



the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XXI, Issue 1

the Reporter
Mountain Brook, Alabama

Fire Department Insurance Services Office (ISO) Classification Upgraded to a Class Two Rating

Nation Wide Fire Department ISO Class
Numbers



The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is an organization that rates all fire departments across the country utilizing a standardized method to determine risk in the community. The information derived from the analysis is kept in a national database and provided to local insurance companies to help determine property insurance rates for the community. The ISO ratings are based on a Class 10 to a Class 1 scale. A Class 10 rating is given to a community having no fire protection meeting minimum ISO criteria for recognition, and a Class

1 rating is given to those communities having the absolute best fire protection. Your annual homeowner's insurance rates and commercial rates are based on our fire department's ISO class rating.

There are three major areas that are put under scrutiny during an ISO review: Emergency Communications, the Fire Department itself, and our Water Supply system. The emergency communications area reviews the City's 911 capabilities with respect to reporting emergencies, the telecommunicator's training and abilities, and the actual dispatch center

itself and relevant equipment. The Fire Department area reviews equipment capabilities, deployment analysis, community risk reduction, staffing levels, training programs, record keeping, and other operational considerations. The Water Supply area reviews our City's water distribution system (fire hydrants) and its capability to deliver large volumes of water, and the records for inspection and flow testing of hydrants.

The ISO reviewed our Fire Department in August of this year. The Fire Department has previously held a Class 3 rating. The results of the recent rating were released in December. The Mountain Brook Fire Department received an ISO rating of Class 2. Though homeowners may not see a reduction in annual insurance rates, commercial entities may see some reductions. Those with commercial policies should consult with their insurance providers for possible opportunities. The ISO evaluates over 48,000 fire departments across the country. The chart above shows the number of departments in each classification. The City of Mountain Brook Fire Department as a class 2 department is in the top 2% of departments nationwide.

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Mayor: Lawrence T. Oden

CITY COUNCIL

Council President:

Virginia Carruthers Smith

Council Pro Tem, William S. "Billy" Pritchard III

Jack Carl

Alice Womack

Lloyd Shelton

City Manager:

Sam S. Gaston, 802-3800

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

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Mountain Brook Ranked #2 in Nation

Business Insider magazine recently ranked Mountain Brook as the second best suburb in the nation. The rankings were based on school systems, poverty and crime rates and median household income. Mountain Brook was ranked #4 in this survey in 2013. Only New Albany, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus, scored higher than Mountain Brook.

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Fire Chief Retiring



After 42 years in the fire service, Fire Chief Robert "Zeke" Ezekiel will retire, effective March 1, 2016. Prior to accepting the position as the Fire Chief in Mountain Brook (in December 1993), Chief Zeke had a 20 year career with the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department (1973-1993); beginning as a firefighter and being promoted through the ranks to chief officer.

Chief Zeke earned his Masters of Public Sector/Private Sector Management (MPPM) degree from Birmingham Southern College in 1995. Continuing his education, he obtained certification in the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program from The National Fire Academy (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in 2000.

In 1996, he served as President of the Central Alabama Fire Chiefs Association and served as President of Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs in 2001. He was a member of the 2003 Leadership Birmingham Class, past President of the Board of Directors for the Family Skills Center (a non-profit organization whose mission is to negate child abuse), and past president of the Mountain Brook Exchange Club. Additionally, he has served as Chairman of the Alabama Joint Fire Council and served as Chairman of the Board for the Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System (BREMSS). Zeke also serves as a member of the advisory council for the Fire Science Program at Jefferson State Community College. He has been active in all of these organizations.

During his 22+ years as the Fire Chief in Mountain Brook, Zeke has been instrumental in implementing and spearheading numerous projects:

- Coordinated the design and construction of the Fire Department's Training Facility and Drill Tower – where firefighters have recurring simulated training courses to stay abreast of procedures during real incidents;
- Coordinated and facilitated the expansion of the department's mission to include fire department provided ambulance services for the City.
- Instrumental in having the Fire Department's ISO rating lowered from Class 3 to Class 2 – which translates to lower insurance rates for commercial owners;
- Based on the needs of the department, Zeke provided visual/design ideas to architects for construction of the new Fire Station No. 1 at the Municipal Complex;
- Took a lead role in establishing the Alabama Firefighter Memorial which is erected at the Alabama Fire College campus in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Chief Zeke's dedication to providing excellent service was the drive behind the department's motto: "Quality Service for a Quality City." The department's pyramid of shared/core values listed below are instilled in his management style and displayed by every member within the Fire Department:

Pride
Safety
Integrity
Education
Commitment to Quality
Customer Service Orientation

When asked if he would continue in the fire service after retirement, he replied, "I'm working on some things." We are confident that Chief Zeke will enjoy his additional time with family and competitive bass fishing. We thank him for his dedicated service to the City of Mountain Brook and we wish him well on his future ventures.

Doris Kenny Retires

Fifteen years ago, Doris came to work as Executive Assistant to the City Manager, the Mayor and City Council. Since then she has provided a quick smile and excellent customer service for the city's residents and internal staff. During this time, she has become the City's Answer Desk by providing phone numbers, directions, scheduling banner space, selling Village Gold and responding to "I know you are not the right person but can you tell me..." In every case, she has made an effort to get issues resolved or the inquirer directed to the proper department as quickly possible.

Prior to joining the Mountain Brook family, Doris held an International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) Certified Professional Secretary certification. Always striving to improve, Doris continued to be active with IAAP and received the Office Executive Management (OEM) certification in 2002. In 2004 she completed an online Administrative Associate degree with Madison Area Technical College with a 4.0 gpa. She served as president of the 125-member Birmingham Chapter of IAAP in 2003-2004; was named IAAP 2004 Birmingham Chapter and Alabama Administrative Professional of the Year and 2005 IAAP Distinguished Chapter President. The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce selected Doris as 2006 Employee of the Year.

Doris' unprecedented dedication is exhibited with fifteen years attendance with no unscheduled (sick days) time off.

Doris will miss all her wonderful friends at Mountain Brook but looks forward to having more time to pursue her many hobbies and activities, such as dancing, sewing (quilting), gardening, house projects and some traveling.



A New Face at City Hall



City Manager Sam Gaston is pleased to announce that Janet Forbes will take Doris Kenny's position as Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Janet, a lifelong resident of Mountain Brook, started work on January 25th. She will train with Doris learning the different aspects of her new role. Janet plans to take the foundation that Doris has set and build on it.

Janet is a graduate of Mountain Brook High School and Auburn University. She is married to Billy Forbes and they have two sons, Will and Charlie. They are members of Canterbury United Methodist Church.

