



the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XIX, Issue 3

the Reporter
Mountain Brook, Alabama

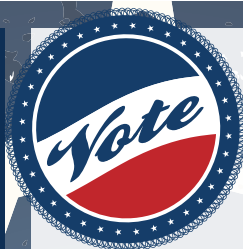
MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

In late January, 2000 Mountain Brook households received a survey regarding municipal services in our city. The survey was administered by the ETC Institute of Olathe, Kansas. ETC Institute's DirectionFinder program was originally developed in 1999 to help community leaders across the United States use statistically valid community survey data as a tool for making better decisions.

Almost 800 surveys were returned which is a 40% response and far above the normal rate of response. The results of the survey revealed that the overall satisfaction with City services rated 41% above the national average. Mountain Brook rated at or above the national average in 37 of the 38 areas that were compared. ETC's analysis concluded that the City's priorities are closely aligned with the expectations of our residents, particularly in quality of public library facilities and services, quality of public safety services and quality of parks and recreation facilities.

We are blessed in Mountain Brook to have strong leadership and dedicated employees who go the extra mile to serve. We also appreciate those residents who completed the seven-page detailed survey. We appreciate you taking the time to let us know your view on City services.

Detailed results of the survey have been posted on the City's website at (www.mtnbrook.org) under "News and Announcements." You can also read more about the results of the survey in the article on this subject in this issue. We invite you to take a look at the results and we hope that you will participate in future surveys.



AUGUST ELECTIONS

Tuesday, August 26, 2014 is election day in Mountain Brook.

Offices up for election include:

Position	Currently Held By
1	Amy G. Carter (since November 2010)
3	William S. (Billy) Pritchard III (since October 2000)
5	Jesse S. Vogtle, Jr. (since October 2006)

Council members Carter and Vogtle will not be seeking re-election. The qualification period for candidates ended on July 15. Please visit the City's website (www.mtnbrook.org) to see the candidates who will compete for the above offices.

Other dates of interest:

August 8	Last day for a resident to register as a qualified elector for the August 26 2014 general municipal election.
August 21	Last day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot Last day to publish the list of qualified voters
August 25	Last day for a voter to apply for an emergency absentee ballot (for persons required by their employer to be out of town on election day). Voting machines are to be sealed. Absentee ballots, if mailed, must be postmarked by August 27. Hand delivered absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m.
August 26	Election Day

For information about voter registration, please call the Jefferson County Board of Registrars at 325-5550.

PRSR STD
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Mayor: Lawrence T. Oden

CITY COUNCIL

Council President:

Virginia Carruthers Smith

President Pro Tem: Amy Carter

Jack Carl

Jesse Vogtle Jr.,

William S. "Billy" Pritchard, III

City Manager:

Sam S. Gaston, 802-3800

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

What's in This Issue?

- p. 6 Board Appointments
- p. 5 Building Permit Activity
- p. 5 Cahaba River Park
- p. 4 Channel 10 Moving
- p. 7-8 Library News
- p. 6 New Businesses
- p. 2 Park News
- p. 4 Police News
- p. 4 Public WiFi Initiative
- p. 3 Quarterly Crime Statistics
- p. 3 Recent City Council Action
- p. 6 Schedule of Meetings
- p. 4 Street Light Out?
- p. 2 Survey Results
- p. 4 Take Pride
- p. 5 Tree Commission News

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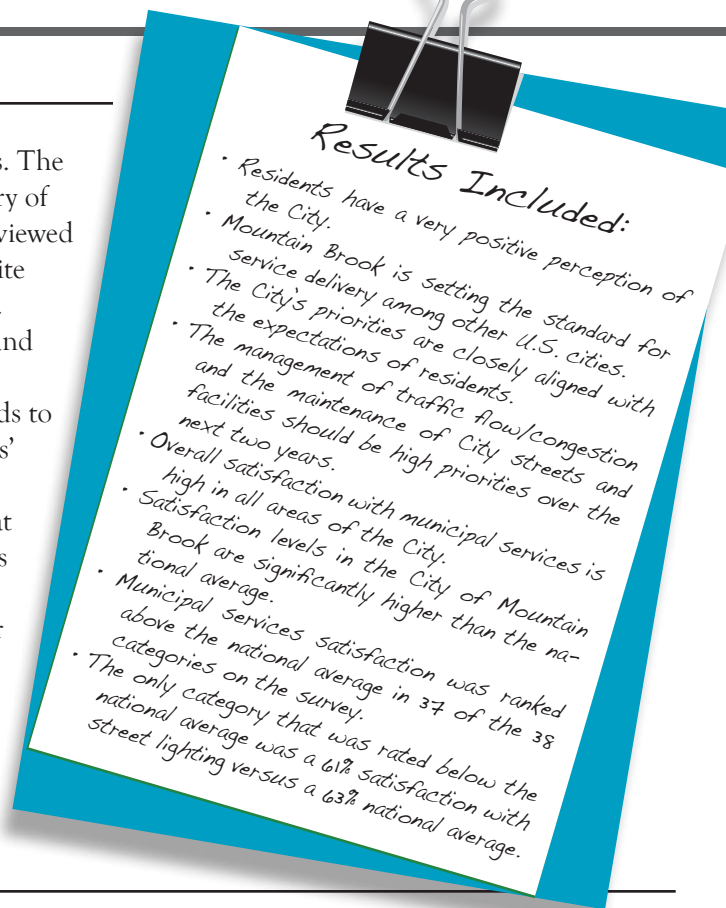
Residents' Survey Results

Earlier this year, 2000 households received a seven-page survey regarding City services from the ETC Institute.

