

the Reporter



www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XV, Issue 1, FEBRUARY 2011

POLICE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF RETIRE

Johnny Stanley (left), Police Chief since 2002 and a 35-year employee of the Police Department, retired on December 31st. Also retiring was Deputy Police Chief Clay Gilmore, after a 36-year career with the City. A reception was held in their honor on December 30th at the Library. We wish Johnny and Clay the best in their retirement and thank them for their dedication and commitment.

Lt. Greg Hagood has been named Acting Police Chief by the City until a permanent Police Chief is appointed.



CITY ZONING MAP NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE

In an on-going effort to improve services to the community the City of Mountain Brook has now made available, on-line, the City zoning map. To view the zoning map go to: www.mtnbrook.org; departments; planning department; helpful links. Once you click on the link for the zoning map you may type in an address and view the current zoning designation of any property in the City. Also, on the same web page (Planning Department) you will find a link to view the City's corresponding zoning regulations. Remember that these links are provided merely as a convenience to the public; please verify all zoning and development regulations with the City Planner at 802-3821.



Tree Commission members gathered to make plans for Arbor Day on March 5, 2011, (l. to r.) Don Cafaro (City Arborist), Bill Angell, Troy Rhone, Gina Thomas, and Bill Warren.

ARBOR DAY 2011

The Mountain Brook Tree Commission will be distributing tree seedlings on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at all village grocery stores (Piggly Wiggly, Western, Publix and Whole Foods). This year's selections include crab apple, yellow poplar, bald cypress, white oak, cherrybark/red oak, and sweetbay magnolia. Once again, Boy Scout Troop 320 will brave a cold evening of preparing and bagging the seedlings prior to the event. The giveaway will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until every tree finds an owner. Be thinking of a perfect spot for your new tree!

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the Reporter
Mountain Brook, Alabama

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Council President Virginia Carruthers Smith

President Pro Tem Jesse Vogtle, Jr.

Amy Carter

William S. "Billy" Pritchard, III

Jack Carl

City Manager
Sam S. Gaston
802-3800

Mayor's Office
802-3802

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

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

The City Council has adopted the following Ordinances since October, 2010:

- Ordinance #1828 – lowered speed limit on Office Park Drive from 30 mph to 20 mph.
- Ordinances 1829-1834 – deals with various appointments of City officials during the City Council's Organizational Meeting of November 1, 2010
- Ordinance 1835 – rezoned property at 11 Oak Street from Professional District to Local Business District.
- Ordinance #1836 – provided for a stop sign on Oakdale Road at its intersection with Oakdale Drive.

The City has authorized or approved the following projects since October, 2010:

- Approved street light at 3632 Ridgeview Drive East (Memory Lane side).
- Authorized contract in the amount of \$2,000 with Bhate Geosciences Corporation for asbestos abatement services for the demolition of the old municipal complex.
- Approved change order in the amount of \$4,928.00 with E & D Concrete, LLC for installation of a metal building at #8 Office Park Circle for the Fire Department.
- Approved change order in the amount of \$4,500.00 with Murray Building Company for renovations at #8 Office Park Circle for the Police Department.
- Approved change order in the amount of \$51,404.70 with The Morris Group for the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation Project culvert wall extension.
- Authorized contract with Taylor & Miree Construction in the amount of \$8,209.96 for relocation of the Police tactical building.
- Award low bid to Blackjack Horticulture in the amount of \$26,782 for landscape maintenance of the commercial villages and The Emmet O'Neal Library.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$4,500 with Sain Associates for a traffic study of Glencoe Drive.
- Changed all 2-hour parking, with a few exceptions, to 4-hour parking in Mountain Brook Village.
- Approved contracts for services for FY-2011 with the following agencies:
 - The Exceptional Foundation - \$7,500
 - Alabama Symphonic Association - \$10,000
 - Birmingham Botanical Society - \$5,000

