

Mayor Lawrence T. Oden
CITY COUNCIL
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the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XVII, Issue 4

Mayor's Message

One of my favorite things about my job is when I can pass along great news and great success stories in our community. This success is one of our greatest.

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has, for 20 years, acted as a catalyst for turning our schools from great to some of the greatest in the region. At a time when all you hear about is budget shortfalls and lack of funding, the Foundation allows us benefits for our children that we couldn't otherwise afford in the areas of teacher development, technology and library enhancement. And, it's those extras that make our schools so great and keep our kids competitive on a national level.

Since the Foundation was founded by a group of concerned citizens in 1992, it has given \$4,757,450 to our schools. The focus on technology and teacher development as stated from the outset has proven to be truly prophetic. Technology has become so integral to learning and life in the last twenty years and as a result, teachers have had to learn how to engage the children in fresh, new ways. Our schools simply couldn't have kept up without the support of the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.

The schools are so important to our community and our quality of life. Please turn to the Mountain Brook Schools section in this issue to learn more about the Foundation's good work and how you can help make this success story even greater.

Sincerely,

Lawrence T. Oden



Officer Orvie Mattson

Village Patrol Officer

In an effort to enhance communication and service to the merchants and business owners in Mountain Brook, the Mountain Brook Police Department has re-instituted the Business/Village Officer position. The overall purpose of this assignment is to increase interaction between the Mountain Brook Police Department and the retail/business community in Mountain Brook and to increase police visibility in the village and business areas.

Officer Orvie Mattson has been appointed to serve in this role and has been serving in this capacity since July. He has been busy updating the after-hours contact information for businesses in the area. Officer Mattson is actively making contact with merchants and making them aware of his function. He will also make the police department personnel aware of concerns and problems that the business owners are facing, keep track of new businesses that open in the area, and answer calls for service in all business areas.

Officer Mattson has been employed with Mountain Brook Police Department since December 2000. Officer Mattson's wife Andrea is a kindergarten teacher and they have a 5 year old son, Wyatt. Officer Mattson also serves in the Alabama Air National Guard.

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Alagasco Work on Euclid Avenue

Currently, Alagasco anticipates that gas main repairs and replacement along Euclid Avenue will be completed by the end of October. Alagasco will begin work on the Eastern end of Euclid Avenue in January through April. Additional gas line repairs and replacements will continue along some of the side streets off Euclid Avenue.

The City plans to repave all of Euclid Avenue in the summer of 2013.

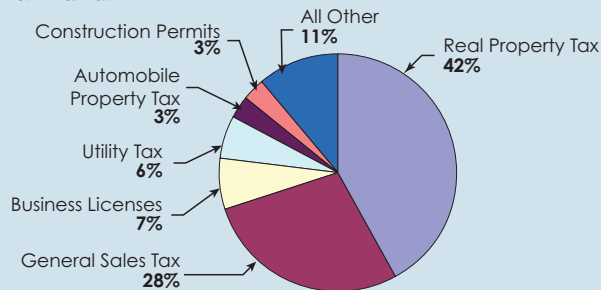
2013 Budget Adopted

The City Council adopted the 2013 budget at its September 24, 2012 meeting with a General Fund surplus of \$508,000. The General Fund revenue budget totals \$32 million representing a 1.2% increase from last year's budget. Some of the larger General Fund revenues include:

Source of Revenue	2012	2013	Percentage Change
Real estate tax	\$13,618,750	\$13,484,000	(0.1)%
Sales tax	8,805,000	9,084,950	3.3
License and franchise fees	2,600,000	2,570,660	(1.1)
Utility taxes	1,566,590	1,624,860	3.7
Automobile property tax	1,098,000	1,116,290	1.6
Construction permits	791,000	882,510	11.6
Fines	460,000	498,940	8.5
All other	2,693,629	2,765,670	2.7
Totals	\$31,632,968	\$32,027,880	1.2%

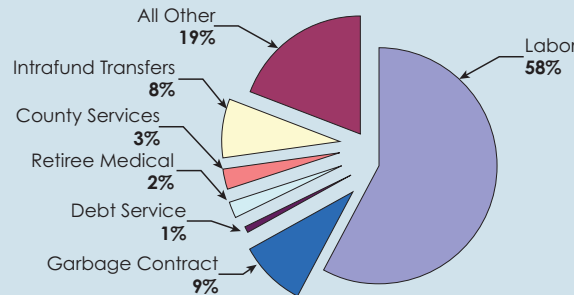
The chart below depicts the relative importance of the various sources of revenue in the General Fund:

2013 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET \$32MM

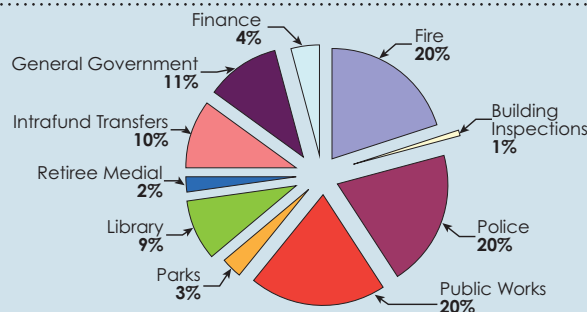


2013 General Fund expenses totaling \$31.6 million representing a 1.2% increase from last year's budget. The charts below illustrate the functional and departmental make-up of the City's General Fund expenses:

2013 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET



2013 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



License Renewals

Business license renewals for the City of Mountain Brook are due on January 1, 2013 and will be delinquent January 31, 2013. Licenses not renewed timely will be subject to penalties and interest. You should receive a renewal reminder prior to January. Please complete the renewal notice and return along with your payment. If you receive a renewal notice and are no longer conducting business, please mark the renewal notice with the ending date of the business and mail back or fax to (205) 870-3590 so that we may update our files.