Arbor Day 2016



Members of the Tree Commission will be distributing tree seedlings as part of the annual Arbor Day celebration on Saturday March 12, 2016, from 9:00am - 12:00pm, or as long as supplies last. Free tree seedlings will be available at the following locations: Piggly Wiggly (River Run—Overton Rd), Western in Mountain Brook Village, Whole Foods in Cahaba Village, and the Emmet O'Neal Library in Crestline. This year's native tree selections include the following:

- 500 white dogwood
- 300 each of the following:
 - Sweetbay magnolia
 - Longleaf pine
 - Southern sugar maple
 - Eastern red cedar
 - White oak

Members will be on hand at each site to provide information about the trees, planting tips, and more. Any seedlings left over, following the giveaway, will be available at Oak Street Garden Shop in Crestline Village, on a first come-first serve basis.

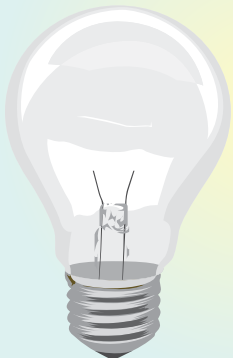
The Tree Commission will be partnering with Mountain Brook's elementary schools this year, to conduct an Arbor Day poster contest. One winning fifth grade poster from each participating school will be selected, and then submitted to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for inclusion in the statewide contest. Each winner will receive a prize of \$25 in Village Gold, and the chance to participate in a ceremonial tree planting with the Governor!

Don Cafaro
City Arborist

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.



Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since October 12, 2015:

- Ordinance No. 1941 – Provide for stop sign on Randolph Road at its intersection with Fairway Drive.
- Ordinance No. 1942 -- Approval of the educational degree premium pay pursuant to Section 1.VIII.G. of the Personnel board of Jefferson County “Salary Administration Guide & Pay Plan”.
- Ordinance No. 1943 -- Amended Ordinance No. 1942 to include Director of Planning, Building and Sustainability.
- Ordinance No. 1944 – Amended the Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015 regarding service agreements with agencies.
- Ordinance 1945 – Amended Article VII of Chapter 26 of the City Code regarding Schedule Y – Motor vehicle carriers and express companies.
- Ordinance No. 1946 – Alter and rearrange the boundary lines of the City of Mountain Brook, Alabama, so as to annex property at 5313 Old Leeds Drive.
- Ordinance No. 1947 – establishing time restrictions for ten (10) on-street public parking spaces located at 55 Vine Street.

The City Council has approved the following projects since October 12, 2015:

- Adopted the Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015 and ending September 30, 2016.
- Approved the transfer of funds in the amount of \$275,000 from the Emergency Communications District to the City’s Capital General Fund.

- Recommended a Restaurant Retail Liquor License to Sawtooth Cook-house Crestline, LLC (Miss Dots Crestline) at 49 Church Street.
- Authorized the City to dispose of surplus/unneded personal property.
- Authorized Work Authorization with Sain Associates with respect to the design of a concrete island on North Woodridge Road at intersection with South Brookwood Road (for a pedestrian crossing).
- Authorized a professional services agreement with Walter Schoel Engineering with respect to erosion control of the streambank and channel of Shades Creek (at Mountain Brook Parkway and Overbrook Road).
- Requested Alabama Power Company to upgrade three (3) street lights on existing poles along Brook Manor Drive.
- Approved the following amounts to appropriated agencies for FY-2016:
 - Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority - \$2,100
 - Exceptional Foundation - \$7,500
 - Jefferson County Historical Commission - \$1,000
 - Alabama Veterans’ Memorial Foundation - \$1,000
 - Birmingham Museum of Art - \$11,500
 - Alabama Symphonic Association - \$12,000
 - Birmingham Botanical Society - \$20,000
 - Birmingham Children’s Theatre - \$5,000
 - Prescott House - \$5,000
 - McWane Science Center - \$10,000
 - Alabama Ballet - \$2,500
- Birmingham Zoo - \$25,000
- Requested Alabama Power Company to install a street light on an existing pole between 2720 ad 2724 Mount Royal Circle.
- Authorized to offer eligible City employees continuing health insurance benefits under outline conditions under an early retirement window.
- Approved agreement with ALDOT for intersection improvements at Cahaba Road/US-280/Culver Road/Lane Park Road.
- Approved Right of Way Acquisition Agreement with State of /Alabama for intersection improvements at Cahaba Road/US-280/Culver Road/Lane Park Road.
- Approved agreement with State of Alabama for utility and construction intersection improvements at Cahaba Road/US-280/Culver Road/Lane Park Road.
- Approved encroachment agreement at 98 Country Club Boulevard.
- Awarded bid for the purchase of a fire pumper in the amount of \$473,203 to Bonaventure Company, Inc.
- Authorized extension of a lease agreement for parking lot on Overton Road with Merkos L’Inyonie Chinuch of Alabama (Chaba’d of Alabama) for Overton Park overflow parking.
- Reaffirmed the City’s commitment to promote safe workplace guidelines.
- Amended the criteria which the City Council shall use in connection with the consideration of annexation petition filed with the City subsequent to March 26, 2012.
- Authorized the establishment of BB&T Commercial credit cards for certain Library employees.
- Authorized a contract for general services with Birmingham Regional Paratransit Consortium d/b/a ClasTran, an Alabama non-profit corporation.
- Accepted professional services proposal with Nimrod Long and Associates with respect to landscape architectural design services for the sidewalk connections and prefabricated bridge at Watkins Branch for the Phase 5b sidewalk project..
- Authorized installation of street light on South Brookwood Road at its intersection with South Brookwood Lane.
- Authorized installation of street light on an existing pole at 4431 Briarglen Drive.
- Resolved that all employees who elect to decline medical coverage for themselves or dependents must provide documentation annually to the City’s designated benefits manager.
- Accepted the sole bid in the amount of \$29,798 from Library Designs, Inc. to move second floor library shelving to facilitate the installation of carpet.
- Accepted professional services proposal submitted by Sain Associates in the amount of \$27,000 with respect to the design of a right turn lane extension on Overbrook Road at Montevallo Road.
- Designated Steven Boone, City Clerk of the City of Mountain Brook, Alabama to act on behalf of the City with respect to unclaimed property retained by the State of Alabama.



City Adopts New Ordinance to Facilitate Personal Wireless Communication Services

The City has adopted an ordinance for new “small cell” technology that would result in the availability of reliable, personal wireless communication services for residents and the public by permitting the placement of Small Cell Technology Facilities and associated structures along the Right of Way and on private properties in the City. The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the “Act”) and regulations promulgated with respect to the Act by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) authorize local governments to enact reasonable regulations for the placement, expansion, height, and maintenance of Small Cell Technologies Facilities and associated structures. As provided in the proposed ordinance, the City seeks to mandate, where feasible, the collocation of Small Cell Technology

Facilities on existing poles and other Support Structures as opposed to installation of new structures. The adoption of the regulations, procedures and requirements in this ordinance will permit applicants and providers to enhance the provision of personal wireless service and protect the public welfare, health, safety and interests of the City’s citizens.