- Jefferson County Council on Aging (Meals on Wheels) - \$650
- Birmingham Museum of Art - \$13,000
- Alabama Veteran's Memorial Association - \$1,000
- Jefferson County Historical Commission - \$1,000
- The McWane Center - \$11,500
- Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce - \$140,000
- Executed contract with The KPS Group in the amount of \$7,800 to update the City's subdivision regulations.
- Authorized contract in the amount of \$10,000 to RPSS for relocation of the City's E-911 system
- Authorized contract with Network Communications in the amount of \$13,580 for voice/data call for the temporary municipal complex locations
- Accepted extended warranty from Jim Cooper Construction Company for the new Parks & Recreation building.
- Approved conditional use application for Mountain Brook Cleaners for #2 Dexter Avenue.
- Authorized expenditure of \$6,000 for relocation of an 8-inch water main by the Birmingham Water Works Board in conjunction with the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation project.
- Approved conditional use application by Grand Jeté (retail and fitness studio) at 2008 Cahaba Road in English Village.
- Awarded low bid in the amount of \$38,184 to E&D Concrete, LLC for purchase and installation of a 40'x50'x16' metal building to house fire truck and police equipment at #8 Office Park Circle.
- Approved change order in the amount of \$12,727 with Rast Construction for a 75 ft. sewer extension along Cahaba Road for the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation project.
- Awarded low bid to Coleman American Moving Services in the amount of \$22,132 to move municipal furniture and equipment to 3928 Montclair Road and #8 Office Park Circle.
- Authorized contract in the amount of \$44,300 with Bhate Geosciences Corporation for testing and inspections services for the new municipal complex project.

QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS 4TH QUARTER

	3rd Quarter 2010	4th Quarter 2010	Total 2010
ROBBERY	3	1	7
BURGLARY/RESIDENCE	12	32	81
BURGLARY/BUSINESS	2	2	8
THEFT	48	107	313
AUTO THEFT	2	2	6
ASSAULTS (OTHER)	4	5	12
IDENTITY THEFT	15	8	36
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	10	17	52
DRUGS	15	5	34
FAMILY VIOLENCE	6	16	39
ACCIDENTS	264	256	990
A WITH INJURIES	21	11	70
A WITH FATALITIES	1	2	3
CALLS FOR SERVICE	8,056	6,083	27,997
HOUSE WATCHES	2,186	1,083	4,932
PROPERTY STOLEN	\$377,126	\$313,691	\$1,176,829
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$2,106	\$8,825	\$56,468

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.

4-HOUR PARKING IN MOUNTAIN BROOK VILLAGE

A recent survey of Mountain Brook Village merchants resulted in an increase in the parking time limit throughout the village from 2 hours to 4 hours. The 2-hour time limit was originally initiated by the City at the request of the village merchants who objected to employees of village businesses depleting the street parking instead of leaving it available for patrons. The 2-hour time limit was meant to deter employees from using the street parking for all-day parking. Since then, the City has installed over 200 all-day parking spaces around the perimeter of Mountain Brook Village for use by employees; however, many of these all-days spaces are still under utilized. Meanwhile, merchants and patrons have expressed frustration with the 2-hour time limit for street parking, contending that the short time limit discourages patrons from shopping in the villages. As such, the City has changed the street parking time limit from 2 hours to 4 hours to better serve the patrons. The City continues to encourage employees in Mountain Brook Village to utilize the all-day parking around the perimeter of the village. To view a map of the all-day parking locations please go to: www.mtnbrook.org/departments/planning-department/helpful-links.



NEW PARKS & RECREATION BUILDING

The City's new Park & Recreation Building is near completion. It is located at the High School Athletic Complex between Field #1 and the Gymnastics Center.



NEW HISTORICAL MARKER

A new historical marker has been placed in front of The Old Mill on Mountain Brook Parkway. The marker outlines the history of this structure, which was built in 1927 and details the many contributions of Robert Jemison, Jr. to the Mountain Brook community and even more so, the contributions he made to the City of Birmingham. The Old Mill is the official logo for the City of Mountain Brook.

This marker was placed at The Old Mill site due to the efforts of Dr. Ed Stevenson and Mr. Tom West of the Jefferson County Historical Association with the permission of the Henderson family who own the property. The marker was purchased by the City and the Friends of Jemison Park.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The City of Mountain Brook has the following appointments/reappointments:

APPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following appointments:

Board of Education – Brad Sklar

Tree Commission – Gina Thomas

REAPPOINTMENTS:

The City Council has recently made the following reappointments:

Finance Committee – Philip Jackson, Jr.

