



# the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XVIII, Issue 1

the Reporter  
Mountain Brook, Alabama

## 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!

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
PERMIT NO. 40

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?

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### 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](http://www.welcometomountainbrook.com)



## 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.

## 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 accidentally, 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](http://www.nfpa.org), the U.S. Fire Administration website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov), or call the Mountain Brook Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at 802-3838.



## Quarterly Crime Statistics

	3rd Quarter 2012	4th Quarter 2012	Total 2012
ROBBERY	1	0	3
BURGLARY/RESIDENCE	17	28	61
BURGLARY/BUSINESS	1	2	8
THEFT	65	65	213
AUTO THEFT	2	2	6
ASSAULTS (OTHER)	1	2	10
IDENTITY THEFT	9	20	48
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	13	10	45
DRUGS	12	8	41
FAMILY VIOLENCE	7	7	24
ACCIDENTS	212	268	937
ACCIDENTS WITH INJURIES	15	10	62
ACCIDENTS WITH FATALITIES	0	0	0
CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,913	6,002	24,092
HOUSE WATCHES	1,396	726	4,043
PROPERTY STOLEN	\$1,184,518	\$755,856	\$2,463,893
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$211,117	\$64,312	\$491,896

### 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.

## 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.

## 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

Permit Type:	3rd Quarter-2012		4th Quarter-2012	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	6	\$3,870,062	11	\$6,703,000
Alterations/Additions	127	\$6,897,338	88	\$7,798,185
Repairs/Other	152	\$1,733,511	199	\$2,701,837
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>\$12,500,911</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>\$17,203,022</b>

## 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 or playing fields. 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



## 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](http://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*

- *Tree Commission (liaison) – Virginia Smith*
- *Chamber of Commerce (liaison) – Jesse Vogtle*
- *Parking Committee – Jack Carl and Amy Carter*
- *Municipal judges – Mayor Oden*
- *Public safety departments – Mayor Oden*
- *Anti-Drug Coalition (voting member) – William Pritchard III*
- 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 Solution (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 Digital 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.

## 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](mailto:gastons@mtnbrook.org) so the City can coordinate its repair with Alabama Power Company.

## 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.



Council President Pro Tempore Amy Carter (left) and Council President Virginia Carruthers Smith (right)



## Schedule of Meetings

<p><b>City Council*</b> 2nd &amp; 4th Mon. • 7:00 p.m. City Hall (Call 802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting and location.)</p>	<p><b>Park &amp; Recreation Board</b> 2nd Tues. • 5:00 p.m. Board of Education Office</p>	<p><b>Design Review Committee</b> 3rd Wed. • 8:00 a.m. City Hall</p>
<p><b>Board of Education</b> 2nd Mon. • 3:30 p.m. Call Board of Ed Office (205) 871-4608</p>	<p><b>Board of Zoning Adjustment</b> 2nd Mon. • 5:00 p.m. City Hall</p>	<p><b>Tree Commission</b> 3rd Tues. • 5:15 p.m. (odd months) City Hall</p>
<p><b>Library Board</b> 3rd Tues. • 4:45 p.m. Library</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission</b> 1st Mon. • 5:30 p.m. City Hall</p>	<p><b>Chamber of Commerce</b> 4th Thurs. • 7:30 a.m. Board of Education Office (32 Vine Street)</p>

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

## Board Appointments/Vacancy

### APPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following 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

The City of Mountain Brook has the following board/committee vacancy to fill in the near future:

- Editorial Board – 4-year appointment

## 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

**Debrah 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

**Judy Carter & Associates, LLC**  
6 Office Park Circle, Suite 308  
795-1221

**Laren R. Brown**  
3918 Montclair Road, Suite 100  
401-8939

**Lexie Dorsett**  
2713 Cahaba Road  
601-6260

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

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

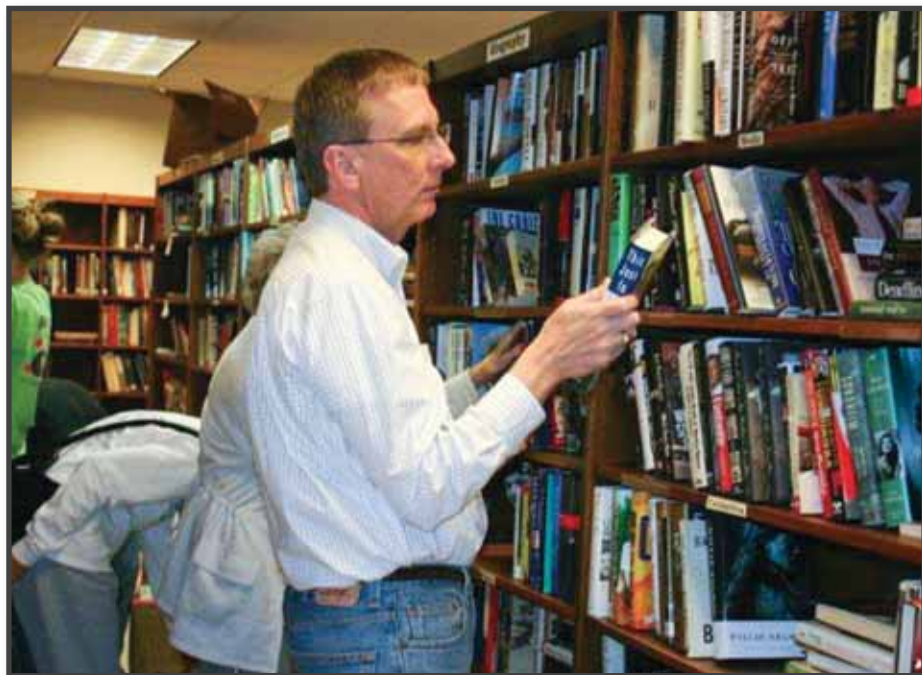
**Restore Ministries of Birmingham, Inc.**  
14 Office Park Circle, Suite 104  
917-5065

**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



## 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.

## Technology News @EOL

The Library is pleased to offer two new databases for Mountain Brook residents to enjoy from your own home. Universal Class is a leading

Learn Something New  
Today!

Over  
**500**  
Online Continuing  
Education Courses  
Universal  
CLASS



provider of online, self-paced, continuing education courses. There are courses in hundreds of subjects from art, cooking, and performing arts to computers, technology, science, and history. You may enroll in up to five courses at a time and have up to six months to finish each course. You will have access to the course and materials 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Each course has a real instructor with whom you may communicate via email. Attend classes at your own pace, on your own schedule. These classes are non credit and are intended for personal enrichment. To start using Universal Class, visit the

Library's website at [www.eolib.org](http://www.eolib.org) and click on "Resources" in the Adult section. There you will find a link to Universal Class, as well as all the unique databases and resources your Library offers. To register for Universal Class you must be a Mountain Brook resident with a current library card in good standing (so no fines over \$5!). After you complete a quick registration process for new members, you can get started!

## HERITAGE QUEST

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

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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

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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](http://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

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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](http://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

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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.

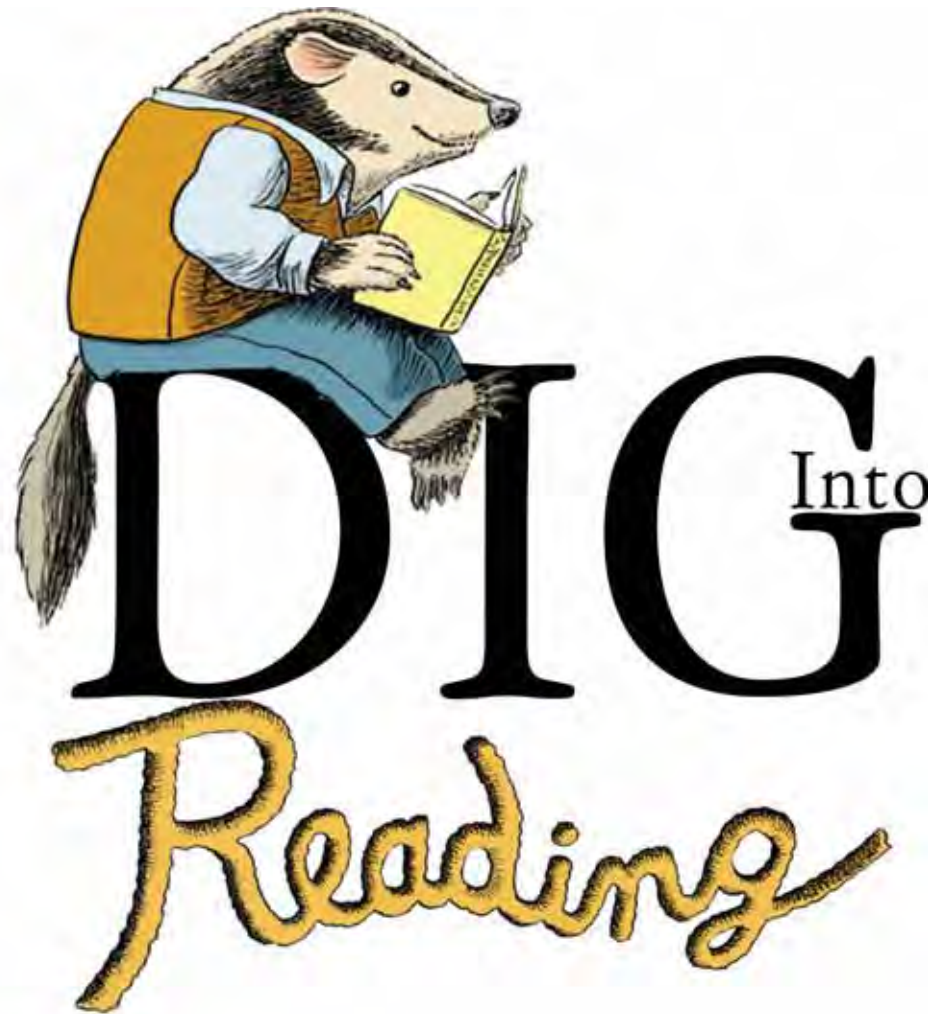
On the afternoon of February 18th, the Princess Sehoy Chapter of the DAR will host a President's Day celebration in the Children's Department.