Quarterly Crime Statistics

	4th Quarter 2015	Total 2015	Total 2014
Robbery	1	7	5
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0	0
Burglary/Residence	12	30	34
Burglary/Business	0	3	4
Theft	44	180	139
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	16	70	73
Auto Theft	3	7	8
Assaults (Other)	2	8	10
Identity Theft	19	89	51
Criminal Mischief	7	50	36
Drugs	28	99	83
Family Violence	1	30	28
Accidents	270	960	938
A With Injuries	23	51	63
A With Fatalities	0	0	0
Calls For Service	6,959	30,392	31,054
House Watches	540	2,240	2,723
Property Stolen	\$436,148	\$1,259,581	\$850,108
Property Recovered	\$184,739	\$374,331	\$125,768

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

New Businesses

WHOLESALE/RETAIL

- Gallery Space LLC, (dba\Gallery 1930), 1930 Cahaba Road, 205/910-5842

PERSONAL CARE SERVICES

- Lovely Nails, 2709 Culver Road, 205/879-7204

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Back Pain Solutions LLC, (dba\Relax the Back), 2800 Cahaba Village Plaza, Suite 180, 205/979-3222
- Destiny Therapeutic Solutions, LLC, (Counseling), 13 Office Park Circle, Suite 9, 2054/601-9222
- Finch, Laura Luckie, (Licensed Professional Counselor), 4 Office Park Circle, Suite 203, 205/490-1175
- McGiboney, Ronerta G., (dba\Conscious Body Healing Arts Center), 300 Office Park Drive, Suite 205, 205-936-0171

Parks and Recreation News



Tot Lot's new playground

The Crestline Tot Lot is now open and ready for the little ones to play on the new playground. The new playground includes a climber play set with slides, toddler and regular swings, a tunnel, and other exciting spaces to explore. The Tot Lot is also the new home of the turtle that was removed from Overton Park. It was an old favorite of so many residents and now future generations will be able to enjoy it. The adults will also find that the old benches were changed out with the benches donated by MBHS. This was part of a recycling effort by Leadership Mountain Brook, who also worked to replace the fence. Go by and see the many changes that have occurred over the last few months.

Master Plan

Lose and Associates presented their draft of the Master Plan at a public meeting on October 27. They received public comments and are now working on the final draft. The City is already implementing some of their ideas for making the parks more user friendly. For example, the parking lots at the Athletic Complex, Overton Park and the Tot Lot will be restriped, some of the signs are being replaced, the underbrush will be removed from Jemison Park, and a restroom will be added to the fields near Crestline Elementary. Even though some of these improvements were initiated before seeing the draft of the Master Plan, we know we are in line with their suggestions. Keep a look out for more improvements!

Board Appointments / Reappointments

APPOINTMENT

The following Council appointments were made:

- Trenton Wright – Parks & Recreation Board
- John Doody, Jr. – Finance Committee

REAPPOINTMENT:

The following City Council reappointment was made:

- Patrick Higginbotham – Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Keehn Berry – Parks and Recreation Board
- Lynn Ritchie – Village Design Review Committee

Take Pride in our City

Do your part to keep our City 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*





Waste Pickup Information for Mountain Brook

GARBAGE:

Is picked up once a week behind the house or by the garage. Garbage is kitchen and bathroom waste only. Cans cannot be any larger than 30 gallons. Anything larger, including 90-gallon rolling carts, will have to be placed at the curb

for pickup. If the driveway is blocked or the dog is out, Waste Management will not pick up the garbage.

- Yard work supplies (flowerpots, hose, and tools)
- Glass, crockery, and metal

KNUCKLEBOOM:

Collected on a weekly basis. Should be on the same day as your garbage service. Service may be slower during the warm months due to spring cleaning. Trash and large piles of limbs and shrubs need to be at the curb, as close to the street as possible without being in the street. Tree limbs cannot weigh more than 90 pounds each or be longer than 4 to 6 feet. Only trees and limbs cut by the resident will be picked up by Waste Management. **Any tree cutting and trimming work done by a contractor MUST be hauled away by the contractor.**

PREPARATION FOR SPECIAL ITEMS:

Paint cans – Remove the lids of the cans. If paint is still inside, put sand, dirt or kitty litter on top of it, then set the cans with the lids off, at the curb on garbage pick up day.

Appliances with Freon (such as refrigerators and air conditioners) - Will not be picked up until these appliances have been drained of freon and a certified sticker has been placed on the item. A technician at an appliance service department can provide the freon removal. The items can then be placed at the curb for pickup.



RECYCLING:

Is picked up once a week at the curb, the same day as the garbage. The following items are recycled:

- Newspaper
- Aluminum
- Steel and other metal cans
- No. 1 through 7 plastics (HDPE-clear plastic milk jugs and PET plastic soft drink containers)
- Magazines
- Telephone books
- Cardboard (with no food on it)
- No Glass

One bin per household is provided by Waste Management. Additional bins can be purchased from Waste Management for \$20.00 each.

TRASH:

Is picked up once a week at the curb, the same day as the garbage. Items such as the following are considered to be trash:

- Small piles of limbs
- Bagged grass and leaves, unless more than 4 or 5 bags
- Furniture and appliances (mattresses included)
- Clothing
- Paper products and moving boxes

Leaf Collection Update

Loose-leaf collection service will end on March 1, 2015. Please refer to your schedule to confirm the remaining collection dates for your area. It can be accessed on the city's webpage at www.mtnbrook.org. If your leaves are put out on the street after the beginning of the 4th and final round, they must be bagged. Also, please 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. Larger trash items should be placed near the curb for knuckle-boom truck collection.

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



ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP:

Dirt, rocks, gravel, concrete, bricks, construction material, batteries, and tires.

FOR REQUESTS OR COMPLAINTS, PLEASE CONTACT WASTE MANAGEMENT AT (205) 841-2740.

Building Permit Activity

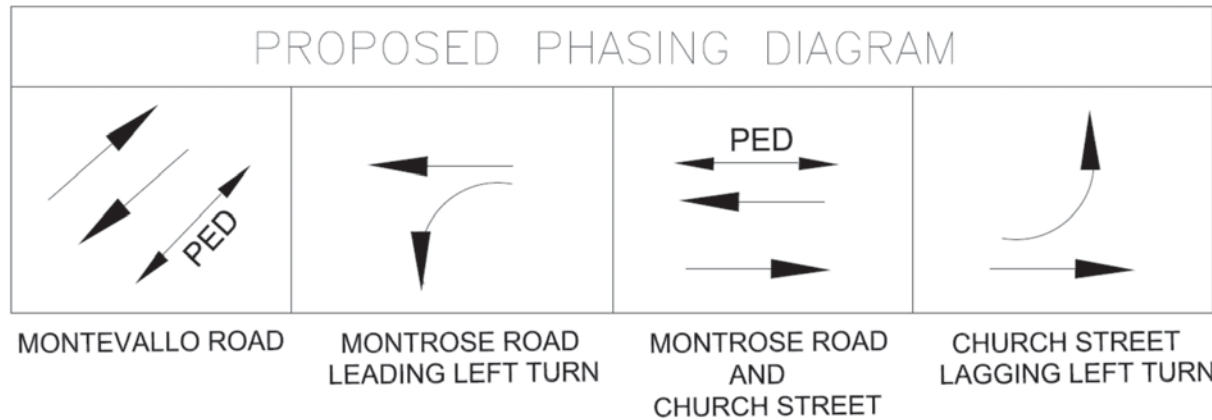
Permit Type:	3rd Quarter - 2015		4th Quarter - 2015	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	14	\$12,750,600	14	\$9,035,519
Alterations/Additions	87	\$15,128,635	70	\$6,428,459
Repairs/Other	223	\$3,943,187	165	\$2,348,527
Totals:	324	\$31,822,422	249	\$17,812,505