Village Design Review – James Carter

Park & Recreation – Keehn Berry

TREE PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

With your impending project, anything from do-it-yourself landscaping to a complete home rebuild, there is a chance that you or your builder will adversely affect the trees on your and perhaps your neighbor's property. Disturbing the soil by digging or compaction in the root zone, improper trimming, failing to perform timely root pruning, and other incidental damage as a result of construction will take a toll on the long-term health of a tree. In most locations, multiple trees on site (especially mature trees) mean there are very few areas that can be disturbed without resulting damage to or loss of roots. Choosing to leave a tree in place, while ignoring the impact of the disturbance on roots and soil conditions, could prove dangerous and costly.

There are ways to plan for tree health with any construction project, but they all begin with what could be a simple sketch defining ingress/egress, material storage and parking areas. The idea is to maximize undisturbed square footage. Such a plan could call for fence installation, professional trimming prior to beginning, and a long-term care program, among other things. Likewise, if a tree needs to be removed it is often much easier to do so before construction begins, to avoid higher costs and potential hazards post-construction. Please contact Don Cafaro, City Arborist, at dcafar@mtbrook.org or 259-0018 for more information and resources.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

City Council	2nd & 4th Mon. (Call 802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting.)	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Board of Education	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office
Library Board	3rd Tues.	4:45 p.m.	Library
Park & 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)

EFFECTIVE 12/15/10 MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SERVICES HAVE MOVED

City Hall- 802-2400, 3928 Montclair Road
(Two buildings east of Crestline Post Office)

Municipal Court - 802-3827 or 802-3828
Will be held on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. at the
Vestavia City Hall located at 513 Montgomery
Highway.

Police Station - 802-2414
Fire Station No. 1 & Administration - 802-
3838
No. 8 Office Park Circle
(Highway 280 and Office Park)

**We will return to Crestline
February/March 2012**

PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

In addition to moving to new locations, the City has installed a new phone system and some numbers have changed. Please note that the following main number changes:

City Hall	802-2400
Public Works	802-2390
Park & Recreation	802-3877
Police Department	802-2414
Fire Department	802-3838

The following individual numbers have changed:

Carole Epstein-Admin.Asst.	802-3810
Dana Hazen-Planner	802-3821
Melissa Honeycutt-Revenue	802-3808
Joy Moman-Magistrate	802-3828
LaTonya Smith-Sales Tax	802-3807
Vicki Thomas-Sales Tax	802-3805
Eddy Tate - P.W. Supt.	802-3865
Don Cafaro-Arborist	802-3874
Lyman Tidwell- P&R Supt.	802-3879

Individual numbers for Police and Fire Dept. have not changed.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING VENUE CHANGES

The City Council will conduct its semi-monthly meetings in various public locations around the City beginning in January. In case you are not already aware, the Mountain Brook City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month (with rare exceptions usually due to national holidays).

The new, temporary City Hall and Council Chambers are located at 3928 Montclair Road, Suite 232. Other locations for upcoming meetings include:

January 24	Brookwood Forest Auditorium, 3701 Brookwood Road
February 14	Mountain Brook Junior High, 205 Overbrook Road
February 28	Board of Education Auditorium, 32 Vine Street
March 14	To be announced
March 28	Board of Education Auditorium, 32 Vine Street
April 11	To be announced
April 25	Board of Education Auditorium, 32 Vine Street
May 11	To be announced
May 23	Board of Education Auditorium, 32 Vine Street

Please visit the City's website (www.mtnbrook.org), view Charter Cable Channel 10, or call the City Clerk at 802-3825 or the City Manager's office at 802-3800 for updates and to obtain the times for the City Council's pre-meetings.

