Mayor’s Message

You may have been wondering why sidewalk construction along Overcrest Road, Cherokee Road, Old Leeds Road, and Beechwood Road has been delayed and work not yet started on a portion of Shiloh Drive. The work on the streets mentioned has been delayed or slowed since late summer. This project is Phase 6 of our Village Walking Plan and is 80% Federally funded. This project and its design were approved by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) over two years ago and were bid by ALDOT. The Federal Highway Administration, which oversees the funding requirements of these sidewalk projects, questioned some of the design and quantities of the project after it had begun.

As a result, several sections of this project have been delayed as the City’s design team of Nimrod Long & Associates and our construction inspector, Sain Associates, have attempted to satisfy ALDOT by re-submitting revised drawings and plans on several occasions.

We are hopeful that ALDOT will approve the revised plans and documents soon so this project can continue.

On behalf of the City Council and me, we wish you a happy and prosperous 2013.

Sincerely,

Lawrence T. Oden

Arbor Day Plans

Members of the Tree Commission will be distributing tree seedlings at village grocery stores on Saturday March 2, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., or as long as supplies last. This includes both Piggly Wiggly locations (Crestline and River Run), Western in Mountain Brook Village, and Whole Foods in Cahaba Village. This year’s native tree selections include Sweetbay magnolia, Cherrybark oak, red maple, and black gum. Members will be on hand to provide information about the trees and planting tips.

We would like to thank the management of each grocery store, for allowing us to utilize their space, and local Boy Scout Troop 320 for their continued commitment to help prepare and package the seedlings for distribution. We could not do this without you all!

Additionally, we have been working to enhance our web pages, housed on the city’s main website. Please revisit our pages over the next couple months for information related to upcoming events…and more!

What’s in This Issue?

- Board Appointments/Vacancy
- Building Permit Activity
- Council Leadership 2012-14
- Employees of the Year
- Leaf Collection Update
- Library News
- Municipal Complex Update
- New Businesses
- Office Park Historical Marker
- Quarterly Crime Statistics
- Recent Council Actions
- Schedule of Meetings
- Sidewalk Projects
- Smoke Alarms
- Street Light Out?
- Take Pride in our City

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
SHOP MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRST
Keep your sales tax dollars in Mountain Brook by using Mountain Brook, not Birmingham, as your delivery address when ordering online or from catalogs.

www.welcometomountainbrook.com
Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The national fire statistics indicate that in 2011:
- 1.4 million fires were reported.
- Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at $11.7 billion.
- There were 3,005 civilians that lost their lives as the result of fire.
- There were 17,500 civilian injuries that occurred as the result of fire.
- Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- 85 percent of all civilian fire deaths and 83 percent of all civilian fire injuries occurred in residences.
- Bedrooms are the leading location where fire deaths occur (55 percent).
- Fifty percent of civilian fire fatalities in residences occur between the hours of 10 PM and 6 AM.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. Information available from the U.S. Fire Administration indicates that nearly half of these fire fatalities could have been avoided if working smoke alarms had been installed in these homes.

SMOKE ALARMS LESS THAN 10 YEARS OLD

Each year, the Mountain Brook Fire Department reminds our residents to ensure their smoke alarms are working properly and have fresh batteries. Use batteries recommended by the manufacturer and make sure they are firmly connected to the smoke alarm contacts. However, when a smoke alarm starts making a chirping noise that is a signal that battery levels are low and that the battery needs replacing. Dusting smoke alarm surfaces and vacuuming the air vents regularly will keep dust from fouling detection elements or causing false alarms.

SMOKE ALARMS OVER 10 YEARS OLD

Consumers should replace their smoke alarms every 10 years since the sensors in these devices can degrade because of environmental contamination and from age. It is easy to improve the safety of your family by upgrading your smoke alarms to meet the intent of the current Building Code. The Code requires smoke alarms be installed on each level of the residence, in the hallway outside the bedrooms and inside each bedroom. This can be done by simply installing battery-operated wireless interconnection smoke alarms. There are many wireless smoke alarms available on the market. The purpose of interconnecting the smoke alarms is to alert you to a problem in other areas of the home. If one smoke alarm activates, all smoke alarms in the home will sound the alarm.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

Another building code requirement for new construction is the installation of carbon monoxide alarms outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. CO alarms are required where fuel-fired appliances (natural gas, propane) are installed or in homes with attached garages. This is particularly important if you own a vehicle that has remote-start capabilities. The vehicle could be started accidently, without anyone knowing. Carbon monoxide could filter into the living area of the home and build to toxic levels, possibly resulting in loss of life.