If you have any questions concerning the renewal of your license or payment of taxes, please call the Revenue Examiner, Melissa Honeycutt at 205/802-3808 or the Revenue Department at (205) 802-2400 option 4.

New businesses may apply for a license by printing an application from our website www.mtnbrook.org. The business license application may be found by clicking "Businesses" on the top navigation bar and then looking for "Business Application" under "Forms".

Please be aware that home-based businesses are required to obtain a home occupation license which is also available from our website www.mtnbrook.org by clicking "Businesses" on the top navigation bar and then looking for "Home Occupation Application" under "Forms".

Simplified Online Tax Filing

The City of Mountain Brook has partnered with the State of Alabama to allow business owners the opportunity to file their city taxes while filing their state taxes using Alabama Department of Revenue's paperless filing and payment system.

The site can be accessed by visiting <http://revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/efiling.html> and clicking the link titled "click here to file and/or pay". Businesses will log-on using their Alabama sign-on and access code. Once logged-in, you will need to add the locality of Mountain Brook to allow city filings and payments. This is done by selecting "add/delete localities" button in the top right portion of the City/County Return screen. You will also need to input your City of Mountain Brook tax/customer ID number into the field labeled Jurisdiction Number. The returns and payments submitted for Mountain Brook local taxes will go directly to the city and not to the State of Alabama.

If you need your city account number or want further information, please contact Melissa Honeycutt at 205/802-3808 or the Revenue Department at (205) 802-2400 option 4.

Please note that you may also continue filing your sales tax through the city website at www.mtnbrook.org if you prefer that method. However, please do not file the same tax returns on both sites to avoid duplicate postings.

Reminder:

Residents, please remember that when hiring a contractor to build, renovate, or repair your home or hiring a service company, please verify with the Revenue Department that the contractor is licensed to work in the City by calling (205) 802-2400. Any contracting work being conducted within the city limits must be permitted. Permit applications may be obtained at 3928 Montclair Road, Suite 148.

If you hire a contractor to do work on your property, they are responsible for removing any accumulated debris (tree removal, construction materials, etc.).



Third Quarter Crime Statistics

	2nd Quarter 2012	3rd Quarter 2012
ROBBERY	2	1
BURGLARY/RESIDENCE	9	17
BURGLARY/BUSINESS	3	1
THEFT	50	65
AUTO THEFT	2	2
ASSAULTS (OTHER)	4	1
IDENTITY THEFT	11	9
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	8	13
DRUGS	11	12
FAMILY VIOLENCE	2	7
ACCIDENTS	233	212\
A WITH INJURIES	25	15
A WITH FATALITIES	0	0
CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,121	6,913
HOUSE WATCHES	1,134	1,396
PROPERTY STOLEN	\$209,872	\$1,184,518
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$77,651	\$211,117

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.

Tree Commission Happenings

As a long summer draws to an end, the Mountain Brook Tree Commission is preparing for various upcoming events. We are in the process of ordering tree seedlings for Arbor Day which will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013. These are very high quality trees, grown in liners or "soil plugs". This particular method results in fewer root defects in the long term, and a much higher survival rate in the short term, by preventing the roots from drying out as quickly as bare root seedlings.

We are excited to once again partner with the Birmingham Zoo to host the 5th Annual Christmas Tree Recycling event. Details and promotional

material will follow in the coming months.

Finally, we encourage residents to participate in the "Champion Trees" program. If you have, or are aware of, a particularly large or otherwise significant tree within the city limits, please consider submitting it to us. We are currently working on a nomination form and guidelines that can be downloaded from the MBTC website. In the meantime, contact the City Arborist for an evaluation of the tree by visiting our web pages at www.mtnbrook.org.

Photos and a description of your tree could be featured on the city's website for all to see!



Leaf Season Schedule

Leaf season begins on Monday, October 29th. Waste Management will collect loose leaves from the curb (not in the gutter) October 29th through March 1st. Loose leaves are taken to the City's Public Works facilities to be turned into compost. Bagged leaves cannot be used for compost. Every residence will receive four (4) leaf pick-ups during leaf season.

Waste Management has mailed information to every residence in the City on leaf pick-up with the planned weeks of service for that area. If you have not received this information from Waste Management, please call them at 841-2740.

When you rake or blow your leaves, please do not deposit them in the City's gutters or storm drain inlets as this is in violation of City ordinances. Loose leaf pick-up piles cannot contain any sticks, branches, rocks or other debris as they will damage the vacuum equipment.

Holidays Garbage Service Reminder

As we approach the Holiday Season, Waste Management, which provides garbage, trash and recycling services to our residents, observes Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day as holidays. If your garbage, trash and recycling services falls on one of these holidays or one of the following days during that week, your service will be delayed by one day. For Friday routes, service will occur on Saturday.

Additionally, Waste Management observes Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day with no garbage pick up on those days.

Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	2nd Quarter-2012		3rd Quarter-2012	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	12	\$6,416,703	6	\$3,870,062
Alterations/Additions	108	\$13,347,828	127	\$6,897,338
Repairs/Other	220	\$2,604,723	152	\$1,733,511
Totals:	340	\$22,369,254	285	\$12,500,911

2012 Holiday Safety Tips

The Holiday season is fast approaching. With it typically comes increased crime. Here are just a few things you could do to help protect yourself:

WHEN SHOPPING...