The Mayor, City Council and City staff have already put plans into motion to improve traffic flow/congestion, maintenance of City streets and street lighting. In future issues of The Reporter, we plan to update you on our

plans and progress. The Executive Summary of the survey can be viewed on the City's website at www.mtnbrook.org under "News and Announcements".

The City intends to conduct a residents' survey every two years. To those that participated in this year's survey, we thank you for your comments.



Results Included:

- Residents have a very positive perception of the City.
- Mountain Brook is setting the standard for service delivery among other U.S. cities.
- The City's priorities are closely aligned with the expectations of residents.
- The management of traffic flow/congestion and the maintenance of City streets and facilities should be high priorities over the next two years.
- Overall satisfaction with municipal services is high in all areas of the City.
- Satisfaction levels in the City of Mountain Brook are significantly higher than the national average.
- Municipal Services satisfaction was ranked above the national average in 37 of the 38 categories on the survey.
- The only category that was rated below the national average was a 61% satisfaction with street lighting versus a 63% national average.

Park News



Overton Park Pavilion

Did you know you can reserve the Overton Pavilion for your child's birthday party? The pavilion can be reserved in 2 hour increments for \$35 for Mountain Brook residents or \$70 for non-residents. For your convenience, the rental agreement can be printed from the city website, www.mtnbrook.org, and mailed in with your payment. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 802-3877 for more information and to check availability.



Brookwood Forest Elementary Restroom

The Park Board is working to place a modular restroom at Brookwood Forest Elementary School. This restroom will be a unisex facility just like the one at Overton Park. It will be placed near the sports field for spectators to use instead of the unsightly porta potties currently being used. The planning process is underway and the project should be completed by this fall.

Budget Update

With fiscal 2014 tax and license collections reported through May 2014, the City is on track to surpass its revenue forecast for the year. Some of the more notable collection categories include:

- Real estate tax collections stand at \$13.6 million – \$80,000 (0.6%) more than budgeted for the year. The fiscal 2014 real estate tax collections are projected to increase almost 1% from last year (consistent with expectations and the first annual increase since 2009).
- Sales tax collections are projected to exceed slightly the budgeted amount of \$9.45 million and are expected to finish the year about the same as realized last year (again, consistent with expectations).
- Building permits are up \$45,000 (4%) compared to last year's collections indicating that building activity continues to improve.
- Business license collections are up \$105,000 (4%) from last year.
- Utility taxes and franchise fees are down \$17,000 (1%) from last year.

The 2015 budget process officially began May 20 with a City Council work session. Departmental budgets were submitted to the Finance Director at the end of June. The City Manager conducted the first review of the budgets with department supervisors during July. The Finance Committee is tentatively scheduled to review the second draft of the budget on August 14. The City Council is scheduled to review the budget and Finance Committee recommendations on September 2. The public hearing to consider the ordinance adopting the 2015 budget is tentatively scheduled for September 22.



Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since May, 2014:

- Ordinance 1902 – provide for a 3-way stop sign on Dexter Avenue at West Montcrest Drive.
- Ordinance 1903 – rezoned certain parcels of land in the City of Mountain Brook, from Residence C District to Residence D District on Cahaba Road south of English Village.
- Ordinance 1904 - rezoned a parcel of land in the City of Mountain Brook, from Residence C District to Local Business District located on Park Lane South.
- Ordinance 1905 – Annexed property and altered corporate boundary lines to include property contiguous to City located at 5000 Spring Rock Road.
- Ordinance 1906 – Amended Chapter 34 of the City Code limiting operation times of commercially operated

lawn equipment in residential districts between 6:00 p.m. to 7: 00 a.m..

- Ordinance 1907 – Amended the Master Development Plan for the Park at Overton, to allow fewer lots within the subdivision

The City Council has authorized/approved the following projects since May, 2014:

- Authorized revised contract with Stone Electric Co with respect to installation of a pedestrian flashing signal at intersection of Overhill Road and Montevallo Road.
- Recommends to the State of Alabama, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board the issuance of a Special Events Retail License to Red Mountain Restaurant Group, LLC doing business as Cinco de Mayo 2014.
- Awarded Cahaba River Park Project bid to Landscape Services in the amount of \$451,018.51.

- Approved permit for Brick and Tin, LLC to operate a sidewalk café.
- Ratified execution of a 4-year preventive Maintenance Service agreement for the Municipal Complex with Schindler Elevator Corporation in the amount of \$4,860 per year.
- Authorized the execution of a listing and marketing commission agreement with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus with respect to their sale of a (surplus) 1997 Spartan fire truck.
- Accepted resurfacing bid to Dunn Construction Company in the amount of \$668,295.
- Accepted bid submitted by Municipal Emergency Services (MES) for purchase of 59 sets of firefighter turnout gear (coats and trousers) in the amount of \$1,800 per set and 59 sets of firefighter helmets in the amount of \$18,445.
- Authorized a professional service agreement with Skipper Consulting, Inc. with respect to traffic signal modification design for the intersection of Overton Road at Oakdale Drive/River Run Road.
- Approved resolution regarding the vacation of alleyways for property to be used in conjunction with the development of “The Manning” located on Cahaba Road.
- Authorized Alabama Power to install an upgraded street light on existing pole at Mountain Brook Parkway pedestrian crossing and replace eleven (11) street light heads with upgraded lights.
- Amended Resolution 2013-154 for the additional amount of \$5000 to Nimrod Long & Associates for additional services with respect to the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) sidewalk construction project.