For more information on smoke detectors and fire safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website at www.nfpa.org, the U.S. Fire Administration website at www.usfa.fema.gov, or call the Mountain Brook Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at 802-3838.

Employees of the Year 2012

The Police Department honors two employees as employee of the year. They select a sworn and non-sworn member. Dispatcher Bernard Evans (top left) is the non-sworn recipient for 2012. Bernard, through his calm and deliberate dispatch actions, gave pre-arrival instructions to help facilitate an unexpected home delivery of a baby. The sworn honoree from the Police Department is Officer Ron Lamon (top right). Officer Lamon received the award for his dedication, tireless efforts, and problem solving skills in bringing to fruition the department’s incident reporting system. Fire/Medic Gary Noah (bottom left) is the Firefighter of the year recipient. Fire/Medic Noah was involved in the same emergency as Dispatcher Evans. Fire/Medic Noah’s quick assessment at the scene revealed that the newborn was not breathing. He immediately provided medical action which cleared the baby’s airway so that she could take her first breath. Samuel Ingram Sr. (bottom right) is the Public Work’s Department employee of the year. This is the first year for this award. Mr. Ingram was chosen for his work ethic, attitude, and service as a role model for younger employees in the department. Congratulations to all of these fine recipients.
**Mountain Brook, Alabama**

**Quarterly Crime Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3rd Quarter 2012</th>
<th>4th Quarter 2012</th>
<th>Total 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary/Residence</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary/Business</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaults (Other)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity Theft</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Mischief</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Violence</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents with Injuries</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents with Fatalities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls for Service</td>
<td>6,913</td>
<td>6,002</td>
<td>24,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Watches</td>
<td>1,396</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>4,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Stolen</td>
<td>$1,184,518</td>
<td>$755,856</td>
<td>$2,463,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Recovered</td>
<td>$211,117</td>
<td>$64,312</td>
<td>$491,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WANT TO HELP US GET THESE NUMBERS LOWER?**

1. Lock your vehicle
2. Take your keys
3. Don’t leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle
4. Keep lawn and sports equipment around your home secured when not in use.
5. Keep doors locked and use your security system when you’re not at home.

*See it! Hear it! Report it!* Let us know when you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

**Sidewalk Projects Update**

**MOUNTAIN BROOK WALKWAY SYSTEM PHASE 6**

Construction is ongoing on the Mountain Brook Walkway System Phase 6 project. We have completed the sidewalks on Green Valley Road and Knollwood Drive. Construction continues on Overcrest Road, Cherokee Road, Overbrook Road, and Old Leeds Road. We have yet to start construction on Shiloh Drive.

At this time, we are experiencing construction delays due to pending design revisions and approvals from the Alabama Department of Transportation. We are actively working to resolve the issues delaying the project. We anticipate having the required approvals from the Alabama Department of Transportation in January, and this project will be able to move forward again. It is currently estimated that the project will be completed in mid to late 2013.

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Construction time is approaching for the “Safe Routes to School” sidewalk project near Crestline and Mountain Brook Elementary Schools. The project was awarded in November to the low bidder, Walker Patton Company, and it is anticipated that work will begin the first part of 2013. This mostly federally funded project adds sidewalks on Canterbury Road, Overhill Road, Watkins Road, Vine Street, Dexter Avenue, West Montcrest Drive, and Peachtree Street. It is estimated that the project will be completed in late 2013.

**Building Permit Activity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
<th>3rd Quarter-2012</th>
<th>4th Quarter-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Construction</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alterations/Additions</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs/Other</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>285</strong></td>
<td><strong>298</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Municipal Complex Update**

Brasfield & Gorrie has reached some key construction milestones over the past few months at the Mountain Brook Municipal Complex and is steadily moving forward. By late October, the masonry, windows, and roofing were all completed at the Police building, which allowed for drywall construction to begin during November. As we move into 2013, the Police building is progressing slightly ahead of the Fire Department building.

The three-level Police Department consists of a parking deck, city jail, locker rooms, administrative offices, detective offices with evidence storage, training room, dispatch, and other critical areas.

The Fire Department and City Hall spaces are progressing rapidly. The masonry construction will conclude during January and then the slate shingles, membrane roofing, and glass storefront will be completed. Fire Station Number One consists of a dormitory, day room, kitchen, training room, four truck and vehicle bays, administrative offices, and other support areas. Both the Police department and Fire Station are 24-hour running operations requiring emergency power and security. The Mountain Brook City Hall consists of the city council chambers, Chamber of Commerce, city revenue collection, permits and support. Included in City Hall are offices and conference spaces for the mayor, city manager, financial and planning staff. A fire safe vault and record storage area will also be included in the basement area.