NEW BUSINESSES

- Baddley & Mauro, LLC**
850 Shades Creek Parkway, Suite 31
939-0090
- Blair and Weezie, LLC**
4252 Stone River Road, 862-1896
- Escape Therapeutic Day Spa**
17 Dexter Avenue, 414-6062
- Golden Rule BBQ, Inc.**
15 Office Park Circle Suite 140, 414-1000
- Grand Jeté**
2008 Cahaba Road, 879-1417
- Hasson Medical Legal Services**
4164 Sharpsburg Road, 936-4048
- Haynes Bryant Photography**
148 Memory Court, 382-1221
- Herlihy Clinic PC**
2900 Cahaba Road, (817) 442-0200
- House Calls Organizing, LLC**
2813 Cherokee Road, 870-7222
- Innovative Health, LLC**
119 Euclid Avenue, 527-1737
- J L Hartman Construction, LLC**
2721 Mount Royal Circle, 879-0500
- Jacqueline D DeMarco PhD,**
500 Office Park Drive, Suite 216
748-5433
- Little Flower Day Spa**
2816 Culver Road, 368-7310
- Nataliya Russo**
17 Dexter Avenue, 414-6062
- Pianetta 3 (pizza)**
2713 Culver Road. 322-3330
- Professional Racquet Service, Inc.**
2800 Cahaba Village Plaza, Suite 180
985-4989
- Proyo, LLC**
One Office Park Circle, Suite 101
(888) 836-6680
- Reli Settlement Solutions, LLC**
2850 Cahaba Road, 970-2200
- RSH Designs, LLC**
4300 Old Brook Trail, 919-8842
- Ruff Reams Building, LLC**
2102B Cahaba Road, 982-8002
- Superior Bank**
4 Office Park Circle, Suite 304
949-4830
- Therapy South Liberty Park, LLC**
3800 River Run Drive, 970-2350
- Tim Stone, MD**
17 Dexter Avenue, 937-3371
- Tracery, LLC**
2814 Petticoat Lane
(850) 231-6755
- Trotter Technologies, LLC**
402 Office Park Drive, Suite 212
201-1661
- Wells Fargo Bank, NA**
2843 Cahaba Road
(704) 427-2651



SHOP. DINE. DISCOVER.

Welcome to the Villages of Mountain Brook

MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Providing an environment to help our members prosper and succeed through a proactive partnership with the business community, city government, and the community at large

Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce 2011 Board of Directors

President:

Steven Hydinger

Executive Vice President:

Amy Jackson

Vice President Governmental Affairs:

Paul DeMarco

Vice President, Community Affairs:

Lee Perry

Vice President, Membership Development:

Elisabeth Lyman

Vice President, Business Development:

Bob Schuler

Vice President, Marketing

Communications: *Howard Torch*

Co-Vice President of Retail:

Dyron Powell

Co-Vice President of Retail:

Jean Clayton

Secretary: *Martha Gorham*

Treasurer: *John Wilson*

Derick Belden: Director at Large

John Montgomery: Director at Large

Terry Chapman: Director at Large

Christiana Roussel: Director at Large

Tricia Drew: Director at Large

Frank Davies: Director at Large

Alice Womack: Director at Large

General Counsel: *David Faulkner*

Past President: *John Rucker*

2nd Past President: *Frank Caley*

Sustaining Member: *Sam Gaston*

City Council Liason: *Amy Carter*

Executive Director: *Suzan Smith-Doidge*

Project Manager: *Hannon Sharley
Davidson*

Happy New Year! As we leave 2010 behind and embrace the year 2011, I am happy to tell you the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce is off to a great start!

We have a new Board and President in place to continue steering our efforts to provide an environment to help our members prosper through a proactive working partnership with the businesses, city government and the community.

It is my pleasure to introduce Steven Hydinger as our 2011 President of the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce. Steven is a lifelong resident of Mountain Brook, a graduate of Mountain Brook High School, and the University of Alabama. Steven is the President of BREC, a Commercial Development Company that specializes in Senior Housing. Steven is married to Susan Salter a Radiation Oncologist with St. Vincent's Hospital. They have two children a son, Grayson, and a daughter, Salter. Steven is active in numerous organizations and is a member of St.Lukes Episcopal Church in Mountain Brook.