Quarterly Crime Statistics

	1st Quarter 2014	2nd Quarter 2014
Robbery	0	1
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0
Burglary/Residence	14	9
Burglary/Business	1	0
Theft	32	39
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	32	10
Auto Theft	3	1
Assaults (Other)	1	3
Identity Theft	13	19
Criminal Mischief	10	12
Drugs	13	23
Family Violence	6	12
Accidents	244	235
A With Injuries	14	19
A With Fatalities	0	0
Calls For Service	6,998	7,346
House Watches	711	717
Property Stolen	\$186,197	\$224,411
Property Recovered	\$60,053	\$21,268

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.



Chief Ted Cook of the Mountain Brook Police Department

Police Chief Graduates from FBI Academy

Chief Ted Cook of the Mountain Brook Police Department graduated from the 255th Session of the FBI National Academy program at Quantico, Virginia on June 13, 2014. The 255th Session consisted of men and women from 46 states. Also included in the class were

members of law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, 17 international countries, six military organizations, and five federal civilian organizations.

The National Academy Program is internationally known. It is held at the FBI Academy on the Marine Corp base in Quantico, Va. The 10 week program offers courses in advanced investigation, management, and fitness. Training is offered to executive level officers and the average attendee has over 19 years of law enforcement experience. Less than 1% of law enforcement officers world wide are selected to attend.

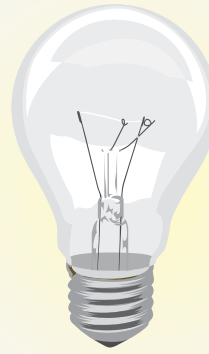
The training program is provided by the FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents, and other staff members. Many of these instructors are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise. A total of 47,254 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July 1935. Of this number, 29,741 are still active in law enforcement. The National Academy has been accredited through the University of Virginia since 1972. Many of the courses provided are eligible to transfer as credit hours towards undergraduate and graduate degrees.

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*



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.

Public WiFi Initiative

Plans are underway to expand the City's free public WiFi network to include the playing fields at Brookwood Forest Elementary and Rathmell Park. The City hopes to have these locations online later this spring. The City's WiFi network includes: 1) the High School and adjacent Athletic Complex which covers the outdoor areas of the high school complex including the football field, soccer fields, tennis courts, parking lot, and the baseball fields, 2) Overton Park, and 3) Crestline Village.

Public WiFi is free, filtered, and monitored by the City. As with any public WiFi, users assume all risk associated with using the service and should always exercise good judgment and caution to avoid unauthorized access of their private information. If you have questions or comments about the City's public WiFi network, please call our technology staff at 802-3819 or 802-3820.



Channel 10 Moving!

Channel 10, which is the Public Educational Governmental (PEG) channel, has been moved to channel 181 on the Charter Communication television line-up effective July 22nd. This channel is used by the Mountain Brook Schools, Mountain Brook Athletics, City of Mountain Brook and Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce to provide information to our residents and to advertise community events.



“Let’s See Those Trees!”

The Tree Commission would like to remind everyone of the “Champion Tree” program. We seek to recognize and highlight some of the more significant specimens that are part of the community’s extensive tree canopy. We hope to foster a deeper, more active appreciation for the magnificent resource with which we are blessed, by focusing on some of the magnificent trees. Those living and working in Mountain Brook are uniquely positioned to participate and assist in this endeavor.

1. If you are aware of a particularly large or otherwise significant tree within the city limits, please take a moment to provide us with some basic information by visiting www.mtnbrook.org. Just click on the tree

commission page to the left, select “champion trees”, and follow the instructions (outlined below). Once notified, we will arrange to evaluate the tree. Please consider/provide the following:

2. State tree species (common name, if known)
3. Tree location (on or near the roadside, private property, address/nearest intersection/landmark)

...AND Tree Owner (if known)