Overall, the project is moving on a steady pace and the facility will complement the existing Crestline Village community facade. This project is expected to be completed in late April.
Leaf Collection Update

Loose-leaf collection service will be ending on March 1, 2013. Most areas should have one collection remaining this season. Please refer to your schedule to confirm the remaining collection dates for your area. If you do not have your schedule handy it can easily be accessed on the city’s webpage at (www.mtnbrook.org). Leaves brought out after the beginning of the final round must be bagged for collection. Also, please do not have your leaf piles 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.

Loose-leaf collection is part of the City’s refuse contract with Waste Management. The collected leaves are hauled to our Public Works facility at 3579 East Street. The leaves are pushed into piles, turned, and as a result of decomposing, become compost, a useful gardening by-product of the leaves. Compost is free to Mountain Brook residents if they load it themselves. To learn more about getting compost; go to the Public Works page of the Mountain Brook website and click on refuse/compost and then compost policy.

As we wrap up this years collection and look forward to the warm spring temperatures and the budding new leaves on our trees, we would like to say thank you for your assistance with the collection and composting of the leaves. Hopefully you can use some of the compost in your flower or vegetable beds.

Office Park Historical Marker

Did you know that Ervin Jackson and Newman H. Waters built the first Office Park development in America? Fifty-seven years ago the new idea of getting office workers out of Birmingham’s downtown office buildings and into a suburb with free parking, attractive low-rise architecture, easy access and beautiful landscaping had never been tried before. Jackson and Waters were taking a daring risk. But their idea worked and office parks were soon found all over the country... and, it all began in Mountain Brook!

The developers themselves were as interesting as the project itself. The Jackson brothers, Ervin and Philip, Sr., hail from a long line of super achievers who led the effort to commission the construction of the statue of Vulcan that proudly stands at Vulcan Park. They were also involved in mining, mortgage lending, savings and loan, insurance, property management, bedding manufacturing, banking and even the Federal Reserve Board. Truly the Jackson family has meant much for generations to the Birmingham area.

Office Park’s co-developer, the late Newman H. Waters, stands out as one of the most accomplished people in Birmingham’s recent history. Waters built the Eastwood Mall which was one of the largest and most successful enclosed malls in the United States. He lived in the Swann mansion atop Red Mountain. He was first known, however, as a neighborhood theater magnate and his Waters Theaters chain dominated Jefferson County for many years.

Of some of the others who helped make Mountain Brook Office Park a reality, F.R. Hoar and Son survives today as Hoar Construction; Harry D. Hester and Associates survives today as Hester & Associates; Waters Enterprises still operates the K-Mart Shopping Center on the site of the old “Starlite” drive-in at Eastwood and the Jackson family still operates various businesses locally.

Thomas M. West, Jr.
Jefferson County Historical Association
Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted the following ordinances since October 2012:

- **Ordinance 1880**: Appointed City Manager – Sam Gaston
- **Ordinance 1881**: Appointed City Clerk – Steven Boone
- **Ordinance 1882**: Appointed City Treasurer – Billy Angell
- **Ordinance 1883**: Appointed Assistant City Treasurer – John Martin

The City Council has authorized/approved the following projects since October 2012:

- Approved contracts for services with the following agencies for FY-2013:
  - Alabama Symphonic Association
  - Birmingham Botanical Society
  - Jefferson County Council on Aging
  - Birmingham Museum of Art
  - Alabama Veterans Memorial Foundation
  - Jefferson County Historical Commission
  - Exceptional Foundation
  - Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce
  - Awarded contract to White Roofing Company in the amount of $11,400 for a new roof for Fire Station #3.
  - Awarded low bid to MAC Uniforms for uniforms and equipment for the Fire Department.
  - Approved contract with Skipper Consultants in the amount of $16,400 for a turn lane study on Cahaba Road at its intersection with Heathermoor Drive.
  - Adopted the Personnel Board of Jefferson County’s 2011-2012 salary survey.
  - Elected Virginia Smith as City Council President and Amy Carter as City Council Pro Tempore for 2012-2014.
  - Appointed the following Council representatives:
    - Planning Commission (voting member) – Jack Carl
    - Board of Zoning Adjustment (liaison) – Amy Carter
    - Parks and Recreation Board (liaison) – Virginia Smith
    - Emmet O’Neal Library Board (liaison) – Amy Carter
    - Board of Education (liaison) – William Pritchard III
    - Finance Committee (voting member) – Jesse S. Vogtle, Jr.
    - Villages Design Review Committee (liaison) – Virginia Smith
    - Editorial Board – Amy Carter and Virginia Smith
  - Approved issuance of Restaurant Retail Liquor License to JMP Foods, LLC, dba Steel Drum Grill at 3150 Overton Road.
  - Authorized contract with 911Consult, Inc. for relocation to and reconnection of the City’s E911 lines and facilities at the new municipal complex.
  - Authorized contract with Ryan Public Safety Solutions (RPSS) with respect to the relocation to and reconnection of the City’s E911 (PlantCMS) system at the new municipal complex.
  - Authorized the execution of a 911 System Support Agreement with Ryan Public Safety Solutions (RPSS) with respect to the City’s Cassidian Sentinel Patriot 911 Call Taking system.
  - Authorized installation of one fire hydrant to serve the Mountain Brook municipal complex and surrounding properties, at a cost of $1,200.
  - Accepted professional service proposal submitted by Nimrod Long & Associates for Phase 1 design services with respect to Cahaba River Park.
  - Authorized contract with Stone Electric Co. with respect to their furnishing and installing two solar-powered school zone speed limit signs with flashers on Overbrook Road at Mountain Brook Junior High in the amount of $14,950.
  - Authorized agreement with Amsher Collection Services for collection services.
  - Awarded bid for telecommunication services for the City to AT&T
  - Authorize contract with Britt Demolition in the amount of $12,500 for demolition of property located at 2210 Sterlingwood Drive.
  - Authorized agreement with Enviro Management Corp in the amount of $9685 for upgrades to the high school sewer treatment facility.
  - Authorized renewal of maintenance service agreement with Digitel Corporation with respect to Avaya communications equipment.
  - Authorized engagement of Stone & Sons Electrical to install buried conduit at Fire Station #3.
  - Authorized renewal of agreement with Merkos L’Inykonie Church (Chabad) for use of parking lot on Overton Road for overflow parking for Overton Park.

Council Leadership 2012-2014

The City Council, at its November 5, 2012 Organizational meeting, elected Virginia Carruthers Smith to another term as Council President. Amy Carter was elected as Council President Pro Tempore.

This is the first time in the City of Mountain Brook’s history that both positions of Council President and Council President Pro Tempore were occupied by female members of the City Council.

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.
### Schedule of Meetings

**City Council**  
- 2nd & 4th Mon. • 7:00 p.m.  
  City Hall  
  (Call 802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting and location.)

**Board of Education**  
- 2nd Mon. • 3:30 p.m.  
  Call Board of Ed Office  
  (205) 871-4608

**Library Board**  
- 3rd Tues. • 4:45 p.m.  
  Library

**Park & Recreation Board**  
- 2nd Tues. • 5:00 p.m.  
  Board of Education Office

**Design Review Committee**  
- 3rd Wed. • 8:00 a.m.  
  City Hall

**Board of Zoning Adjustment**  
- 2nd Mon. • 5:00 p.m.  
  City Hall

**Tree Commission**  
- 3rd Tues. • 5:15 p.m.  
  (odd months)  
  City Hall

**Planning Commission**  
- 1st Mon. • 5:30 p.m.  
  City Hall

**Chamber of Commerce**  
- 4th Thurs. • 7:30 a.m.  
  Board of Education Office  
  (32 Vine Street)

*Reminder: City Hall has moved to 3928 Montclair Road which is two buildings east of the Crestline Post Office*

### NEW BUSINESSES

- **Alice J. Hawley, LLC**  
  6 Office Park Circle, Suite 316-A  
  578-8805

- **American Behavioral EAP, LLC**  
  17 Office Park Circle, Suite 100  
  868-9612

- **American Design, LLC**  
  15 Office Park Circle, Suite 110  
  803-4975

- **Andrew Brown**  
  3918 Montclair Road  
  370-7768

- **Arden Photography, Inc.**  
  53 Church Street  
  444-9281

- **BCA Resources, Inc.**  
  3803 Jackson Boulevard  
  937-5080

- **Behavioral Pediatric Institute of Alabama**  
  4 Office Park Circle, Suite 215-A  
  414-6686

- **Bolton Production Group, Inc.**  
  2850 Cahaba Road, Suite 201  
  251-0346

- **Brothers CPA**  
  2913 Pump House  
  444-9281

- **Centered Heart Yoga and Fitness, LLC**  
  3665 Brookwood Road  
  637-1897

- **CT Foods, LLC dba**  
  A Hole in One Donut Truck  
  15 Office Park Circle, Suite 140  
  283-2626