Skebbo, Salter, Grayson, Susan, Steven

As I reflect on 2010 I want to thank our outgoing President John Rucker for his service. We are so fortunate to have been led by John and benefited from his commitment, ideas and stewardship as we worked together to make our community a unique place to live.

Although Steven has been hard at work for some time he will officially take office at the Annual Meeting on February 17th, where we look forward to welcoming this year's Keynote Speaker Jimmy Rane, the CEO of Great Southern Wood. Jimmy (also known as the "Yella Fella") will tell the story of his company's growth from a struggling lumber treatment plant 40 years ago to the industry leader it is today.

For ticket information contact the Chamber at welcometomountainbrook.com or call 205-871-3779.

Look forward to seeing you on February 17th.

Regards,
Suzan Doidge
Executive Director
Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce

Gold Level Members:

Bryant Bank | First Commercial Bank | Regions | National Bank of Commerce | ReMax | Sterne Agee
Borland Benefield | Christian Small | Village Living

Mountain Brook Chamber Celebrates The Holidays At Dyron's



Left to right: Lee Perry, Elisabeth Lyman, Suzan Doidge, Alice Womack, Kelli Rucker, John Rucker, Amy Jackson



Left to right- Charles Perry, Frank Davies, Steven Hydinger, Steve Jackson

Dyron's
LOWCOUNTRY


HEY, WHATS FOR DINNER TONIGHT?

~~MEXICAN~~

~~CHINESE~~

~~BURGERS~~

~~ITALIAN~~

LOWCOUNTRY

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Left to right: Dyron Powell, Amy Carter, Britton Carter, John Rucker



Left to right: Terry Chapman and Jean Clayton

New Business Ribbon Cuttings



Dr. Jacqueline Dillon DeMarco, Ph.D., P.C., Clinical Psychologist opens practice in Mountain Brook.

Left to right: Suzan Doidge, Dr. Jacqueline Dillon DeMarco, Steven Hyding, State Representative Paul Demarco



Innovative Health opens in Crestline Village.

Left to right: Hannon Davidson, Janet Baker, RN and Kathy Smith

The Maids

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Chamber Annual Awards Luncheon featuring Jimmy Rane February 17th



The 2011 Annual Chamber Luncheon will feature Jimmy Rane himself, a powerful and compelling speaker, who will share with us his experiences of growing his company from a small, one location manufacturing plant into an industry leader, as well as his efforts to give back to others. Well known to everyone as “Yella Fella,” Rane continues to make his mark on the business world while also applying his time and resources to education, particularly the work his foundation does to provide scholarships to deserving students.

The Jimmy Rane Foundation was created with a simple, yet powerful idea. “It’s about giving something back,” Jimmy says. And that’s exactly what he’s done. Since established in 2001, the Jimmy Rane Foundation has awarded over 150 college scholarships to outstanding and deserving students. This is done with the idea that they will one day return the favor to someone else in need.

Chamber Annual Luncheon

February 17th

Limited Reserved Seating

Please contact The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (205) 871-3779

email: mtnbrookchamber@bellsouth.net

**No Matter How Cold the Winter,
Spring is Sure to Follow**



"Where Man Sees But Withered Leaves,
God Sees Sweet Flowers Growing."

Albert Laighton



951-9292

Welcome New Board Members



From Front to Back: Jean Clayton, Tricia Drew, Amy Carter, Christiana Roussel, Dyron Powell, Steven Hyding, Frank Davies, Terry Chapman

A Bunch of Guys



ABOG from Mountain Brook High School performs at the Holiday Parade

2010-2011 Members: Bryan Watford- Tenor I, Joel Cochran- Tenor I, David Mandt- Tenor I/II, Malcolm McRae- Tenor II, Skipper Stradtman- Tenor II, John Canada- Baritone, Nicky Bolus- Baritone, Alec Bolton- Bass, Benjamin Dow- Bass

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MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS

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BRAD SKLAR BEGINS SERVICE ON BOARD OF EDUCATION



In October 2010, Mountain Brook City Council appointed Mr. Brad Sklar to fill the position on the Board of Education vacated by Dr. Eli Capilouto. Brad is an attorney at Sirote & Permutt, P.C. He grew up in

Mountain Brook and graduated from MBHS. He is a graduate of the University of Texas, received his J.D. from the University of Alabama and his LLM in taxation from New York University. He is an active member of a number of civic and service organizations. “Most importantly,” added superintendent Dicky Barlow, “he is the father of a third grader at Brookwood Forest. Brad is highly respected by the people of Mountain Brook,” said Barlow. “His knowledge of and commitment to the community will be an asset as he helps lead our school system. We are very pleased with this appointment and extend our welcome and congratulations to Brad.”