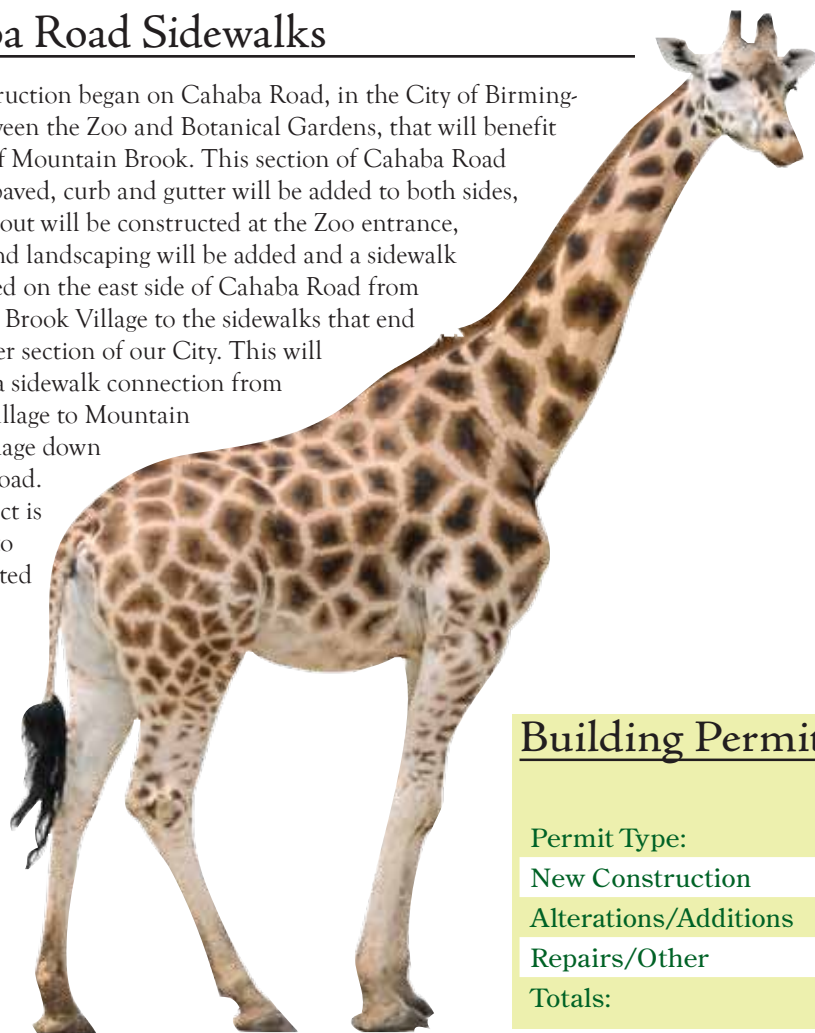
4. Contact Information: Nominator’s name and one form of contact (this information will not be shared).

Don Cafaro
City Arborist

Cahaba Road Sidewalks

Construction began on Cahaba Road, in the City of Birmingham, between the Zoo and Botanical Gardens, that will benefit the City of Mountain Brook. This section of Cahaba Road will be repaved, curb and gutter will be added to both sides, a roundabout will be constructed at the Zoo entrance, lighting and landscaping will be added and a sidewalk constructed on the east side of Cahaba Road from Mountain Brook Village to the sidewalks that end at the lower section of our City. This will complete a sidewalk connection from English Village to Mountain Brook Village down Cahaba Road.

This project is expected to be completed in late 2014 and is funded by the City of Birmingham.



Cahaba River Park Underway



Work has begun on Cahaba River Park! The City awarded the low bid for this project to Landscape Services in the amount of \$451,000. This project is expected to be completed in late 2014.

Cahaba River Park is a 4.7 acre tract

of land located on the Cahaba River at the Overton Road/Oakdale Road intersection. It will include a sidewalk/walking trail, pavilion, outdoor classroom, fishing ledge and parking.

Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	1st Quarter - 2014		2nd Quarter - 2014	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	14	\$30,141,412	7	\$4,186,300
Alterations/Additions	107	\$16,214,432	28	\$2,560,704
Repairs/Other	161	\$3,025,001	69	\$1,509,326
Totals:	282	\$49,380,845	104	\$8,256,330



New Businesses

CONTRACTOR

- Dorm Cubby LLC, Carpentry, 2760 Abingdon Road, 888-874-8778
- Meadows, Tom, Carpentry, 3620 Mountain Park Drive, 205-871-5242

WHOLESALE/RETAIL

- Innovis Lighting, Inc., Wholesaler, 58 Vine Street, Suite 100, 205-396-3979
- Liz Legg LLC, Clothing & accessories wholesaler, 3251 Dell Road, 205-215-9419
- The White Room Birmingham, Inc., Clothing & accessories wholesaler, 2415 Canterbury Road, 205-970-6767

FOOD SERVICE

- Jane Dough LLC, Food manufacturing, 3016 Cherokee Road, 205-837-5434
- Pizza 120 LLC, Restaurant, 2737 Hwy 280, Suite B-6, 205-243-2693

PROFESSIONAL

- Angela G. Williams Designs LLC, Interior design, 2808 Shook Hill Circle, 509-981-0339
- Catherine Pringle Designs LLC, Interior design, 2932 Brook Hollow Lane, 205-223-0810
- Premier Psychiatry, P.C., 4 Office Park Circle, Suite 305, 205-870-2005
- R. Troy Mohon, CFA, Investments, 3516 Crestbrook Road, 205-969-5772
- Schaeffer Eye Center, Inc., Optometrist, 2000 Cahaba Road, Suite 100, 205-870-3937

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- C2 Technology Systems LLC, 200 Office Park Drive, Suite 316, 205-776-2660
- GC & P, Athena Pest Control, 4 Office Park Circle, 205-317-6872
- Impact CFO Services LLC, 3615 Knightsbridge Road, 205-913-0488
- Jones, Melissa Ballard, 120 Montevallo Lane, 205-870-0993
- National Coal of Alabama, Inc., 9 Office Park Circle, Suite 100, 205-637-5180
- Quickfix Junk LLC, 3521 Belle Meade Way, 205-276-1845
- Rabbit Hill Collection LLC, Metal manufacturing, 2749 Abingdon Road, 205-492-5017
- SMAO LLC, Alabama Outdoors, 500 Office Park Drive, Suite 430, 205-871-3252
- Stella Reese LLC, 2839 Culver Road, Suite 204, 205-329-0024
- Utility Security LLC, 3940 Forest Avenue, 205-706-7541
- Yount, Ron, Ron Yount Counseling Services, 300 Office Park Drive, Suite 220, 205-999-8144

PERSONAL CARE

- Burchett, Jeff, Therapeutic Massage, 300 Office Park Drive, Suite 220, 205-290-2891
- Cater Enterprises, Mountain Brook Cleaners, 42 Church Street, 205-871-2962
- Steen, Misti, Personal and laundry services, 2816 Culver Road, 205-862-5065

Schedule of Meetings

CITY COUNCIL*	2nd & 4th Mon.	7:00 p.m.	City Hall Call 802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting)
BOARD OF EDUCATION	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office 871-4608
LIBRARY BOARD	3rd Tues.	4:45 p.m.	Library
PARK & RECREATION BOARD	2nd Tues.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT	2nd 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

*Reminder: City Hall has moved back to 56 Church Street in Crestline Village.