Traffic Improvements Update

Work has been completed on the APPLE (Advanced Planning Programming and Logical Engineering) traffic study being performed by the City of Mountain Brook using grant money provided by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. The total cost of the APPLE study was \$50,000, with \$40,000 provided by the RPC and \$10,000 provided by the City. Skipper Consulting of Birmingham was hired as the consultant to undertake the study. Ten locations were selected by the City for study. Construction work which was recommended in

periods of traffic. A project, which has been designed and let to contract by the City of Mountain Brook, involves modification to the traffic signals facing Church Street and Montrose Road. A new traffic signal controller cabinet will be installed which will allow the left turns from Church Street and Montrose Road to work independently of the adjacent through traffic movements, which will in turn allow greater efficiency in the use of side street green time. The Montrose Road left turn will lead the through movements and the Church Street left turn will lag the through move-

This intersection also experiences traffic congestion on a regular basis during both the morning and afternoon periods. Due to the historic walls and bridge, physical improvements to the intersection are not feasible. A review of the traffic signal showed that better efficiency could be gained by installing advanced technology to detect the presence of vehicles and modify the green times according to the level of traffic demand. In addition, pedestrian crossing signals with pushbuttons will be added for the existing pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection. This project, which has been designed and let to contract, should be completed before the spring of 2016. Cost of the project is approximately \$26,000 in equipment and \$23,000 in labor.



the APPLE study is currently being undertaken at two of the study intersections by Stone and Sons Electrical Contractors.

Montevallo Road at Church Street/Montrose Road

Traffic congestion is a regular occurrence at this intersection during both the morning and afternoon peak

ments, as illustrated in the diagram above.

This work should be completed during the spring of 2016. Cost of this project is approximately \$9,000 in equipment and \$12,000 in labor.

Overbrook Road at Mountain Brook Parkway/Pine Ridge Road

Old Leeds Road at Crosshill Road

Another traffic project was completed by the City of Mountain Brook in November, 2015 at the intersection of Old Leeds Road at Crosshill Road. The existing traffic signal at the intersection was modified to provide a protected left turn green arrow for traffic westbound on Old Leeds Road to turn onto Crosshill Road. This arrow is active only from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. on weekdays. Traffic studies of the intersection showed that this green arrow would improve the operation of the intersection by reducing the queue of traffic on Old Leeds Road westbound during the morning rush hour. The left turn green arrow is not needed at other times of the day due to lower left turning traffic volumes and increased traffic on Old Leeds Road headed in the eastbound direction.

Liquor Taxes

Like fuel and tobacco, alcohol, especially liquor, is a heavily taxed commodity. The majority of the total cost of a liquor drink is attributable to taxes. On the front end, operators of bars and restaurants pay a 56% liquor tax to the State of Alabama (based on the price by the purchaser). This tax is passed along to the end consumer by way of menu pricing. On the back end, liquor drink sales are also subject to the following additional taxes:

1. General sales tax (4% State, 2% County, 3% City, or 9% total)
2. 6% County liquor license tax (Act 747)
3. 3% County additional sales tax (Act 545, Sec.3)

4. 4% City liquor license tax (Sec. 26-227 (a))

Where liquor taxes may be confusing to the end consumer is how they may be administered by bars and restaurants, which is certainly not uniform. Bars and restaurants may separately itemize on a customer's bill anywhere from, but not limited to: 0%, 9%, 12%, 13%, 15%, 19%, or 22%. Those that choose not to itemize, but to bury these taxes in their menu prices should display signs in their establishments expressly stating that liquor drink prices include all applicable taxes. So, regardless of whether



your receipt for liquor drinks specifically itemizes these taxes (again up to 22%) or not, consumers should be aware that approximately 80% of the cost of their liquor drink is attributable to taxes (56% at the point of purchase by bars and restaurants, and 22% upon their sale to the end consumer).

The City collected \$188,000 from the 4% liquor taxes in fiscal 2015.

Emmet O'Neal Library News

Preview Party and Book Sale

It's THE big book event of the year - The Friends of the Emmet O'Neal Library Preview Party & Book Sale. This year's sale kicks off with a Preview Party on Thursday evening, February 17th. All donors giving \$25 or more to The Emmet O'Neal Library will receive an invitation to the party. At the Preview Party you'll get first crack at the best books, including beautiful art and coffee table books, collectible items, and rare titles. Visit the Friends page of the Library's website at www.eolib.org/friends.php and donate today! The sale opens to the public Friday and Saturday, February 19th and 20th from 10am-5pm and on Sunday, February 21st from 1pm-4pm.

The Friends work hard to maintain the quality and value of the books for the sale and to that end, they have sought the valuable insight of John C. Jones, USPAP Appraiser, broker of fine art, and appraiser on the PBS Antiques Roadshow, on items that have been donated to the book sale. Some of these items

have done well at international auctions but the library will have some of the items that Mr. Jones has appraised as well. Don't miss your chance to shop for the valuable treasures the Friends of the Emmet O'Neal Library Book Sale has in store!

Drop in, select books for yourself and friends, and support the Library. Stop by each day of the sale; you're sure to find something different each time! Proceeds from the sale fund Library programs

for all ages throughout the year. If you've ever attended the Brown Bag Lunch series, sent your teens off to our Game On programs, attended one of our book groups, participated in the Library's Summer Reading programs for children, teens, or adults, attended a Standing Room Only special event, or spent time at any of the Library's other regularly scheduled programs, you've taken advantage of the vital resources provided by the proceeds from the annual



Friends of the Emmet O'Neal Library Book Sale.

Our Friends group accepts book donations throughout the year in preparation for this sale. Simply ring the doorbell at the back door of the Library and ask for a receipt. We'll do the rest!