For this issue, Brad Sklar answered some questions about his new role as a member of the school board.

Tell us about your connections to the school system.

I was a student in the Mountain Brook school system starting at Brookwood Forest and graduating from Mountain Brook High in 1980. Our graduating class just celebrated our 30-year reunion this past August. My wife Stephanie and I have a 9-year-old daughter, Lauren, who is now in the 3rd grade at Brookwood Forest. Another connection was that one of the named partners in my firm, James L. (“Jimmy”) Permutt, served the Mountain Brook school board for 28 years.

What kind of work do you do?

I am a tax and business lawyer with Sirote & Permutt. I have practiced with the firm for 22 years and currently am serving my third term on the firm’s executive board. In my practice I represent clients in the formation of new businesses and tax planning associated with those businesses. I also help them in the growth and sometimes the selling of their businesses. One might think that being a tax lawyer would be boring. It actually is quite interesting and rewarding to work with clients on their tax and business planning issues.

Why did you decide to “answer the call” and serve on the school board?

I have had the advantage of participating in several Leadership Training experiences over the years focusing on the challenges confronting our state, counties and cities. In every one of those programs, it was apparent that educating our youth was at the core of most of the issues. When asked to consider a role serving the Mountain Brook school system, it was easy for me to want to get more involved. I have enjoyed the opportunities to work in the past with our system on tax issues and leadership planning.

What kind of challenges do you see ahead for the school system?

What I have learned through my involvement is that the school system, under the leadership of Gary London, its current chair, and superintendent Dicky Barlow, is run well. I think the school system has managed finances very effectively. However, we depend on state funding for about 39% of our revenue. While far less than many school systems, we still have to address the impact of future proration from the state on our school system. This has been an issue in the past that schools have addressed and will continue to be a challenge in the future.



2010 National Merit Commended Students: *First row (left to right): Annie Newton, Elizabeth Corey, Charlie McBride, Nicky Bolus, Taylor Pope, Julia Adams, Stewart Kendrick; Back row (left to right): David Sandefer, Neil Griffin, Will Wilder, Mac Carder, Jay Johnstone, Scott Godchaux, James Ramsey, Richard O'Brien; Not pictured: Owen Elliott, Jesse Gettinger, Tucker Osborne, Brennan Peck, Lily Posey, Laura Wagner*

MBHS Announces Twenty-One National Merit Commended Students

Each October about 1.5 million students, who are juniors in high school, take the PSAT and enter into the National Merit Scholarship competition. In September, Mountain Brook High School was notified that thirteen students had been named National Merit Semifinalists. In October, the high school received word that an additional twenty-one students had been named Commended Students and recognized for their exceptional academic promise. These students placed among the top 5% of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT.

The Commended Students are Julia Adams, Nicholas Bolus, Mac Carder, Elizabeth Corey, Owen Elliott, Jesse Gettinger, Scott Godchaux, Neil Griffin, Jay Johnstone, Stewart Kendrick, Charlie McBride, Annie Newton, Richard O'Brien, Tucker Osborne, Brennan Peck, Taylor Pope, Lily Posey, James Ramsey, Jamie Standefer, Laura Wagner, and Will Wilder.

“Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in our highly competitive program, the young men and women named Commended Students represent some of the most academically talented students in our country. We sincerely hope this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and encourage them in their pursuit of academic success.”



SCHOOL CAFETERIAS MEET CHALLENGE OF TASTY, NUTRITIOUS MEALS



Junior High students pack the cafeteria for lunch.