Board Appointments/Vacancies

APPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following reappointments:
Elizabeth Dunn – Board of Education
Billy Angell – Tree Commission

BOARD VACANCIES

The City of Mountain Brook has the following board/committee vacancy to fill immediately:

- Board of Zoning Adjustments – Supernumerary Member (3-year Council appointment)

The City of Mountain Brook has the following board/committee vacancies to fill this fall:

- Parks & Recreation Board – (5-year Council appointment) – 2 positions

If you are interested in these positions, please send a letter of inquiry and your resume to:

**Sam S. Gaston, City Manager, City of Mountain Brook,
PO Box 130009 Mountain Brook, AL 35213
gastons@mtnbrook.org**

Emmet O'Neal Library News

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT NEWS

Summer Reading

Thank you for helping us achieve explosive success with the Fizz! Boom! Read! summer reading program this year. You read over one million pages! You can keep bringing in your reading log to get it checked until August 16.



LEGO Movie on the Lawn

We resume our regular programming in September, but you can still enjoy a back-to-school bash at the library in August. Pack a picnic and a blanket and bring the family to the lawn across the street from the library on Friday, August 22. We'll have the big screen set up to show the LEGO Movie starting at 7:30pm.

Regular Fall Programs

We'll pick up again with our lapsit storytimes beginning in September. For an outing with your infant, try **Patty Cake Storytime** on Thursday mornings. If you've got a new walker, our 12-24 month-old storytime is for you. It's on Wednesdays, and it's called **Mother Goose Storytime**. What about those 2-year old bundles of energy? Bring them to **Toddler Tales Storytime** on Monday mornings. Be sure to register online for lapsit storytimes to make sure you have a spot. For those in between lapsit age and elementary school age, we have two fun, no-registration-necessary storytimes available: **Together Time** with Miss NayNay on Tuesday mornings, and **Family Storytime** with Mr. Mac on Saturday mornings. You can also bring your little ones of any age to our Tuesday evening family program called **Evenings at EOL**. For the kindergarten through

2nd grade crowd, we offer **Library Out Loud**, a lively after-school drop-off program on Tuesday afternoons, where they'll get stories, crafts, and a snack. And if you've got 3rd-6th graders, send them to **SNaP** on Thursday afternoons, a kids-only smorgasbord of games, crafts, movies, and special guests. Upper elementary students can also register for **Bookmania**, a monthly book discussion with a pizza dinner and book-related games and activities. For more information, give us a call at 879-0497.

Visit us online!

For more details about our programs and events, visit us on the Web at www.eolib.org. From there you can access a children's department calendar, our program registration site, the children's blog, and links to other resources for you and your child.

Special Programs

The first **Family Night** of the school year celebrates a well-loved classic book family: the **Berenstain Bears**.

Join your friends and family at the library for a bike parade and a **Berenstain Bears** picnic on the lawn on September 9. The next week, swing by after school on September 17 for **Mark Seymour's** percussion extravaganza, **Be-At Your Best**. As the weather cools down, you can enjoy a live production from Atlantic Coast Theatre, who will bring their show **Cinderella at the Sock Hop** on October 14. And be sure to mark your calendars - October 17 at 6 pm - for the return of **A Night Dark & Grim**, a spooky evening at the library when book characters come to life. We'll have a sing-along showing of **Frozen**, a storybook maze, face painting, a photo booth, and fairy tale games and crafts.



Emmet O'Neal Library News

See West Virginia's Biggest Liar!

See West Virginia's biggest liar at Emmet O'Neal Library Tuesday evening, August 5th at 6:30 p.m. Growing up in a family where it was always the responsibility of the listener to decide whether or not a story was true, Bil Lepp became adept at spinning tales and exaggerating circumstances at an early age. A nationally renowned storyteller and five time champion of the West Virginia Liars' Contest, Bil's outrageous, humorous tall-tales and witty stories have earned the appreciation of listeners of all ages and from all walks of life. Though a champion liar, his stories often contain morsels of truth which shed light on universal themes. Audiences all across the country have been delighted by Bil's mirthful tales and delightful insights into everyday life. Be it a hunting trip, a funeral, or a visit to the dentist, Bil can find the humor in any situation. Lepp explains that while his stories may not be completely true, they are always honest.

As a storyteller, author, and recording artist, Lepp's works have received awards and recognition from The Parents' Choice Foundation, The National Parenting Publications Association, and the Public Library Association. In 2011, Bil was awarded the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence Award. Lepp has been featured 13 times at the National Storytelling Festival, and performed at major storytelling festivals, and at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.



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Overdrive News

Enjoy eBooks and audiobooks - Anytime, Anywhere!

The Emmet O'Neal Library is proud to offer you best-selling and classic eBooks and audiobooks, available 24/7 from the library's digital collection.