- Pay attention to your surroundings.... if someone seems to be watching you, they may be sizing you up for a crime.
- Park in well-lit areas. Lock your car doors.
- Do not leave anything of value visible inside your car; discreetly place valuable items in the trunk.
- Avoid placing valuable items in the trunk in public.
- Do not leave your purse in the shopping cart unattended...you're just making it easy for someone to steal or pilfer your purse.

COMING HOME LATE AT NIGHT:

Avoid shortcuts that are not well traveled or well lit.

- If you suspect that you are being followed, call 911, stay away from lonely quiet blocks and head for reputable stores you know to be open.
- When walking to your car or on your way home, keep your keys in your hand until you are safely inside and lock your doors.
- If someone drops you off at home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside before they leave.
- If a motorist bothers you while you are walking turn around and walk in the opposite direction of the car.

Reflective Gear Protects You



Remembering to wear reflective gear while running, walking, or bicycling at night or in the early morning hours is very important. Reflective gear makes runners and bicyclists more visible. It is not enough to just wear bright clothing; reflective outerwear is designed to reflect to a driver's eye when approaching you. On cold nights, don't make the mistake of wearing your reflective vest under your jacket or sweatshirt. An alternative to reflective clothing could be reflective tape or bands that you can put on several parts of your body. The more body you cover, the better off you are.

Alabama law requires pedestrians to use a sidewalk "where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable." When a sidewalk is not available, pedestrians are to walk or run on the left side of the street and yield the right-of-way to vehicles in the roadway.

Mountain Brook City Ordinance requires that individuals who walk, jog, or run in City streets during the hours of 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. wear either (a) reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back with a coverage of at least fifty (50) square inches or (b) strobe style continuously flashing lights at least two (2) inches in diameter between the waist and shoulders that are visible from the front and back.

When bicycling at night, make sure you have working lights on both the front and back of your bike. On the front, it should

be a solid light. On the back, it should be a blinking light below the back of your seat allowing better visibility to cars and for recognition that you are a cyclist. Also, don't forget to wear your helmet as it is the law. It is just as important to wear a helmet as it is to make sure you have reflective tape on your helmet while night riding. Remember, covering your body with as much reflective gear as possible is the key!

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 not functioning properly, 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.



While You Were Sleeping

The Public Works Department's "Sidewalk Pressure Washing Project" for the commercial villages has been completed. We started the cleaning in front of Gus's Hotdogs in Crestline on June 26, 2012 and finished in front of Sneaky Pete's Hotdogs in Mountain Brook Village on August 24, 2012. The cleaning took place after hours on Thursday nights from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. Friday mornings each week; with the exception of a couple of weeks when the weather forecast was not favorable to working outdoors. We do apologize for some water spots possibly left on some windows or store fronts but the guys did try as much as possible to not have water go under any doors and not splatter the store fronts. This was a two man operation spearheaded by Lynn Horton who rotated employees Thomas Bender, Daniel Davis, Michael Finney, and Leon McMullen.

Recent City Council Actions:

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES SINCE JULY 2012.

- **Ordinance 1874:** Amended Section 50-46(b) of the City Code lowering the speed limit on Northcote Drive to 25 m.p.h.
- **Ordinance 1875:** Amended Section 129-315 of the Mountain Brook City Code. The ordinance revolved around the height and placement of fences in Mountain Brook. Fences may not exceed 4 feet in height in front yard, side fences on lots shall not exceed 8 feet, entry gates are permitted.
- **Ordinance 1876:** Adopted the 2012 International Building, Residential, Fuel Gas, Mechanical, Plumbing and Fire Codes.
- **Ordinance 1879:** Increased Fire Department emergency medical transportation fees from \$525 to \$600 and additional mileage fees from \$8.25 to \$10.

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS AUTHORIZED OR APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS SINCE JULY 2012:

- Approved contract in the amount of \$22,450 with Alabama Guardrail for the installation of a guardrail on Old Leeds Road near Cherokee Road.
- Approved expenditure of \$1,000 and authorized new curbing for the Euclid Circle traffic island improvement project.
- Authorized a one-time appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 to the Mountain Brook Board of Education for the Cherokee Bend Elementary School playground improvement project.
- Authorized the execution of a settlement agreement and release related to the construction contract for the municipal complex project between the City and Taylor-Miree Construction Company.
- Approved contract with the Birmingham Water Works Board for the relocation of four (4) fire hydrants for the Safe-Routes-to-Schools sidewalk projects.
- Executed sales tax agency agreement between the City and Brasfield and Gorrie, LLC, with respect to the municipal complex project.
- Agreed to participate with the City of Homewood on a sidewalk and pedestrian bridge project linking the two communities along Montevallo Road and Hollywood Blvd.
- Awarded low bid in the amount of \$51,405 to Stone Electric Company for the installation of traffic and pedestrian signals at the intersection of Beechwood Road and Overbrook Road.
- Approved a development agreement between the City, Evson, Inc., and Daniel Realty Company with respect to the Lane Parke project.
- Executed contract with MAX for bus service in the City for FY-2013 in the amount of \$75,012.
- Declared property known as Cahaba River Park, consisting of 4.7 acres along Overton Road and River Run Drive and abutting the Cahaba River, for public use.
- Authorized an agreement with Sain Associates in the amount of \$116,716, for construction engineering and inspections services for the two Safe-Routes-to-School sidewalk project.
- Authorized expenditures up to \$7,000 for a flag, pole and lighting at the Memory Triangle.
- Approved expenditure of \$700 with the Jefferson County Historical Association for a historical marker for Office Park.
- Approved conditional use application for a fresh juice/raw food bar located at 17 Dexter Avenue.
- Adopted FY-2013 Budget with projected \$31,940,158 in General Fund revenues and \$31,433,443 in proposed expenditures.
- Granted all City employees a 1.5% across-the-board pay increase.
- Vacated interior rights-of-way in the Lane Parke project.
- Issued Notice to Remedy Nuisance for properties at 3304 Stoneridge Drive and 2210 Sterlingwood Drive.