- **Deborah Stone Ventures dba**  
  The Pantry Stone Hollow Farms  
  17 Dexter Avenue  
  970-8585

- **Denson & Denson, LLC**  
  118 Fairmont Drive  
  503-8603

- **Fuelplus Fitness, LLC**  
  200 Office Park Drive, Suite 205  
  612-6626

- **Green Financial Management, LLC**  
  2850 Cahaba Road  
  423-5260

- **GRO, LLC**  
  110 Office Park, Suite 300  
  313-4810

- **Gwen Blackwell dba**  
  Juice Chargers  
  3452 Overton Road  
  837-5561

- **JEMDPC dba**  
  Southern Pines Chiropractic Center  
  1930 Cahaba Road  
  664-7707

- **JMP Foods, LLC dba**  
  Steel Drum Grill  
  3150 Overton Road  
  563-9493

- **JSW Enterprises, Inc. dba**  
  Cookies by Design  
  2812 Cahaba Road  
  979-1004

- **Loran Law, P. C.**  
  6 Office Park Circle, Suite 214  
  871-7551

- **Mibella Wellness Center**  
  2816 Culver Road  
  995-1009

- **Restore Ministries of Birmingham, Inc.**  
  14 Office Park Circle, Suite 104  
  917-5065

- **Sherwin-Williams Company (The)**  
  2003 Cahaba Road  
  566-2723

- **Stephan Spann**  
  156 Peachtree Road  
  870-4200

- **Sullins Phelan dba**  
  Too Unique Pillow Accents  
  208 Nash Circle  
  879-1778

- **Swoops, Inc.**  
  2721 Cahaba Road  
  870-4491

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**Board Appointments/Vacancy**

### APPOINTMENTS

- James Hard – Emmet O’Neal Library Board
- Bradley Cain – Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health – Mental Retardation Authority

### THE CITY COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY MADE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS:

- William Dean Nix – Parks & Recreation Board
- Penny Page – Emmet O’Neal Library Board
- Patrick Higginbotham – Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Max Pulliam – Emmet O’Neal Library Board

### BOARD VACANCY

- Editorial Board – 4-year appointment
Friends of the Emmet O’Neal Library Booksale

It’s February, and that means another Friends of the Library Booksale is upon us! Please join us February 22nd, 23rd and 24th for this event. Friends members will be able to shop early at an invitation-only Preview Party on February 22nd. Not a member of the Friends? That’s no problem! You will be able to join at the door with a $25 donation.

The selection at this year’s book sale will be sure to please bibliophiles of all ages and assortments. We will have everything from cookbooks and gardening titles to books on CD and DVD movies and television series. In the first floor meeting room you will find treasures like antique and collectible books, beautiful coffee table titles, and hard to find and out of print books.

Let’s Talk Money!

The Smart Investing @ Your Library series was so popular last year that we have decided to revive it! Every other month in 2013 we will have local speakers on topics related to personal finance and investing. This year’s series starts on January 31st with a talk by Regions Bank and continues on Thursday, March 28th with a visit from our friends at First Commercial Bank. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and a light dinner will be served. For more information, or to register for this program, please contact Katie Moellering at 445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us

Knit & Knibble

Please join this regular crafting group at Emmet O’Neal Library. We meet one Saturday a month to chat, craft and snack! Spring 2013 dates are: February 3rd, March 16th, April 20th, May 11th. Contact Katie Moellering at 445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.

Heritage Quest, our other new resource for Mountain Brook residents, may be familiar to many of you. Until a few years ago it was available through the Jefferson County Library Cooperative, but, due to funding cuts, individual libraries began to pick up the service. This past fall, Emmet O’Neal Library jumped on board! As with Universal Class, users will need to access Heritage Quest through the Library’s website. Once you register you will find census records, books and military records at your fingertips. If you are new to Heritage Quest you may find the new Learning Center useful. This resource page offers video lessons on various aspects of using Heritage Quest. Here you will learn how to begin to search military and census records, view information on Cherokee genealogy, conduct Civil War research, and much more.
Children's Department News

We can’t wait to see you at the library in 2013! Depending on the age of your child, these programs are available for your family:

Babies, Toddlers & Preschool

Moms, babies and toddlers will enjoy our Lapsit Storytimes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Registration is easy – just visit our website at www.eolib.org.

For children who have aged out of our lapsits but are not yet in kindergarten join us for Tuesday morning Together Time with Miss NayNay.

Saturday morning Family Storytime with Mr. Mac is also a favorite for young children.