You can browse the collection, borrow with your library card, and enjoy on your computer, tablet, smartphone or eReader device.

ADULT AND TEEN NEWS



National Medicare Week

September 15-21 is National Medicare Education Week. National Medicare Education Week (NMEW) is an official week dedicated to helping baby boomers, Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers learn more about Medicare. It is an extension of UnitedHealthcare's Medicare Made Clear™ initiative, which was created to make Medicare easier to understand.

On Wednesday, September 17th, the Emmet O'Neal Library will host a presentation sponsored and presented by UnitedHealthcare. This presentation is educational and not a sales pitch. Last year, our event drew over 50 participants. This program will be an opportunity for audience members to learn more about Medicare and ask questions of Medicare experts. This presentation is part of the library's Brown Bag Lunch series. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided. Doors will open at noon, the presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Katie Moellering at 445-1118.

Fall Events for Teens!

School is back in session, so The Emmet O'Neal Young Adult Department is moving their monthly Game On! video game tournament to the first Saturday afternoon of the month from 1-3 pm. Grab your friends and join us as we play the latest games, compete for cool prizes and enjoy snacks and drinks.

Have you joined our Teen Advisory Board? Board members meet with our young adult librarian, Matt Layne, once a month and help to drive the programs and services that the library offers to our community. Get involved today!

At 6:30 pm on Monday nights in September, come to take a historical tour of animated films at the library. We'll view historic animated films from the earliest days of film to the present day and discuss the techniques that have been implemented in this unique and ever evolving art form.

Digital Makerspace Opens at Emmet O'Neal Library

The Emmet O'Neal Library announces the opening of its Digital Makerspace on the second floor of the library. The first of its kind in Alabama, the Makerspace includes a 3D printer, a 3D scanner, a video green screen, two video rendering workstations, a laser cutter, and several other digital tools. Community members are encouraged to see this creative workspace during open hours and then reserve time to create their own projects using the available tools. Nominal fees are assessed for 3D printing and use of other materials.

Thanks to funding from the Mountain Brook Library Foundation, the Emmet O'Neal Library was able to renovate its existing electronic classroom from a traditional teaching environment to an environment that fosters creativity and collaborative learning. Students, local business owners, and inquisitive community members will enjoy using the Makerspace for projects.

Emmet O'Neal Library will hold open hours from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, where staff will be available to answer questions and demonstrate equipment.

An overview of the Makerspace and its calendar are available at <http://www.eolib.org/info-makerspace.php>.

Western's Annual Wine Event

This year's Wine Event will be held on Friday evening, September 26th at The Birmingham Zoo. If you have never attended this event, you are missing out! You will find several hundred wines open for tasting and fantastic food from vendors all over Alabama. Don't miss out on a fun night and a great benefit for the library! Tickets will be available at Western Supermarkets and Emmet O'Neal Library. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the library's "An Evening With The Author" series whose previous guests include Khaled Hosseini, Alexander Mc Call Smith, Mary Kay Andrews and most recently Carl Hiaasen. For information on Western's Annual Wine & Food Festival, please contact Western Supermarkets or the Emmet O'Neal Library.





**MOUNTAIN BROOK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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 Executive VP: Will Haver
 VP Governmental Affairs: Paul DeMarco
 VP Community Affairs: Paul Allen
 VP Marketing/Communications: Laura Brooks Bright
 VP Business Development: Christopher Groom
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PAST PRESIDENTS

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 Brookwood Village: Doug Prescott, Macy's
 Cahaba Village: Wholefoods
 Crestline Village: Julie Howell-Lamb Ears, Leslie Pittman-Laura Kathryn
 English Village: Ashley Bell - Sherwin Williams
 MB Village: Lynn Ritchie-A'Mano, Scott Pyburn - Harrison's Limited
 Office Park: Dan Starnes - Village Living

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THE VILLAGES OF

MOUNTAIN BROOK

Building A Better Mountain Brook

Business Owners, City officials and Chamber meet to discuss Village updates



•••• RIBBON CUTTING ••••



Welcome to Office Park! Dr C. Calvert Dodson, III MD, F Red Mountain Wellness & Internal Medicine, PC

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GRAND BOHEMIAN HOTEL
MOUNTAIN BROOK

Joe Saling, Regional Director of Sales and Catering, gives an overview to Chamber Board



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UPCOMING EVENTS!

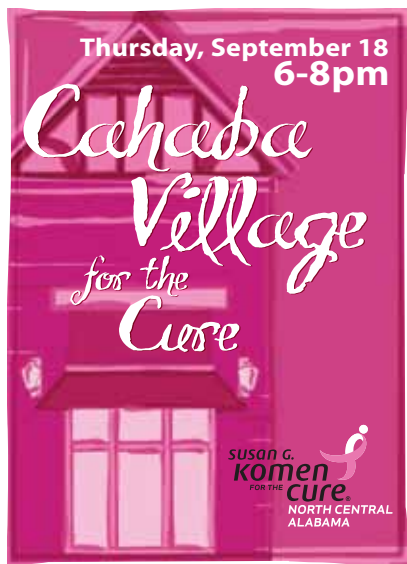
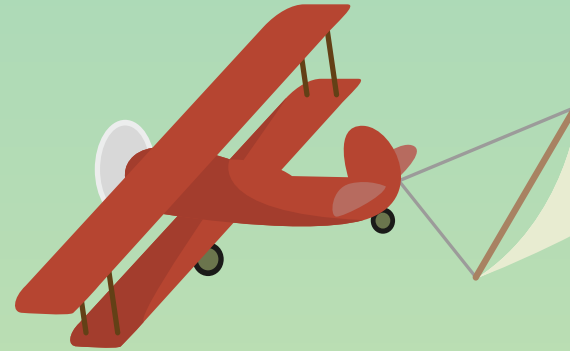