Pet Waste

Pets should be curbed at all times and never soil our sidewalks or playing fields. Recently, the City has experienced pet waste problems along some of our sidewalks, especially in English Village. Pet owners should immediately and properly clean up any accidents that may occur.



Cahaba River Park

Community input is needed for the development of our new park on the Cahaba River. Any citizen interested in being involved in the formulation of committees and neighborhood groups to support the park should contact the City Manager's office at 802-3803 or gastons@mtnbrook.org and leave contact information so you can be notified of future organizational meetings.

Also, if you would like to donate funds or items for the park, such as benches or picnic tables, please let us know.

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
Library Board	3rd Tues.	4:45 p.m.	Library
Park & Recreation Board	2nd Tues.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Board of Zoning Adjustment	2nd Mon.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
Planning Commission	1st Mon.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
Design Review Committee	3rd Wed.	8:00 a.m.	City Hall
Tree Commission	3rd Tues. (odd months)	5:15 p.m.	City Hall
Chamber of Commerce	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	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

Board Appointments/Vacancy

APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor has made the following appointment:

- Philip Black – Planning Commission

The City Council has recently made the following appointments:

- Chris Mitchell - Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Richard Simonton - Board of Zoning Adjustment

The City Council has recently made the following reappointments:

- Henry Lapidus – Board of Zoning Adjustment

BOARD VACANCY

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

- Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health – Mental Retardation Authority (6-year appointment)

New Website

In July, the City introduced its new website. The new site takes advantage of the latest technologies in website design. New features and functionality included:

- Fresher look and feel and more user-friendly
- The “Action Center” is more prominent and easier to use
- The City now accepts online payments for traffic tickets
- An enhanced calendar
- Automated links to the City’s blog and our Twitter feeds (a Facebook link is anticipated soon)
- Several new pages for visitors to the City and businesses
- Council meeting minutes and agenda packets are now available for public viewing

Anyone interested in upcoming Council meeting topics may now follow us on Twitter by sending the text message “Follow @mountain_brook” to 40404.

Take a minute to look at the new site located at www.mtnbrook.org. We welcome comments and feedback at 802-3820.



New Businesses

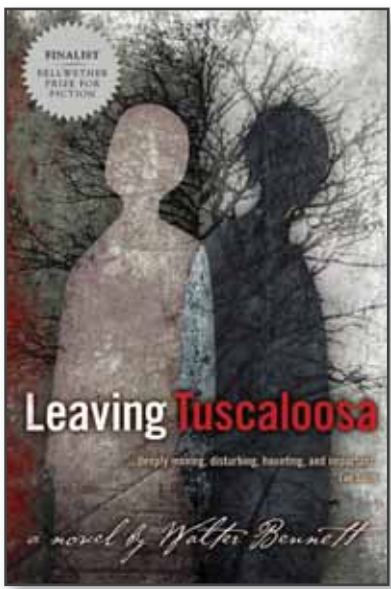
- **Andrea N. Hendricks PHD, LLC**
402 Office Park Drive, Suite 250
(415) 509-7374
- **Barbara R. Powell (dba Personality-Baby.com)**
100-A Foxhall Road
821-4622
- **Beverly Ruff, Inc.**
2417 Canterbury Road
572-2979
- **Cameron Crowe (dba Southwood Designs)**
2732 Southwood Road
531-8713
- **Dungan Nequette Architects, Inc.**
1906 Cahaba Road
322-6455
- **Dupont Dietary Consulting, LLC**
4432 Briar Glen Drive
213-7953
- **Fritze Financial, Inc.**
2700 Highway 280 Suite 245E
977-9781
- **Great Smiles Orthodontics, Inc.**
36-B Church Street
803-1115
- **Hand Wealth Management**
3928 Montclair Road, Suite 217
802-2569
- **Integrid Systems, Inc.**
4144 Sharpsburg Drive
585-4928
- **Regulatory Solutions, LLC**
3928 Montclair Road, Suite 120
536-7715
- **Saades Skinny Dipin'**
26-B Dexter Avenue
601-1426
- **TC Counseling & Consulting Services**
3 Office Park Circle, Suite 105
378-9038
- **Trouvais, LLC (dba Trouve Art & Antiques')**
2004 Cahaba Road

Databases & Technology Classes @ EOL : Southern Authors @ EOL

Thanks to a Community Foundation Grant recently presented by State Senator Slade Blackwell, the library has recently begun several new programs. We have many new computer classes including, **How to Download Free Audiobooks and ebooks**, and **How To Use Word, Excel And Facebook**. We've also introduced a **Tech Tour** in which you'll learn about taking online language learning classes, downloading free music, or how to find the latest issue of Consumer Reports online. Classes are offered once a month and are free of charge. We also offer a very basic computer class for seniors where you'll learn how to use a mouse and keyboard, how to use email, and the basics of navigating the Internet. This six week course has a \$30 fee. You can find a link to our **Tech Tuesday** (and Wednesday and Thursday) offerings on the library's Adult page. Take a look at what we have to offer, then register for a class!

The Community Foundation Grant has also provided us with a new service: **Universal Class**. This new program provides Mountain Brook residents with an online learning program on hundreds of subjects. The only requirement - you Library Card! Visit our website at www.eolib.org, click on the Adult Tab and navigate to our Resources section. Here you'll find Universal Class - from spreadsheets to philosophy to knitting, there's something for everyone! Also in the Resources section, you'll find searchable back issues of The Birmingham News, Freegle (for downloading music) and Rocket Language where you can learn 12 different languages at your own pace.

