Smith, MBCSF Investment Chair; Alice Womack, MBCSF Immediate Past President; and Stephanie Maxwell, MBCSF Executive Director.