Smart Directions @ EOL



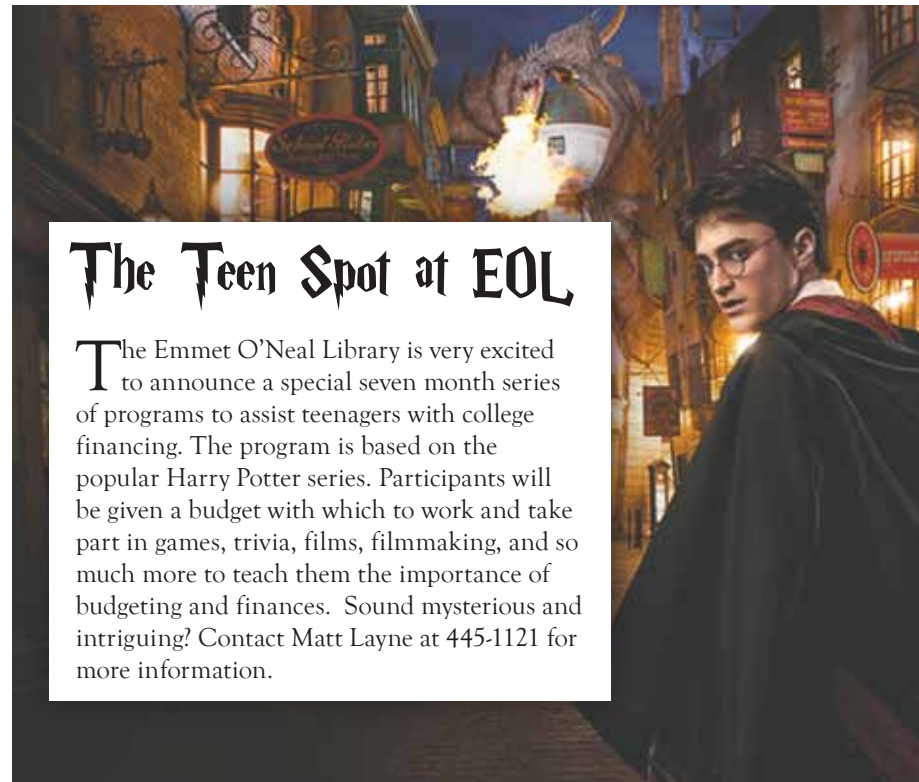
The Library's signature series of programming on personal finance and investing continues in the spring with a seminar series focused on the direction you chose! We asked in last fall's seminars what you want to learn, and you told us. Our February, March and April seminars will focus on advanced topics in investing including diversification, ethical investing, asset allocation and more. The series continues on the first Thursday of each month beginning February 4th and continuing on March 3rd and April 7th. Smart Directions @ EOL is brought to you by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation through Smartinvesting@yourlibrary.org, a partnership with the American Library Association.

If you missed earlier session, check out the library's Smart Directions website. Each seminar is recorded and session materials are available online.



The Teen Spot at EOL

The Emmet O'Neal Library is very excited to announce a special seven month series of programs to assist teenagers with college financing. The program is based on the popular Harry Potter series. Participants will be given a budget with which to work and take part in games, trivia, films, filmmaking, and so much more to teach them the importance of budgeting and finances. Sound mysterious and intriguing? Contact Matt Layne at 445-1121 for more information.



Emmet O'Neal Library News

Free Online Resources From EOL!

Did you know about all the great (FREE!) material available to you through the Emmet O'Neal Library's Resources page? Visit our website at www.eolib.org, hover over the Adult tab, and click Resource ... VOILA!

HOOPLA is our newest resource which offers thousands of movies, documentaries, audiobooks, ebooks and more at your fingertips. Mountain Brook residents with a valid library card can borrow 5 hoopla items per month. Checkout periods are as follows:

Movies & TV - 72 hours

Music - 7 days

Audiobooks, Ebooks, & Comics - 21 days



FREGAL allows you to download up to 3 songs per week for free, AND, the songs are yours to keep!



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ROSETTA STONE - your favorite language learning resource, FOR FREE! Mountain Brook residents have access to over 30 languages from Chinese to Irish to Urdu.



UNIVERSAL CLASS - enroll for free in hundreds of online courses led by real instructors.



OVERDRIVE - gives you access to thousands of downloadable audio and ebooks.



Don't have a Library card? Please stop by the library with your Driver's License or other picture ID and proof of residency. Your library card will open doors on a world of possibilities!

Children's Department

Etc. Program

Sometimes we have a brilliant idea for a party theme or a dress-up day or a makers project, but we can't seem to fit it into any of our regular storytimes or other programs. Our solution? A new program that offers a little something extra. It's called Etc: Everything That's Cool. Keep an eye on our calendar because Etc. won't always be on the same day or at the same time - it simply happens when inspiration strikes, and it is always interactive and creative. The next Etc. program is February 3 at 3:30. Bring the whole family to create Valentines for the patients at Children's Hospital. We'll provide all the supplies - just bring your imagination!



Summer Reading Kickoff May 22

Save the date for the annual summer reading kickoff carnival on Sunday, May 22. This year's program is all about fitness and sports, so get on your mark, get set, read!



Emmet O'Neal Library News



Lew-E's Circus is coming back on April 12.

Special Programs

- February 2**Family Night: TomFoolery comedy juggling show, 5:30 pm
- February 3**Etc: Valentine Crafting, 3:30 pm
- March 8**Family Night: B'ham Children's Theatre's Jack & the Beanstalk, 5:30 pm
- March 23**Etc: Chopped: Family Edition, 4:00 pm
- April 12**Family Night: Lew-E's Circus, 5:30 pm
- April 20**Etc: Bubbles!, 3:30 pm



Bring your whole crew on March 23 for the family edition of our Chopped program.

Children's Department online resources

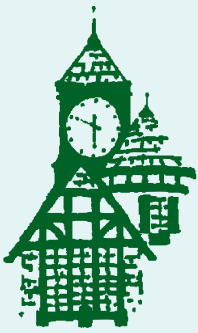
Did you know you can download children's e-books, audiobooks, and movies for free through our website? Have you heard that your emerging reader can safely do online research without needing your reading assistance? Would you like your child to begin learning a foreign language? Visit www.eolib.org's Children's page to access these resources and more:

- Overdrive: Download the best and newest in children's e-books and audiobooks. Use these materials on your computer or enjoy them on a mobile device. Some e-books include an audio read-along, as well.
- Capstone Interactive and Tumblebooks: These sites have interactive children's books you can view on a computer, tablet, or phone. Capstone specializes in nonfiction, while the Tumblebooks collection offers hundreds of chapter books and animated picture books. Both sites include audio read-along features. Use abc for the username and 123 for the password.



- PebbleGo: We heard from elementary teachers and staff in the community that PebbleGo was absolutely a worthwhile subscription, so we investigated and agreed. If you navigate to the site through www.eolib.org, you can access a research database that primarily uses captioned images to browse information. Hover the mouse over an image to hear the caption read aloud. When you land on your topic, easy-to-read facts accompany photographs on tabbed pages, and an audio track provides read-along help. Additional resources include videos, games, and help with citing the site as a source of information. The username is eol, and the password is 123.

- Rosetta Stone: Your child can learn the basics of a language for free from one of the most well-known and vetted language learning programs available. Choose a language and sign up with your e-mail address to get started.



MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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THE VILLAGES OF

MOUNTAIN BROOK

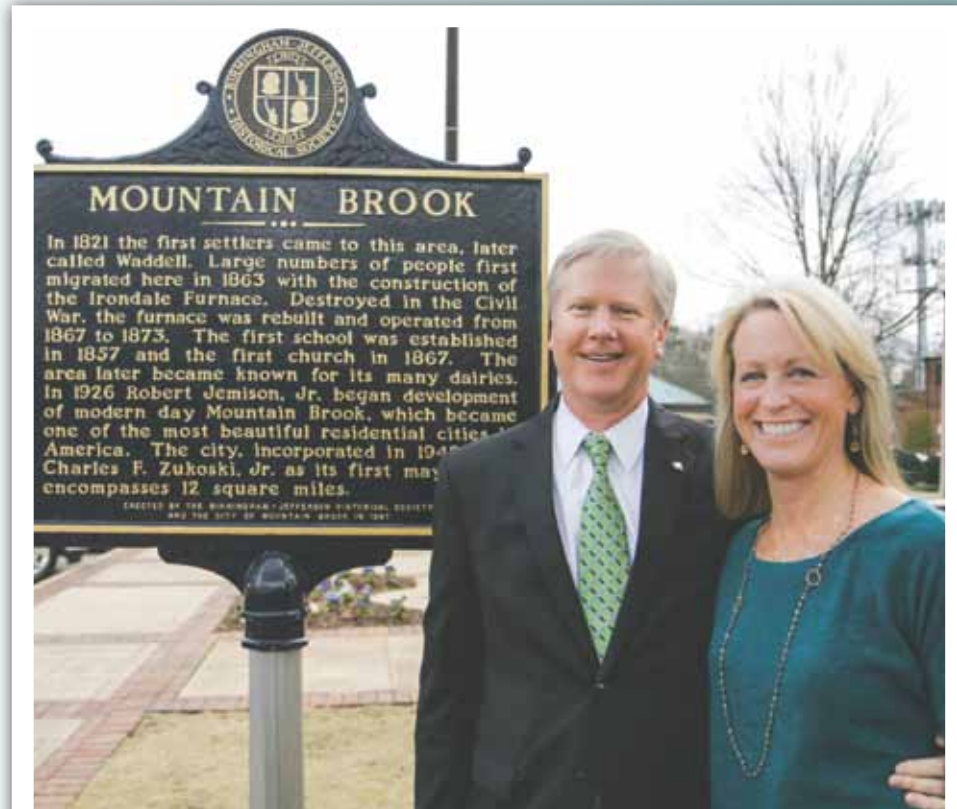
Welcome Chamber President Dan Bundy

It is my pleasure to introduce Dan Bundy as the incoming President of the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce. Dan is a Senior Vice President of Regions Bank and is an active member of the community.

Dan is past president and Assistant District Governor of the Birmingham Sunrise Rotary Club, Board member of Foundation Capital, Executive Board member of LifeSouth Blood Centers, an active member of Canterbury United Methodist Church, where he serves on the Lucille Beeson Grant Committee.

Dan has served as a volunteer for the Mountain Brook Chamber for many years, most recently as Executive Vice President. Dan and his wife Teri have four children.

As we welcome Dan, I want to thank Will Haver for his vision, hard work and determination enabling the Chamber to have a



Dan and Teri Bundy

successful 2015. Under Will's leadership, we grew our membership and Corporate leadership, expanded the Holiday Parade and Village 2 Village Run, held open houses in each of our villages and continued to improve on the 2015 "Buy Local Campaign".

The Chamber mission is to provide an environment to help our members prosper and succeed

through a proactive working partnership with the business community, city government and community at large.

Welcome Dan- We look forward to a great year!

Suzan Doidge
Executive Director
Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce



Gold Level Investors: Alabama Power | Brasfield & Gorrie | Bryant Bank | Christian & Small | Evson

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“Cathy Rogoff showed me Birmingham at its best.”

When Jayme Locke, MD, MPH, FACS, was recruited to join UAB’s Kidney Transplant Program, she was impressed by the medical center’s reputation, leadership and vision. “But it was the people who won me over,” says Jayme. “Cathy Rogoff was part of my recruitment package and she was the one who really helped me see myself living in Birmingham. This is a great city, quaint like many smaller towns but metropolitan, too. My work with kidney transplants is all about finding the right match. Cathy’s work is about helping clients find a home that suits their lifestyle. She’s great at her job!” Jayme has been named to Birmingham’s Top 40 under 40 and her Kidney Chain, the longest in the United States, was featured on Dateline.

Cathy, the top-selling agent at ARC Realty and a certified relocation expert, loves matching clients with the right home. “I’m proud to be part of growing UAB and other Birmingham companies. I’m honored that I’m called upon to help bring people to the place I love the most.”

Cathy Rogoff • (205) 266-5944 • mushrealty@aol.com



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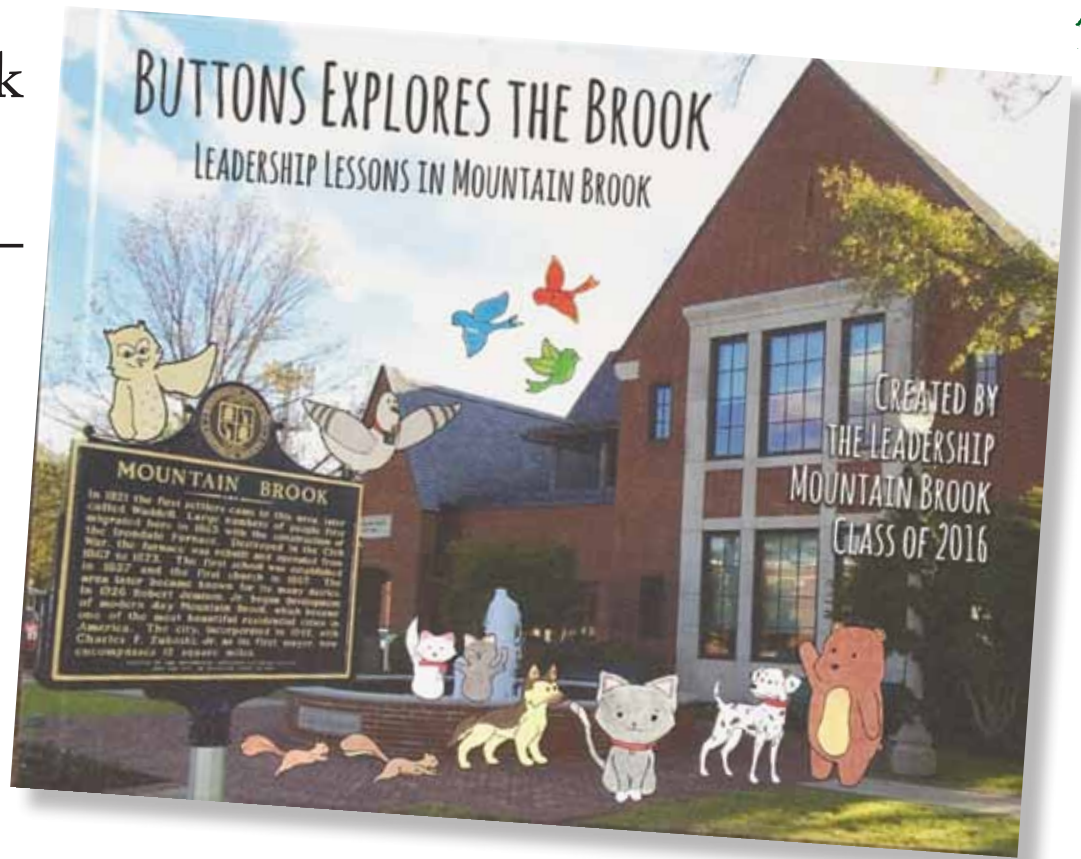