Last, but not least, we're very excited about our new **e-reader Lending Program**. This program will allow us to provide more copies of popular titles than we can hold on our shelves. We also have the flexibility of making any book an instant large print title with a change of the settings. Last, but not least, we will be able to offer an e reader full of classics that are no longer readily available in print. Readers may be checked out for three weeks and renewed as long as there are no holds. You'll find a variety of genres available, including bestsellers, mystery, suspense, romance, science fiction & fantasy, and, as mentioned above, classics. We also have picture book e readers and juvenile fiction and teen titles!



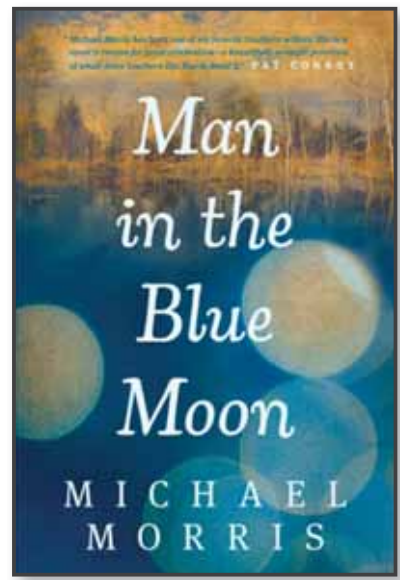
"Leaving Tuscaloosa" by Walter Bennett

that happened to the author's grandfather. Just before WWI, in rural Florida, an acquaintance of Morris' grandfather had himself mailed in a crate to his grandfather's home. He was on the run for a murder he said he didn't commit. Rich in language, setting and character, Morris' novel has been compared to Harper Lee, Flannery O'Connor and Mark Twain by The Washington Post. Mr. Morris will give a talk and sign copies of his novel.

For more information about these author visits, please contact Katie Moellering at 445-1118 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.

Please join us on Sunday, December 2nd at 3:00pm for a reception, book signing & talk with Walter Bennett, author of the new book *Leaving Tuscaloosa*. Mr. Bennett, a native of Tuscaloosa, has crafted a novel whose characters are involved in a moral, emotional and intellectual struggle. *Leaving Tuscaloosa* takes place over the course of 36 hours in a racially charged town in the deep South. Its characters, one white and one black, find their paths converging amid racial tension and violence. According to Mr. Bennett, at its heart, the novel is one of conscience and hope. His debut novel was a 2010 finalist for the prestigious Bellwether Prize for Fiction. Mr. Bennett is a former lawyer, judge and law professor currently residing in Chapel Hill.

In January we'll welcome another local author, this time to our weekly Brown Bag Lunch Series. On Wednesday, January 9th at 12:30, Michael Morris will speak about his book *Man in the Blue Moon*. This new novel tells a fictionalized account of an event



"Man in the Blue Moon" by Michael Morris

January with June Mays

Although it's winter, it's never too early to think about your garden. In fact, now is the perfect time to do a little planning. Let us help you with this! A local favorite, June Mays, will join us the first three Saturdays in January for an ever popular series on gardening. This year's programs will be on Saturday, January 5th, 12th and 19th. For information about specific topics, or to register, please contact Katie Moellering at 445-1119 or kmoellering@bham.lib.al.us.

Friends Booksale

Save the date! The Friends of the Library's annual book sale is scheduled for February 22nd-24th. We'll have books for all interests as well as audiobooks and DVDs. For those of you who want first crack at the best books, a \$25 donation will ensure that you receive an invitation to the **Friends Preview Party** on Thursday evening, February 21st.

And don't forget, the Friends of the Library accept donations throughout the year. Just bag or box your materials, drive by the library's back door and drop them off. We'll take care of the books or materials and you will get a tax receipt!

Children's Department

This winter, the Emmet O'Neal Children's Department continues to blaze a trail in offering creative, tech-savvy services to the young readers in the community. Any kid can tell you that e-readers are currently the hottest way to read, so we've pre-loaded twelve Nooks with the e-books our patrons want the most. Do you have a reader who is addicted to Percy Jackson? We've got a Nook full to the brim with nothing but Rick Riordan books. Are you hoping to get that same reader un-addicted? Try the Nook with the latest best-selling chapter books. Want to read about the holidays with your preschooler? Check out a Nook loaded with seasonal picture books and early readers. Interested in award winners? Grab the Newbery or Caldecott Nook and browse our selection of some of the best titles in children's literature. Whatever you like to read, we've got a Nook for you – and we're the first library in the county circulating Nook Colors, which are perfect for those picture books and early readers. Of course, if you have your own e-reader, you can simply visit the library's website from wherever you are and choose from over a thousand downloadable children's e-books available in our catalog.

What about non-fiction, you ask? We've got it covered. Follow the Children's link on the library website to access Capstone Interactive, a collection of online children's non-fiction (and a few fiction) books. A kid-friendly search allows users to browse books by topic or reading level. After selecting a book, the user has a handful of interactive options: navigate through the book by a clickable table of contents, flip through the illustrations, listen to a read-aloud of the text, or take a quiz about the book. From bilingual books to graphic novels, from tractors to bugs to presidents, Capstone Interactive is the place to satisfy your child's cravings for



virtual nonfiction. But if you still need more facts, wander over to Tumblebooks, which has added to its animated storybooks a series of short informational videos produced by National Geographic and a collection of iPad-compatible storybooks.