On March 6th come to a musical and magical Didgeeridoo 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!

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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!





# Be Local. Be Mountain Brook. Be You.

## Welcome to the Villages of Mountain Brook

### 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.

### MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Welcome to the  
2013 Mountain Brook  
Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors


- President:** Terry Chapman
- Executive VP:** Kaye Emack
- VP Governmental Affairs:** Paul DeMarco
- VP Community Affairs:** Paige Gilliland
- VP Marketing/Communications:** Will Haver
- VP Business Development:** Derek Belden
- CO VPs of Retail:**
- 280 Plaza:** Joshua Conrad, Hampton Inn
- Brookwood Village:** Joanne Mummert, Colonial Properties
- Cahaba Village:** Christopher Groom, Mtn High Outfitters
- Crestline Village:** George Jones, Snoozy's Kids
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- Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation:** Anne Womack
- Mountain Brook Sports Corporation:** Doug Centeno
- Executive Director:** Suzan Smith Doidge
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# Thank you to our 2013 Village to Village Race Committee



From left to right: Steven Hyding, Beth Nigri, Terry Chapman, Amy Jackson, Kaye Emack, Dan Starnes, Lee Perry, John Evans



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*Jubiska*



# MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 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](http://welcometomountainbrook.com)  
or contact the Chamber office at 871-3779



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# Welcome, New Members



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- Gia's Cakes
- Key Circle Press
- Mountain Brook Smiles
- Oswaldo Constuction 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

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## MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS LOOKS TO FUTURE WITH FACILITY AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES



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?

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*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.

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**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.

## MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS PLANNED PROJECTS 2013 – 2015

- **Roof Replacements:**  
Brookwood Forest, Mountain Brook Elementary
- **Playground Fall Protection:**  
Brookwood Forest, Mountain Brook Elementary
- **Boiler Replacement:**  
Crestline Elementary
- **HVAC Replacements, Selected Units:**  
All Schools
- **Replace Classroom Cabinets:**  
Selected Schools
- **Upgrade Auditorium Lighting:**  
Crestline Elementary and High School Fine Arts Center
- **Upgrade Restrooms:**  
Selected Schools
- **Renovate Entrance and Library:**  
Junior High School
- **Renovate Original Classroom Wings:**  
High School

**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



Bond issue funds paid for new classrooms at the Junior High School

seen predictions that networks should expand to accommodate 2 to 4 devices per user.

Through careful planning we have been able to minimize the down time for staff and students during the upgrades at each school. We have completed the upgrades at Mountain Brook Elementary, Mountain Brook High School, Crestline Elementary, and Mountain Brook Junior High. Our plans are to complete Cherokee Bend and Brookwood Forest by March 1.

During each upgrade, the major "disconnects" and "re-connects" occurred over the weekends with only brief outages during the school day. Each school takes approximately seven to ten days to complete. There will be a second phase of improvements completed in the summer.

We are not only excited that schools can increase the number of devices used in a single area, access information more quickly, but also that we can access rich video via the internet without fear of "boggling" down the network. With the more robust network, we feel confident that we can continue to provide a learning environment rich with the best resources available for our students. Our technology resources are not only great tools that assist our students as they communicate, create, collaborate, think critically; these tools help to equip our students with the skills they need to thrive.

*We are 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.  
— Donna Williamson, Technology Director*



## Antidrug Coalition Offers Take Home Points From Hitting Home Meetings

- Parents do well to educate themselves about substance abuse and youth.
- Families should have frequent, ongoing family conversations about drugs and alcohol.
- Parents should set and communicate expectations to kids regarding substance use.
- Enforce a “no use” policy. “Supervised” drinking leads to more unsupervised drinking, not less.
- Parents should consider monitoring the whereabouts of their children more closely.
- Parents should consider what they model with their own patterns of drinking and drug use.

“Then we wanted 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.

### have you drunk liquor? (%: Once a year or more)



Dr. Dale Wisely presented data at Hitting Home meetings on the level of underage drinking and drug use among students.

## 3RD ANNUAL “HITTING HOME” PROGRAM BOLSTERED BY PARENT ATTENDANCE

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.

### 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.



# Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation

## 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 [mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net](mailto:mbscfoundation@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.*

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