Elementary School Children

Library Out Loud is meant for Kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders. Children can be dropped off Tuesday afternoons for 45 minutes of stories, crafts, and snacks. Find out more about each storytime at www.eolib.org.

For elementary students in grades 3-6 we offer our Thursday afternoon SNaP (Seriously, No adult Please!) program. Check the calendar for more details about what you’ll find at these programs each week.

If you have fourth through sixth graders who want to dig a little deeper into books, sign them up for Bookmania, a twice-monthly book chat featuring pizza and activities.

A monthly Savvy Surfing program also gives elementary students the opportunity to learn more about using the web to meet their needs safely and efficiently.

Ages 7 and up are welcome at Monday night Chess Club, where Coach Balagee Govindan guides players of all skill levels to prepare them for our summer chess tournament.

Family Nights & Special Programs

February 5th, we bring you a Family Night full of masks, puppets, mime, drama, comedy, and music with Doug Berky’s Gems.

Wednesday, February 6th, brings a Candyland extravaganza to the library's After-School Special.

You can also drop by the Children's Department any time February 4th - 9th to create a Valentine for patients at Children's Hospital.

On the afternoon of February 18th, the Princess Sehoy Chapter of the DAR will host a President’s Day celebration in the Children’s Department.

On March 6th come to a musical and magical Didgeridoo Down Under After-School Special.

For Family Night on March 12th, we’ll bring back magician Arthur Atsma.

On April 9th Family Night will feature Birmingham Children’s Theatre performing Three Little Kittens.

We’ll round out the school year with an After-School Special on April 17th with MadCap Puppets’ rendition of The Cinderella Files, sponsored by the Ehney Addison Camp, Jr. and Mildred Fletcher Tillman Camp Foundation.

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual summer reading kick-off carnival and Thomas Hughes Brinkley Fun Run, which will take place on Sunday, May 19th. The Junior Women’s Committee of 100 will organize carnival games and food, and Emmet O’Neal librarians will be on hand to help you sign up for the summer reading program. This year we will Dig Into Reading with our summer reading program. Expect the programming you have grown to love, including weekly lapsit storytimes, themed performances for all ages, book clubs, camps, reading logs, prizes, and the perennially popular weekly clue. Get ready to dig up some awesome treasure with this year’s summer reading!
Letter from the President

What a wonderful year 2013 promises to be for Mountain Brook! And what an honor it is to have the opportunity to lead the Chamber of Commerce with so many positive developments happening right now in our City.

When my family moved here in 1972, the most important consideration for us was finding the best schools followed closely by a convenient drive to my father’s office. Some things have stayed the same and many things are even better. We continue to enjoy the highest performing schools and easy access to the best Birmingham has to offer. Our neighborhoods remain excellent and now are linked by sidewalks that continue to expand and make all points accessible on foot. We have the best places to shop and dine including my first favorite, Gus’ Hot Dogs, and new and prized additions like Dyron’s and Ollie Irene.

Mountain Brook has added parks and plans continue for more green space which everyone can enjoy. The Lane Parke development will be a great gift to us all as it transforms the signature Village into a shopping destination to rival the best in the South. Our city government and city services both remain top notch and stand out for their integrity. All these things and more make our community an easy one to love.

While growing up here I worked at Crestline Pharmacy and Western Supermarket so being able to help the many businesses in our community like these through the Chamber, is a natural. We have the finest merchants and stores you could ask for with a business community that is thriving. The Chamber has worked hard to do its part with admirable leaders collaborating to support a strong commercial base. Plans for the year include building on that success.

I look forward to seeing you out shopping in Mountain Brook soon!

Terry Chapman

Welcome Mountain Brook Smiles to Office Park!

Congratulations to Nancy McClendon, owner of ANTIQUITIES, for celebrating her second anniversary in Mountain Brook Village.
Thank you to our 2013 Village to Village Race Committee

From left to right: Steven Hydinger, Beth Nigri, Terry Chapman, Amy Jackson, Kaye Emack, Dan Starnes, Lee Perry, John Evans
Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce
Annual Luncheon
Presented by The Birmingham News/al.com
Keynote Speaker: Mike Royer, Alabama’s 13
Emcee: Scott Mauldin, Vulcan Media, LLC
Thursday, February 7, 2013
11:30am
The Club, Grand Ballroom

Featuring awards presented by
The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce
The City of Mountain Brook
Emmet O’Neal Library
Mountain Brook City Schools

Reservations Necessary
Register online at welcometomountainbrook.com
or contact the Chamber office at 871-3779
Welcome, New Members