Crestline Tent Sale

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 16
8AM - 5PM
CRESTLINE
VILLAGE**



**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16
11:30AM
THE CLUB**



Thursday, September 18
6-8pm

**Cahaba
Village
for the
Cure**



**CRESTLINE
20 Rocks 14**

SUPPORTING PRESCHOOL PARTNERS

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 27
ALL DAY
CRESTLINE
VILLAGE**

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- Envy Nails
- Father Nature Landscapes
- Grand Bohemian Hotel Mountain Brook
- JamisonMoneyFarmer PC
- Joan Leary Counseling, LLC
- John William Jeweler
- Master Image Inc.
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- Quarles Law Firm, LLC
- Dr. Cal Dodson, Red Mountain Wellness & Internal Medicine, PC
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- The White Room
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OCTOBER 31
CRESTLINE VILLAGE**



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MOUNTAIN BROOK

Manning (New) Reservations		966.6095
Brook Manor	\$740,000	966.6095
Brook Manor (Single Family Condo)	\$989,000	PENDING
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Brook Manor (Single Family Condo)	\$799,000	966.6095
Townes of E. Village	\$475,000	SOLD

VESTAVIA

Montreat	\$107,000	533.0003
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Phone (205) 871.5360

School's back already?
Oh, how I've missed the early mornings, putting half my makeup on, making breakfast, and scrambling to get the kids off to carpool...

5 times a week.

Short on time during the school year? We understand.

Don't get slowed down when it comes to getting your kids ready for the school year. Cool lunchboxes, clipboards, pens. Make back-to-school fun...

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Covering the best high school sports in the state makes our job a little easier!

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For information about advertising, please contact Maury Wald at 823.9646

A NEW WEB PRESENCE FOR MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS



As the 2014-2015 school year begins, Mountain Brook Schools will launch a new website. The new website will include an entirely new, up-to-date look, and will provide users—students, parents, school employees, and community visitors—with a range of new functions.

“This is not an incremental update to our website,” said Donna Williamson, the school system’s Director of Technology, “It is a completely new web presence for the school district.”

The current website has been in place for several years. Because of the large amount of content on a school system website and the number of employees who contribute—every educator in the school system has a web presence—moving to a new website is a huge undertaking, said Williamson. “This project has been about a year-and-a-half in the making,” she said, “and we have needed every minute and more to get ready

for the launch.”

Funding and Partnerships. In April 2013, school system administrators requested funding for the new website from the Mountain Brook Schools Foundation and secured that funding. “As is so often true,” said Dicky Barlow, superintendent, “the Foundation is able to understand our purpose and how our requests for funding relate to our purpose. Increasingly, organizations like ours rely on an up-to-date website to fulfill our educational mission and the Foundation again provided the support we needed to move forward.”

After funds were secured, the school system evaluated a variety of products by vendors specializing in school websites. “There was a time when websites were simple enough that they could be built and maintained by employees,” said Williamson. “Now they are so technically sophisticated, and require such a specialized eye

for design, it is essential to work with a company that does this specific kind of work.”

Ultimately, Mountain Brook Schools partnered with SchoolWires, a Pennsylvania-based company that specializes in K-12 websites.

Designing a New Website. Later in 2013, school system administrators began the process of designing the look and functionality of the

new website. “One of the challenges, of course, is that we are really creating seven websites,” said Dale Wisely, Mountain Brook Schools’ Director of Student Services, whose responsibilities include school system communications. “In addition to a district-level site, each of our six schools has its own colors and logos and somewhat different needs. Plus, we have several types of users: Students, parents, faculty and staff, administrators, and visitors. So, the design process required a lot of input from lots of groups.”

This was accomplished by the formation of several focus groups at the level of each school and at the district level. School groups submitted school colors and logos. Administrators, guided by input, created menus and navigational tools. “As we went through this process, we realized that our old website had been designed from the perspective of the school system, and less so from the perspective of the users,” said Wisely. “At the district level, for example, information tended to be located in areas managed by the departments responsible for that information, which is not always obvious to the visitor. During this design process, we tried to stay focused on the experience



Donna Williamson trains staff on use of new website.

of the user. We spent a great deal of time working on ‘the flow,’ asking ourselves what users and visitors of the website tend to look for and where they might look for it.”

Training and New Functions. During the spring and summer of 2014, school system employees underwent training on using the new system. Donna Williamson notes that the good

news is that there are all kinds of exciting new capabilities on the new website. “It is a major leap forward,” she said. “The challenge, among others, is to get everyone trained who needs to be trained.”