Aside from forging new paths, the EOL Children's Department is also continuing to provide the programming you've come to love. Each month we have a **Family Night** with dinner and a show for all ages. In November, enjoy the holiday movie classic *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* on Tuesday the 13th. On December 4th, All Hands Productions puppet theater brings you *Santa's Missing Mail*. Start the new year right with a January 8th Family Night featuring That Puppet Guy Lee Bryan,

presenting *The Giant, the Beanstalk, and Jack*, a twist on the popular fairy tale favorite. You can also bring your 3-and-ups to our monthly **After-School Specials**. Birmingham Children's Theatre performs *The Gingerbread Boy* on November 7th, and Atlantic Coast Theatre returns on December 5th with *Hans Brinker and the Quicksilver Rocket Skates*. January's After-School Special on the 23rd is a **Superhero Smash** put on by your very own EOL children's librarians.

To browse our other upcoming children's programs, access e-books, Capstone, Tumblebooks, and other online content, or find a link to our blog and Facebook page, visit the library's website at www.eolib.org.

Just for Teens @ EOL

The leaves are falling all around, and the teens are flocking to the library for books, study-groups and fun!

Saturday, November 3rd is our 4th Annual International Games Day from noon until 5 pm. We'll play all kinds of games from cards and board games to charades and video games. Come help us celebrate International Games Day!

On Friday, November 9th we'll have local artist, Dariana Dervis, teaching us some of her amazing techniques. She'll show us some cool projects with all the fall leaves and self-portrait collages. Come on out and nurture your inner artist.

In December we'll have exam study breaks for our teens as they prepare

for their final exams. Hundreds of teens crowd the library to study with their fellow students, and the library provides snacks and drinks and even special hours to ensure that they have all the resources they need to excel at their studies.

Last, but not least, if you are a teen in grades 7-12, consider joining our Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Our TAB group meets once a month to discuss plans for teen programs and services ... and pizza!





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Shop Mountain Brook this Holiday Season

Mountain Brook Village Open House

November 13
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Crestline Village Open House

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Come to the
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Alabama Retail Association



"My wife and I are very blessed and humbled today," said Leon Rosato, owner of Gilchrist Soda Fountain, who earned the Bronze Retailer of the Year Award in the Annual Sales Less Than \$1 Million category. Gilchrist is the oldest continuous business in Mountain Brook Village. Pictured here with Alabama State Representative Paul DeMarco and Richelle Rosato.



John and Michael Gee, co-owners of the Pants Store, five casual clothing, shoes and accessory stores located in Crestline Village, the Birmingham area and Tuscaloosa, earned the Silver Retailer of the Year Award in the Annual Sales \$5 Million to \$20 Million category. Pictured here with their mother, Harriet Gee.



Christopher M. Groom, owner and chief executive officer of Mountain High Outfitters, recognized manager Brandy Linton as a "power player" at the specialty outdoor retail store when accepting his Retailer of the Year award. Groom received the Bronze Retailer of the Year Award in the Annual Sales \$5 Million to \$20 Million category.

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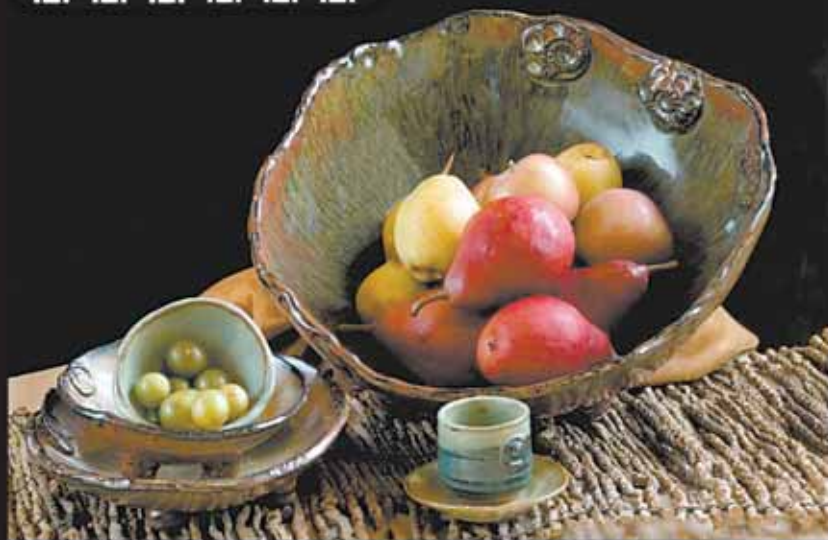


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See the bright flowers as they fade slowly away.

Gone are the summer flowers, but no need for despair,
For it won't be long 'till leaves fill the air.

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-patricia orim



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“FOR EVERY ONE OF OUR STUDENTS” SCHOOLS WORK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT



Staff at Cherokee Bend discuss student needs at recent Student Support Team meeting.

A 10th grade student struggles with overwhelming anxiety whenever she takes a major test. A bright fourth-grader struggles to keep up with his peers in math. A junior high student with diabetes meets with a school nurse to review routines for checking his blood sugar. A team of teachers, counselors, and administrators meet to review the progress of a second-grader who has been having behavioral difficulties. On a daily basis, an exceptionally talented high school student rapidly completes her work and seeks out more advanced work to fill the rest of her time. Another student's grades decline as his parents struggle with serious marital problems.

What do all of these scenarios have in common? Each provides an example of the kind of challenges that Mountain Brook Schools are committed to meeting as they focus on the needs of individual students and devise ways to provide the support students need to succeed in school.