In the six cafeterias in Mountain Brook schools, 30 child nutrition workers have the challenge of serving, on every school day, nutritious meals and a la carte food items to approximately 4000 students. It is even more challenging when one considers the age range of students: Five-year-olds and 18-year-olds usually have very different food preferences. Even within an age group, children—just as adults—have different food tastes.

All of these lunches must be prepared and served in a very limited time span, about two to three hours of the day. In addition to serving students, many staff members eat in the cafeteria, along with visitors to each school. To add to the challenge, these cafeterias must offer reasonably priced meals, must be financially self-supporting, and must respond to changing child nutrition guidelines. For this issue of THE REPORTER, Mountain Brook Schools' Child Nutrition Director Pam Stembidge talked about the school lunch program.

Tell us about your background. How long have you been with Mountain Brook Schools and what did you do previously?

I grew up in the Birmingham area and I now live in Trussville. I attended Livingston University which is now the University of West Alabama. I have been married to my husband Rick for 34 years and have three grown children, all married. I have three grandchildren.

I have been in Mountain Brook for ten-and-a-half years. Previously, I was child nutrition director at Tarrant City Schools for 12 years.

Let's talk about our child nutrition program and our cafeterias. How is the food prepared?

Much of the food is prepared in-house, in other words, "homemade." Many of our entrees, soups, casseroles, and sandwiches are made from scratch. I think people imagine that we just open giant

cans or containers of prepared foods and just heat them up, but that's not true. We don't even use canned baked beans, for example. We prepare them from vegetarian beans and add seasoning in our kitchens.

Where does the food served in the cafeterias come from?

Because of state bid laws, we have to participate in a competitive bidding process. The Child Nutrition Department at the state level has created a process that allows school systems to collectively purchase

food through what we call the state "grocery bid list." Once that bid is awarded to a food supplier, we order from that supplier. This year our supplier is Wood-Fruitticher. These bids are awarded on a regional basis within the state, so other areas use other suppliers. However, the food they deliver anywhere in the state comes from the same major sources. In order to serve as a food supplier to schools, the company must adhere to strict specifications for every item. These specifications are set by the state department. The only food items that do not have to adhere to these bid laws is produce, because produce is, of course, seasonal and perishable and so prices vary during the course of the year.

What are the differences in the cafeterias in the elementary schools, the junior high, and the high school?

The nutritional guidelines for elementary students are stricter than those for junior high and high school students. We have to also consider developmental level. For example, kindergarten and first grade students are only served a plate lunch because we want to make sure they get the full nutritional benefits of a balanced meal and they can't be expected to select those items themselves. Second through sixth grade students can choose among entrees and side items. It is a better financial value to select a plate lunch, but many do choose to buy a la carte items. At the junior high there is a choice of entrees and side items, too, and there is also a salad bar. Junior

"The mission of the Mountain Brook Schools child nutrition program is to prepare and serve nutritious meals in a timely manner in a safe environment."

high students have a wider variety of beverage choices—water, flavored water, milk, or juice. No soft drinks for that age group. Breakfast is available before school as well. At the high school, the cafeteria is open from 7:30 to 2:00 and students can come during their free period. Many breakfast foods are available. For lunch, there is a choice—a station with hot or cold sandwiches, a station for salads, and a station for hot foods with a much wider variety of choices than the younger students are allowed.



Child Nutrition Director Pam Stembridge at the register of Mountain Brook Elementary's cafeteria.

What are some of the changes that have taken place in the last 10 years you have been here?

We have significantly expanded the size of three of our six cafeterias—the High School, Junior High, and Crestline Elementary. We implemented PayPams, an online payment system for parents (www.paypams.com). Parents can actually track their child's purchases on a daily basis on that website.

State guidelines recommend that deep fat fryers be phased out and we are in the process of doing that in our elementary schools. There has been a push for more fresh fruit and we have increased that based on availability and price. We have eliminated whole milk and only serve 1%, ½%, or skim milk. The ice cream we serve is low fat or light. Potato chips are all baked. There are more whole grains. Cookies are low fat. Puddings are fat free. We have steadily improved the nutritional quality of our school food during these ten years.

There is a national movement for healthier school lunches that is widely covered in the press and has generated a lot of discussion. How do you see our nutrition program responding to it?