Leadership Mountain Brook presents *Buttons* *Explores the Brook*

Follow Buttons the cat as he explores the various departments of Mountain Brook and learns valuable leadership lessons through fun-filled adventures. Written and illustrated by Leadership Mountain Brook students. All proceeds will go to fund future Leadership Mountain Brook City Improvement Projects.

Buttons Explores the Brook will be available at the Chamber office-101 Hoyt Lane in Crestline Village, Smith's Variety and Snoozy's in Crestline Village and Swoop in Mountain Brook Village. Each book is \$25.00. For questions please contact the Chamber at 871-3779.



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2625 Highland	SOLD	266.5535
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Broadway Park	\$157,900	616.5900
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MOUNTAIN BROOK

Manning	Under Contract	966.6095
Cahaba Village	SOLD	266.6947

FOR RENT

Broadway Park	\$1,100/mo.	616.5900
Capri	LEASED	266.1154
WS Brown	\$1,400/mo.	266.1154
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RIBBON CUTTINGS

Welcome to Mountain Brook Village



Patina Grand Opening



Village Poodle Grand Opening



CHAMBER ANNUAL LUNCHEON

January 14th, 2016 at The Grand Bohemian Hotel

THANK YOU PLATINUM LEVEL MEMBERS




Members of the 2016 Chamber Board




Sue DeBrecht presents Larry Faulkner with the Emmet O'Neal Library Tynes Award



Keynote speaker Hatton Smith addresses a sold out crowd

THANK YOU GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS



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Steve Boone presents Amy Stephens with the City Employee of the Year Award pictured with Dan Bundy



Dan Bundy presents Miller Gorrie with the Chamber Jemison Visionary Award

Elementary Schools Strive to Promote Character

What comes to mind when we think about elementary schools? Most of us will likely think first of the astounding growth of academic skills and knowledge that students develop during those years. Fostering those is the business of an elementary school. But we may also think about how school is part of a broader effort to help children develop socially, learn how to care for others, and how to be a contributing member of the community. Mountain Brook schools have an array of programs meant to contribute to a healthy school climate.

“We are proud of what our students accomplish in academics, athletics, and fine arts programs,” said Superintendent Dicky Barlow, “But we know we have a large part to play in helping our students develop into people who have a sense of community and understand the value of service. That is why all our schools employ programs and methods designed with this in mind.”

In this issue, we have chosen examples of these programs in place in Mountain Brook’s elementary schools. In the May issue of *The Reporter*, we will focus on programs at Mountain Brook Junior High and Mountain Brook High School.

CHEROKEE BEND ELEMENTARY: Fair Oaks Adventure Curriculum

The Fair Oaks Adventure Curriculum (FOAC) has a long history at Cherokee Bend Elementary. The program was developed to enrich the physical education program and to serve as an addition to the traditional classroom experience. FOAC leaders use the teaching strategies of the classroom teacher in an outdoor setting. FOAC is linked closely to the mission, vision, and goals of the Mountain Brook City School System. FOAC employs some of the well-known community-building outdoor activities such as campouts and ropes courses. These activities are designed to provide mental, social, and physical challenges.

Because peer and social pressure encourages students to participate in alcohol, tobacco, and drug-related activities, FOAC gives students strategies to resist these pressures. The program promotes these through goal

setting, encouraging students to value themselves and others, and fostering higher-level thinking skills.

FOAC is fun, but it is much more. The “C” in FOAC is “Curriculum,” an organized, sequential, goal-directed plan for educational experiences.

Betsy Bell, Cherokee Bend’s principal said, “FOAC provides these experiences to stimulate higher-level thinking skills. Our students are asked to reflect on the experience and to apply what they have learned. FOAC is part of the identify and culture of Cherokee Bend, and it is hard to imagine the school without it.”

CRESTLINE ELEMENTARY: Partnering with Peers

“We are proud of our Brookville Elementary partnership,” said Laurie King, Crestline Elementary principal.

Brookville Elementary School is a Jefferson County district school that serves the communities of Graysville, Brookside, and surrounding areas. It is surprisingly remote and, due to the lack of industry and business in the area, the school and community are chronically short of resources.

Crestline Elementary is emphasizing community service this year with the focus on giving to others. Each grade level has a collection for Brookville such as coats, health room supplies, books, and canned goods.

Student council representatives deliver the items to Brookville twice a year. Photos from the visit appear on the school’s morning broadcast for

Notice of Non-Discrimination:

The Mountain Brook School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age in any of its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Dale Wisely, Dir. Student Services (Title VI), Mrs. Sylvia Harper, Personnel Dir. (Title IX), Dr. Missy Brook, Dir. of Instruction (Title II), and Mrs. Shannon Mundy—Special Education Dir. (Section 504), Contact Information: 32 Vine Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213, 205-871-4608.

all students to see. Classrooms partner with classes at Brookville and write letters, Skype, and communicate via email. Building relationships with those students and giving to those in need is the emphasis. Students from Brookville travel to Crestline in February to participate in the Celebrate Writing, an event that brings in



Crestline Elementary students delivering donated supplies to Brookville Elementary School in Graysville.



Mountain Brook Elementary students participate in "The Leader in Me".

local writers and artists to talk and share with students. CES students meet and visit with the students they have been corresponding with throughout the year.

"Many of the Brookville students are in families that have difficulty making ends meet," said Laurie King. "That's where our school and our school families can help. Students witness what giving back is all about. But, this is a true partnership and is not just a case of a privileged school giving things to a less privileged school."

"Crestline students have benefitted greatly from knowing Brookville students. Some have received powerful character lessons from their Brookville peers. In short, this program has made Crestline a better place for our students and, really, for all of us."

MOUNTAIN BROOK ELEMENTARY: The Leader in Me

For several years, the Mountain Brook Elementary School faculty had searched for ways to transform their character education program. Principal Belinda Treadwell said, "We had been stressing character education for many years using a variety of programs. But we weren't really seeing evidence of the kind of long-term impact on our school culture we were seeking."