“There is a complicated process which we follow in academic planning and design in our schools,” said Dr. Dale Wisely, Director of Student Services. “We first have to design our overall programs, which are intended for our student body as a whole. Then we shift perspectives and look at the individual student, his or her special strengths and needs, and then differentiate how we work with that student to meet those needs. That can involve the entire range of professionals here—administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses, special educators, reading and math coaches—any of us, really.”

“Our purpose statement is deliberate and every word was selected for a reason,” said superintendent Dicky Barlow. “The purpose of Mountain Brook Schools is to provide an effective, challenging and engaging education for every one of our students.’ That last part is critical: ‘...every one of our students.’”

School Teams Meet Frequently

Mountain Brook Schools maintain a number of services and programs designed to support the individual student. “This system has a long history of devoting a lot of resources to meeting the needs of individual students,” says Dr. Missy Brooks, Mountain Brook Schools’ Director of Instruction. “For example, Mountain Brook operated Child Study Teams for many years before it became a practice statewide.” Those Child Study Teams, now also known as “Student Support Teams,” meet often at every school to discuss the needs of children.

“Students benefit most from Student Support Teams because there is a team of people with varied areas of expertise offering suggestions about how to help children,” says Dru Jones, Assistant Principal at Brookwood Forest. “With many people brainstorming interventions, wonderful ideas can be presented to help a child. It also gives the teacher an opportunity to talk through concerns. I believe that when we have a chance to talk with our peers we can see solutions more clearly. The process also keeps us focused on the needs of the child with time-specific checkpoints so that we can monitor the progress of the interventions and discuss what might need to be tweaked to better help the child.”

Special Instruction for Special Needs

Another program that exemplifies the district's purpose statement of providing an “effective, challenging, and engaging education for everyone of our students” is special education. Each student receiving special education services has a team-developed plan tailored to his or her individual needs with an emphasis on specialized instruction. Students in special education can remain in school and receive services through the age of 21.

“In our district, meeting the diverse needs of the 18- to 21-year-old special education population is done through a program known as Turning Points,” said Shannon Mundy, Director of Special Education. Turning Points is the result of a collaborative effort between Mountain Brook Schools and Samford University. “The program's purpose is to develop life skills, social communication,

Our purpose is to provide an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students.

and employability skills through instruction and job-training opportunities,” said Mundy. Cynthia Mayo, facilitator and teacher of the program, has seen her students flourish and thrive as they receive services in an age-appropriate environment. “Seeing the students interact with their peers on a college campus is priceless,” said Mayo. “This program has proven to be beneficial for our students, along with the Samford students.”

Academic Support in Every School

Mountain Brook Schools also has an active program of Academic Support. This is a term applied to a range of services designed to help students who are struggling academically. Academic Support teachers are employed at all of the schools and work in small group and individual formats. Laurie King, principal of Crestline Elementary, explains that Academic Support programs allow the student the opportunity to progress and feel success in the general curriculum.

“Some students participate in Academic Support for relatively short periods of time until certain skills are strengthened, while others find Academic Support useful for longer intervals,” said Principal King. “Some of the types of services include math and reading skills, vocabulary development, language skills, writing skills, and study and organizational skills. We work with the students in the classroom, in small groups, and individually. The classroom teachers and Academic Support teachers collaborate to decide what approach works for each student.”

Counselors Problem Solve in Many Areas

Mountain Brook Schools is proud that among its resources devoted to helping individual students is an excellent staff of school counselors. Each of the four elementary schools has a full-time counselor. (Crestline Elementary, the largest elementary school in the district, has two.) Mountain Brook Junior High has three, one for each grade level. Mountain Brook High has five counselors, one for each grade, a College Admissions Advisor, and a Student Assistance counselor.

The presence of a dedicated Student Assistance counselor is a distinctive service at the high school. Kenneth Harkless has been in this position since 1988. He has specialized training in personal counseling and substance abuse counseling. Dealing with issues involving parental/adult conflict, depression and suicidal thinking, he is available for confidential counseling and consultation to students and their parents across grade levels. Mr. Harkless is available for scheduled sessions, walk-ins, or by phone. He is the liaison with the alternative school and any facility where a student is receiving extended care.

Mountain Brook Junior High counselor Sharon Lyerly provides an idea of the kinds of issues often discussed in individual counseling at the Junior High. “At MBJH, we counsel students regarding peer relations, parental conflict, and emotional issues such as depression and anxiety on a regular basis. We continually assist students with academic issues such as course selection, test taking skills and study skills.”

Individualized Health Plans

Although Mountain Brook’s school nurses provide some general health education to students and staff, most of their work is directed at meeting the special needs of individual students with significant health problems. Head Nurse Sandra Overstreet points out that school nurses research students’ conditions to identify needs associated with those conditions. The nurses and the parents collaborate on these needs addressing how they will be met at school. This leads to the formulation of Individualized Health Plans for these students. Once the plan is written and parental

approval has been given, the nurse will share the information with those staff members who need to know or have a responsibility in implementing the plan.

Creative Approaches for Creative Students

Many of the school system’s efforts to meet the needs of individual students are in response to problems and challenges students encounter along the way. One type of challenge comes from students with exceptional abilities and interests that go beyond what even an excellent school program can offer. At the elementary school level, all students are provided enrichment in the regular education classroom through the support of the Program for Academically Gifted Education (PAGE) teachers. In addition, the PAGE teachers work with small groups of gifted learners to provide curriculum that is concept and problem based. At the secondary

“While measures of group performance, such as standardized tests, receive a great deal of public attention, it is critical to remember that every school is made up of individual children, each of whom is important and capable.”