81 Shop
Ashley Mac’s
Cookies by Design
Drs. Lawaczeck, McKinnon, Fegin, Carter & Gee Ophthalmology Specialists
Gia’s Cakes
Key Circle Press
Mountain Brook Smiles
Oswaldo Construction Services
Representative Jim Carns
Rob’e Mans
Rush Biddies
Shindigs
The Altamont School
TMD Landscape Design
United Methodist Children’s Home
Village Park Builders
Vulcan Media
Vulcan Park & Museum

Oak Street
Garden Shop

Valentine’s Gifts
Indoor & Outdoor
Flowers & Plants
Garden Accessories
Gift Baskets
Delivery Available

115 Oak Street
Crestline Village
205-870-7542
The Mountain Brook Board of Education recently enacted a $9 million bond issue to allow the school system to make some facilities upgrades as well as a major upgrade of the wireless networks in the schools. To understand the process that led to the bond issue, we spoke with Superintendent Dicky Barlow, Chief Financial Officer Karen Lusk-Smith, Facilities Director Ken Key, and Technology Director Donna Williamson.

**THE REPORTER:** What were the factors that caused the Board of Education to pursue and then enact this bond issue?

**We realized this might be an optimal time for a bond issue. Interest rates are at a 45-year low …. Construction costs are at an all-time low.** — Karen Lusk-Smith, CFO.

**Dicky Barlow:** We maintain 10-year facilities plans. This is a schedule that includes items as small as a timetable for replacing bulbs in data projectors to major construction projects. Because of the economic downturn that started about four years ago, we had to delay a number of projects we had planned. Last year, members of the Board of Education visited every school facility. Many of our board meetings are held in schools and the board took time to tour every school. Ken Key, our facilities director, guided board members through a tour of each school. Then, the board identified some critical projects and passed a resolution to go ahead and begin work on those.

**Ken Key:** As we went through the schools—the board members, the principal of each school, Mr. Barlow, and myself—we were looking at how each facility was being maintained and how it was meeting our needs. I provided information about the history of each school campus: when it was originally built and the major additions and upgrades made over the years. We also looked at the gaps or the “holes” that had developed due to funding problems related to the economic downturn. That allowed the board to consider some projects that needed to be undertaken quickly versus those that could wait for two or three years.
Dicky Barlow: This led to a prioritized list of projects. We realized at that time, with Karen Lusk-Smith’s help and that of financial consultants, that a bond issue could be a viable option.

Karen Lusk-Smith: We realized this might be an optimal time for a bond issue. Interest rates in the municipal market were at a 45-year low as the financing was completed. Construction costs are at an all-time low due to the economic environment. Also, in 2007, the school board acted to greatly reduce the system’s debt service due to a one-time revenue stream from Jefferson County. As we evaluated our financial position, we realized we were in a position to restructure our debt and borrow additional funds for the prioritized projects. The bonds for the school system were rated Aa1 by Moody’s, which is one of the highest ratings held by a school system in the state. The board benefited from a strong investor demand due to its strong fiscal management and high credit rating which resulted in financing warrants over 20 years at an interest cost of 2.51 percent. The school system is committed to the long-term tradition of solid fiscal responsibility in the management of the district’s finances.

THE REPORTER: Can you talk about the process of getting to a bond issue?

Dicky Barlow: In November 2012, the board voted to move forward with the bond issue. This involved pursuing a rating of the board’s fiscal situation by Moody’s. We were pleased that we received, as Karen mentioned, an Aa1 rating, which was the highest attainable for an organization like ours. At that point, the process involved working with consultants to develop the best terms for the bond issue.

THE REPORTER: What are the plans for the use of the money?

Dicky Barlow: We have developed a list of projects, and it is a diverse list. (SEE BOX). In addition, we are using these funds to upgrade the wireless networks in our schools.

THE REPORTER: Why are these technology and network upgrades important?

Donna Williamson: We are in the process of upgrading our network infrastructure to support the growing number of desktop computers, laptops, and tablet devices such as iPads, as well as the video-rich resources accessible via the Internet. Our network must also support a variety of student- and staff-owned laptops and tablets. We have

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Mountain Brook Schools and the Mountain Brook AntiDrug Coalition offered the third annual Hitting Home program in November, as part of its ongoing effort to engage the community in its efforts to address substance abuse among youth in the community. Student Services Director Dr. Dale Wisely said that informing parents about substance abuse in youth has always been a major focus of the antidrug coalition.

“We have always believed—and have had the data to support our belief—that one of the most powerful things we can do to address this problem is to help parents be aware of the extent of the problem and to empower them to provide the kind of supervision and scrutiny that will serve to reduce the chances that their kids will get in trouble with alcohol and drugs,” Wisely said.