Among the new capabilities, the website will be “responsive” to the device used to access it. “The website will be tailored for the

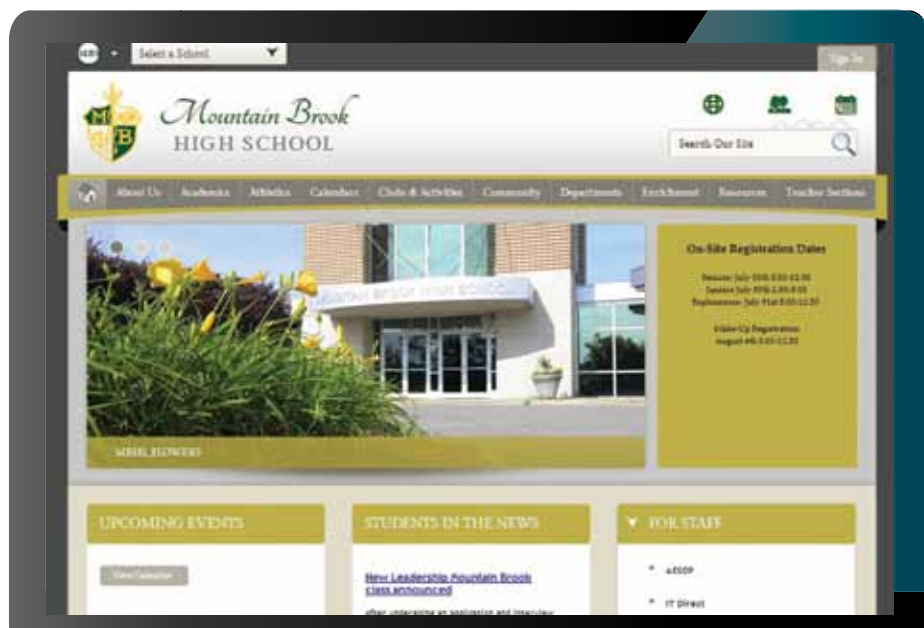
whole range of devices people are using,” said Williamson. “There are versions of the website specifically designed for computers and laptops, tablets, and smartphones.”

Users of the website will be able to create accounts on the website, which will eventually allow users to customize their website content. Parents, for example, will be able to create a dashboard that will allow them easy access to lunch menus, specific school information, and calendars for the kinds of events in which they are interested.

“There is tremendous potential just in the use of calendars,” said Williamson. “There are so many different things going on at any given time, even in our small system. The new website’s system for organizing calendars, adding events, and feeding those out to the appropriate places on the website should prove quite useful.”

The new website will feature dynamic systems for displaying news and announcements and for the all-important notifications regarding weather-related school closings, late starts, and early dismissals. “We now have a variety of ways to notify parents of urgent matters,” said Dicky Barlow. “The new website will add to that capability.”

“We are excited about our new website,” continued Barlow. “A good, user-friendly website has become essential for any organization, and schools can use these creatively to enhance the learning process for all of us.”



2014 Mountain Brook Graduates to Attend 72 Colleges & Universities



The latest graduates of Mountain Brook High School received acceptances from 179 colleges and universities and will attend 72 of those. “There are a number of ways to measure the success of a school system,” said Mountain Brook Schools superintendent Dicky Barlow, “and we can point to many of those indicators and feel a sense of pride for our students, their families who support their education, and our staff at Mountain Brook Schools. Among those indicators is the high percentage of our students who attend colleges and universities, and the ones from which they receive acceptances.”

Below are the colleges and universities which students from the Class of 2014 will attend.

American University
 AmeriCorps
 Auburn University
 Baylor University
 Belmont Abbey College
 Berklee College of Music
 Berry College
 Birmingham-Southern College
 Bowdoin College
 Centre College
 Clemson University
 College of Charleston
 Duke University
 Emmanuel College
 Full Sail University
 Furman University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Gettysburg College
 Goucher College
 Hampden-Sydney College
 Hendrix College
 High Point University
 Indiana University at Bloomington
 Jefferson State Community College
 Lasell College
 Lee University

Louisiana State University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Loyola University New Orleans
 Mercer University
 Millsaps College
 Mississippi State University
 Montana State University, Bozeman
 Oglethorpe University
 Rhodes College
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at
 New Brunswick
 Samford University
 Sewanee: The University of the South
 Southern Methodist University
 Southern Union State Community College
 Texas Christian University
 Texas State University
 The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina
 The University of Alabama
 The University of Alabama at Birmingham
 The University of Georgia
 The University of Texas, Austin
 Troy University
 Tulane University
 University of California at Santa Cruz
 University of Chicago

University of Kentucky
 University of Michigan
 University of Mississippi
 University of Missouri Columbia
 University of Montevallo
 University of North Alabama
 University of North Carolina at Wilmington
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Oregon
 University of South Alabama
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 University of Wyoming
 Vanderbilt University
 Vassar College
 Virginia Military Institute
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Wake Forest University
 Washington and Lee University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Wofford College
 Yale University





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MBHS Principal Amanda Hood shows students and parents a different side as she struts her stuff on the runway.

SAVE THE DATE!

**The Second Annual
 Schaeffer Eye Center
 Fashions for
 The Foundation
 is set for**

**TUESDAY,
 September 16th
 at The Club**

**Individual
 Tickets: \$50
 Tables: \$800**

**For more information please call
 Anne Womack at the Foundation
 at 205-414-0042**



MBJH Principal Donald Clayton was dressed to impress at the 2013 show.



Superintendent Dicky Barlow and Sparty salute the crowd at last year's Fashion Show.



Attendees at the 2013 Schaeffer Eye Center Fashions for the Foundation enjoyed seeing familiar faces model the season's hottest trends.



Superintendent Dicky Barlow and Jack Schaeffer of Schaeffer Eye Center received a warm welcome from the crowd.

Established in 1992 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation is committed to support the schools to ensure the continued excellence of the Mountain Brook Schools. Gifts to the foundation are tax deductible according to the law.