Dicky Barlow, Superintendent

level, students have the opportunity to enroll in advanced classes and Advanced Placement classes. Many varied electives are available such as drama, art, photography, debate, choral music, and band, to name a few.

“While measures of group performance, such as standardized tests, receive a great deal of public attention, it is critical to remember that every school is made up of individual children, each of whom is important and capable,” says Superintendent Dicky Barlow. “I am proud and grateful that the Mountain Brook Board of Education, the community, and our employees have a commitment to providing an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students.”

MOUNTAIN BROOK'S SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE ENJOYS SUPPORTING STUDENTS, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS

In October 2011, following the retirement of Office Brian Wood, Mountain Brook Schools gained a new School Resource Officer in Officer Bryan Kelley. Mountain Brook High School Principal Vic Wilson said, "Officer Kelley brings energy and innovation to the job of School Resource Officer. He has a sincere interest in the safety of our students and understands what we are all about in the school system. We're enjoying working with him." Director of Student Services Dr. Dale Wisely, who works extensively with Officer Kelley, commented on the value of the School Resource Officer program. "Having a devoted School Resource Officer creates an important link between the schools and the police department. Although we enjoy an excellent relationship with everyone we deal with in the police department, it's very helpful to have an officer in our schools full time. The SRO understands the school system culture and is able to connect that with his knowledge of law enforcement and safety. It's a great help to us."

We spoke with Officer Bryan Kelley about his career and the role of a School Resource Officer.

THE REPORTER: Where did you grow up and go to school?

Officer Kelley: I grew up in Hueytown and attended North Highlands Elementary, Pittman Junior High and Hueytown High School.

What about college and police academy?

I attended Auburn and majored in Prelaw/Criminal Justice. Once I was hired by the City of Mountain Brook, I attended the Montgomery Police Academy for 21 weeks.

How long have you been a police officer and where have you served?

I was hired in 1991 by the City of Mountain Brook and have served my entire career here.

When did you decide on a career in law enforcement?

I have always wanted to work in a public service career and chose police work as I graduated high school. I once considered federal law enforcement (FBI) but once I got married and settled down, I decided I did not want to relocate and move around as federal jobs often require.

What appeals to you about School Resource work?

I enjoy being around kids. I like their energy and spirit. Despite what some of the kids think, I am not out to get them, but I hope to assist them and help them as they grow up. After 20 years working out of a patrol car, this job is as if I started a new career without having to change employers.

How would you describe your responsibilities?

A School Resource Officer has three roles: police officer, educator and advisor. Each of those roles is unique and comes with its own set of responsibilities. As an officer, I can assist the school system in making the schools safer. Since there are six schools in Mountain Brook and only one SRO, I obviously cannot provide all-day security at all schools. But I can provide consultation, expertise and perspective, which hopefully assist the school system toward the goal of safer schools. I also can help respond to incidents as well as the occasional criminal activity. I provide a stable point of contact so that the school system knows who they are dealing with each time. This involves close cooperation with the leadership of each school and with the central office administration.

Another area is security for school events. When the school has an event that needs police presence, they start with me and I arrange for that event's police coverage.

As an educator, I can speak to students in their classrooms from a law enforcement perspective and give the students, as well as the faculty, a new and different context. One example is that



each year I spend three days with the 7th grade classes teaching them about rules and the law. I also spend time with the driver's education classes.

As an informal advisor, I can speak to students from a law enforcement perspective and perhaps provide a different area of expertise than the student is usually exposed to.

How have you enjoyed the job so far?

I have enjoyed interacting with the students. Whether I am dealing with an elementary student who acts like I am a superhero or a high school student who is not sure they trust me, it is always fun and entertaining. I have also enjoyed the professionalism that is displayed daily by the administrators, faculty and staff of the school system. It is obvious that their priorities are focused on the students and their education but also on their wellbeing. I have enjoyed the new relationships that I have found this past year and look forward to more as I continue to spend more time within this system.

Child Find Notice

Special education services for children with disabilities are provided in accordance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Amendments of 2004 and Alabama Act 106. Child Find is an attempt to locate and provide appropriate educational and related services to all children with disabilities between the ages of birth to 21.

If you are the parent of a child with disabilities who is not receiving services, or if you would like more information, please contact Shannon Mundy at the Mountain Brook Board of Education, Special Education Department, 414-3836.



Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation is proud to announce that it has named Anne Womack its new Executive Director. Womack is a 2003 graduate of Mountain Brook High School and a 2007 graduate of Auburn University. She obtained a Master of Education from the University of Virginia in 2011 and has most recently worked as the Assistant Director of Annual Giving at Hampden-Sydney College, in Farmville, Virginia.

Womack says she is “thrilled to return to Mountain Brook” to work for the Foundation. “This is an exciting opportunity to do what I love in my hometown for my alma mater. It doesn’t get much better than that.” This year the Foundation is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and Womack says she has enjoyed learning the history of the Foundation and all it has accomplished in its first two decades of existence. “The Foundation has done an excellent job in engaging the Mountain Brook community, and, in return, the community has been supportive and generous toward the Foundation. Moving forward, we are looking to build on that as well as institute new programs and initiatives that will keep us a stellar system.”



Members of the Foundation Board gather at Vino in English Village to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Foundation. *Standing* (L to R): Key Hudson, Carmine Jordan, Susan Alison, Craig Fravert, Charles Smith, Sam Johnson, Lori Robertson, Lloyd Shelton, Anne Womack (new Executive Director) *Seated* (L to R): David Platt, John Burton

Invest to Stay the Best

You want the best for your children. So do we!! And we need your help.

When you are deciding on priorities for your year-end giving, we hope that you will include the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation. 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.

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.

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.

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