In the previous two years, Hitting Home consisted of meetings for parents hosted in local homes and all occurring on the same evening. “While we were pleased with the home meetings, this year we wanted to try holding the meetings in the schools,” said Superintendent Dicky Barlow. “We held a meeting in each school, sometime in the month of November. We went all-out to make parents aware of the meetings and to encourage attendance.”

The effort to encourage parent participation paid off. According to a report made by Dr. Wisely to the school board in December, attendance greatly exceeded expectations. “We had between 120 and 220 at every meeting for a total of about 950 parents attending at least one meeting. That is unprecedented for a program of this type.”

Each of the six meetings followed a similar agenda. After a welcome by the school principal, Mr. Barlow, who moderated all the meetings, made some introductory comments. Dr. Wisely presented data from anonymous student surveys which point to the level of underage drinking and drug use reported by students, followed by an overview of the school system’s programs to address the problem. New this year were presentations by parents about their own experiences with “parenting for prevention.”

“I invited two sets of parents to speak at each school. We wanted one set of parents to be people whose children were already out of the school system—parents who could speak retrospectively about parenting around this issue,” said Barlow.

“The second set of parents to be parents who are still in the middle of the process of raising kids. These parent presentations turned out to be the heart of the program this year and we are so grateful to the brave parents who were willing to stand up in front of their peers and talk about their parenting practices.”

School officials conducted an online survey of attendees following the series of meetings. 96% said the meeting they attended either met their expectations (43%) or exceeded their expectations (53%).

“We have a number of follow-up activities for the spring semester,” Wisely said. An updated version of a letter to parents from the police department providing information about reported outdoor party locations frequented by area youth has already been circulated. Parent programs on synthetic marijuana and prescription drug use are being planned. A video of one of the meetings is currently being prepared for airing on Mountain Brook’s information TV channel.

**NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

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 the nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Dale Wisely—Director of Student Services (Title VI), Mrs. Sylvia Harper—Personnel Director (Title IX), Dr. Missy Brooks—Director of Instruction (Title II), Mrs. Shannon Mundy—Special Education Director (Section 504). Contact Information: 32 Vine Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213, telephone: 205-871-4608.
CALLING ALL MOUNTAIN BROOK STUDENTS, PARENTS, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation LOVES Our Teachers!

During the month of February, spread the love by donating to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation in honor of a favorite teacher.

Show your appreciation for the teachers who have made a profound difference in the lives of you and your children. For each donation made in his/her honor the teacher will receive a card from the Foundation. At the end of the month, the teacher with the most honor donations will receive a special recognition.

A drop-box will be available at each school where you can deliver your check or pick up pledge cards. If you do not use a pledge card, please indicate the teacher you would like to honor on your check.

Ways to Give

There are many ways to give that can increase the value of your philanthropy. Be sure to talk with your tax and legal advisors to find the combination that offers you the maximum benefit or call us at 414-0042 for more information.

Easy Ways to Give;

Credit Card: Visit our secure website to make a gift online.

Check: Mail your gift to the Foundation at: Post Office Box 530834 Mountain Brook, AL 35253. Or drop it at the Foundation “drop box” at any of the six Mountain Brook schools during the month of February.

Pledge: Gifts are frequently made in the form of a pledge, payable in installments throughout the year. Many people find that they can make a larger gift by spreading their payments over a number of months. A pledge card is included in this publication and is also accessible on the Foundation's website.

Securities: The Foundation has accounts with several brokerage firms. If you plan to make a stock gift, please notify our office and your broker of your intent and tell us the name and number of shares of the stock you intend to give. This information will ensure that you receive proper credit for your gift in a timely manner.

Bequest: A bequest is a provision in your will to provide a gift to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation after your death.

Life Insurance: A gift of life insurance is an excellent way of making a substantial contribution. The simplest way to make a gift of life insurance is to name the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation as the beneficiary of the policy. You can gift a paid-up life insurance policy, take out a new policy or donate an existing policy and continue to pay the premiums.

Matching Gifts: Many companies offer employees a matching gift benefit that doubles – and, in some cases, even triples your gift to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation. Check with your company’s human resources department, and send in the proper forms when you make your gift.

Honor and Memorial Gifts: You can make a donation to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation in memory or honor of someone. It’s a great way to honor and give tribute to a teacher or anyone else you would like to recognize. We provide donor cards for such gifts. Just call 414-0042 or email us at mbcsfoundation@bellsouth.net.

Established in 1992 as a 501©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.