Three years ago, MBE adopted Stephen Covey's "The Leader in Me" to teach and reinforce basic leadership principles to all students. The program is an adaptation of Covey's famous "7 Habits of Highly

take pride in the 'hard skills' of academic achievement. Enriching the 'soft skills' of interpersonal relationships and socially-appropriate interactions is at the core of reaching the maximum potential of every child served at this school."

"There is a curriculum to this program, which includes classroom activities at every grade level, designed to foster the 7 Habits," said Belinda Treadwell. "But, really, it's more about a kind of mindset and movement toward promoting a positive and respectful culture in the school. It's a way of creating a common language to talk about some of the core values in our school."

BROOKWOOD FOREST: Morning Meetings

This year, the theme of Morning Meetings at Brookwood Forest is "You Matter." Students are exploring questions such as "How can I show my friends that they are valued by what I say, how I listen, and how I act?"

In many classrooms at Brookwood Forest

Effective People." This year MBE is seeing evidence of the school community embracing the habits through school/grade level celebrations, leadership notebooks, and leadership roles.

"There is a sense of urgency to balance educational excellence with the importance of growing students who will add value to society as influential leaders," said assistant principal Ashley McCombs. "Students at Mountain Brook Elementary

Elementary, Morning Meetings are held in which students and teachers greet each other by name. Students share information about important events in their lives while listeners offer supportive comments and ask clarifying questions. Sometimes a group activity has developed that fosters group cohesion and helps students practice social skills. Students and teachers discuss a "Morning Message," crafted to help students focus on the work they will do in school that day.

"Morning Meetings are a time designated to grow the mind, heart, and integrity of the members of our classroom community," said Jennifer Hunt, third grade teacher at BWF. "Our hope is to cultivate identity through collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Morning Meeting not only sets the intention for our day together, but gives both teacher and students time to reflect on and discuss the things that matter most; the way we love others, ourselves, our community, and the world."

Eleanor Walker, who teaches second graders at Brookwood Forest, adds, "I have never for one moment regretted the minutes each day we spend in morning meeting. The leaders we need in our community and world for the future are those with deep integrity, a value for others, and an ability to communicate effectively. It has drastically altered the environment in our classroom, and I'll never go back!"



Brookwood Forest students participate in Morning Meeting.



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.

2016

\$46,000.00

2017

\$26,000.00

2018

\$22,000.00

Updated: 1/5/16

Class Gift Programs are Showing Great Progress

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation Class Gift Program is an outlet for parents and students to make a legacy gift to the Foundation in honor of each graduating class. The program begins as students enter their sophomore year and ends at their graduation. Parents' support of the Foundation guarantees that our school system will remain one of the best in the nation.

The three classes combined have now received over \$94,000.00 in gifts and pledges. Ten couples serve as Class Gift Captains with 60 couples assisting them as Class Gift Callers. The program's volunteer leadership is preparing for the second phase of its appeal this school year.

In addition to the parent leadership, there are also 12 Student Gift Captains recognized as Foundation Ambassadors organizing fundraising efforts to contribute to each gift.

Annual Donor Giving Societies Established

For many years, the Foundation has recognized donors with lifetime giving totals of \$10,000 or more on Donor Walls in each Mountain Brook Schools' lobby. Those walls are scheduled to be updated this summer.

In addition to the very generous supporters listed on those signs, there are many donors who give to the Foundation each year. Executive Director Stephanie Maxwell proposed the addition of Annual Donor Giving Societies to the Foundation's Board of Directors in the fall, and the new levels were approved.

"Annual support of the Foundation is the key to its success. With a growing annual donor base, it is important to recognize all of our donors on a more regular basis," Maxwell said.

These donors will be listed by society level on a calendar year basis and may include many of the Lifetime Donors as well. The 2015 Donor Listing has just been compiled and will be published through the Foundation's e-newsletter in February.

"Because this is a new program, all donors to the Foundation through December of this year will be considered Charter Members of the new giving societies," Maxwell added.

At its February Board Meeting, the Foundation's Directors will consider a request to add additional levels to the Lifetime Societies as well. "With generous six and seven-figure donations received in 2015, there is room for further recognition at the top of the Lifetime Giving Society Structure," Maxwell said.

Annual Giving Levels:

The 1959 Society* - \$10,000 & above
 The 1992 Society** - \$7,500 - \$9,999
 Visionary - \$5,000 - \$7,499
 Scholar - \$2,500 - \$4,999
 Partner - \$1,000 - \$2,499
 Fellow - \$500 - \$999
 Friend - \$100 - \$499
 Supporter - \$99 and below

*Named for the year Mountain Brook Schools was founded.

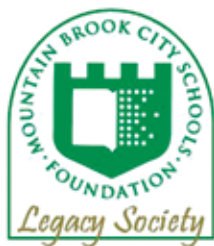
**Named for the year the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation was founded.

Lifetime Giving Levels:

Founders Society - \$100,000 & above
 Superintendent's Society - \$75,000 - \$99,999
 Spartan Society - \$50,000 - \$74,999
 Sword & Shield Society - \$25,000 - \$49,999
 Green & Gold Society - \$10,000 - \$24,999

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. Thank you.



Foundation Board of Directors Welcomes New Members

At its September Board Meeting, the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation elected four new members - Dr. Al B. Cohn, Mrs. Cheryl A. Collat, Mr. Hunter Craig '96, and Mr. Dan Thomasson '90.

"This is a very exciting time for the Foundation. We have seen huge growth in 2015, and know that our new members will help us to continue that upward trend," Alice B. Womack, Board President, said.

Cohn, Collat, Craig and Thomasson fill the spots left by Nicky Barnes, Derick Belden, Diane Griswold and Amy Jackson who completed their terms in 2015. Board members serve four year terms, and may serve more than one term.



Dr. Al B. Cohn



Mrs. Cheryl A. Collat



Mr. Hunter Craig '96



Mr. Dan Thomasson '90



We Love Our Teachers Campaign Kicks Off February 1st!

Every Mountain Brook Schools' student, current or past, has at least one favorite teacher, and probably many more!

February of each year is designated by the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation as We Love Our Teachers Month. All donations received as part of this campaign are added to the Endowment as Honorary Donations.

Honored teachers' names will be publicized through all of the Foundation's social media outlets, and its email newsletter.

February is a great month to show our teachers how much we appreciate them while continuing to grow the Foundation's Endowment Fund which directly benefits all of them each year with the Foundation's award to the school system for Professional Development.

Families and alumni interested in participating in WLOT 2016 can mail their donation to 32 Vine Street, 35213, or visit the Foundation's website shown below. Please include the teacher or teachers' names to be honored or memorialized. A notification card will be mailed to the teacher at their respective school, or to their home if they have retired from the system.

You don't have to wait until February - Make your gift today!

Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation
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Mountain Brook, AL 35213
205.414.0042
www.mtnbrookschooolsfoundation.com