Much of this is oriented toward curbing childhood obesity. I think we probably have the lowest obesity rates of any student body in Alabama. Some of the measures we've already taken to improve our lunches, such as those things I mentioned before, are consistent with the movement toward healthier school lunches. Because we don't participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, these standards are not mandatory for us, but we are interested in doing what we can to adhere to those standards. Our goal is to provide nutritional lunches. But, in order to successfully operate a school lunch program, there are actually some things we have to try to balance. We do put a priority on the nutritional value of our lunches, but we also have to consider costs to families, and we also

have to provide food that our children will eat.

We have recently re-established an advisory committee for the Child Nutrition program and we are meeting to assess our current child nutrition program and to look at ways we might generate some recommendations to move the program forward. On this committee, there are eight parents, two principals, four teachers, two cafeteria managers, a school board member, a school nurse, a registered

dietician, and three central office administrators.

You mentioned the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. What is that?

It is a federally funded program, the main purpose of which is to support low income families by providing breakfast and lunch for qualifying students. Less than 1% of our families would qualify and so it really wouldn't be in the best interest of the school system to participate in it. However, we have often looked at individual cases and have been able to take care of those students.

How can parents learn more about the nutritional value of our school meals?

We have just purchased some software that will allow us to provide more specific information about this. I am hopeful that by the end of this academic year, we will have an enhancement of our website that will allow parents to pull this information up. This information will look very much like the familiar labels we see on many of the foods sold in grocery stores: calories, fat amounts, protein amounts, fiber, and so on.

Based on sales, what are the kids' favorite foods?

Crispito (with cheese sauce), hot dogs and corn dogs, taco salad, pizza, spaghetti, vegetable soup, hamburgers and cheeseburgers. Our brunch – breakfast foods served at lunch – is very popular.

How do you plan a menu?

A lot of thought goes into planning a menu each month. Typically, by the 10th of a month I have planned the following month's menu. I have to take into account daily class schedules, the school calendar, grocery delivery days, availability of foods, and, of course, student preferences. From that we determine which items will work best for each school day in a month. No two monthly menus look exactly alike. We don't want to have the menu seem repetitious and we want the students to experience some variety.

NUTRITION!

- Ice cream is low-fat or light. Pudding is fat free.
- Flavored water has zero calories.
- Fruit juice is 100% fruit juice with no added sugar.
- Whole wheat or whole grain: Rolls, sandwich bread, hot dog buns, hamburger buns, biscuit dough, bread sticks, individually wrapped brownies, brown rice, spaghetti noodles, penne pasta, rotini pasta, corn dog breading batter.
- Cereals with sweeteners are reduced sugar.
- Individual bags of potato chips are baked.
- Low-fat/reduced fat: Flavored yogurt, mayonnaise, cake mixes, pizza cheeses.
- White milk is skim or 1%. Chocolate milk is ½% milk fat.
- Fresh salads served daily.
- Fresh fruits commonly purchased: Apples, oranges, tangerines, bananas.
- Solid margarine is 0 grams trans fat.
- Salad dressing is reduced calorie.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM FACTS

- The Child Nutrition Program employees 30 workers.
 - Brookwood Forest3
 - Cherokee Bend.....3
 - Crestline.....5
 - Mtn. Brook Elem.....4
 - Mtn. Brook Jr. High ..7
 - Mtn. Brook High8
- The Child Nutrition Program is and must continue to be financially self-supporting.
- Mountain Brook Schools contracts with an on-line payment service called PayPams which allows parents the option of using a credit card to put money into their child's lunch account and to track purchases daily.
- Mtn. Brook Schools Child Nutrition Program must follow State of Alabama bid laws which require that any item purchased over the amount of \$15,000 be competitively bid. This includes food, equipment, etc.
- Mtn. Brook Schools has never participated in the National School Lunch or Breakfast program administered through USDA. Less than 1% of students would qualify.
- Student Lunch Prices, 2000-2011: Elementary \$1.75 (2000), \$2.00 (2003), \$2.50 (2008). Secondary \$2.25 (2000), \$2.50 (2003), \$3.00 (2008)



Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation



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Contact Information:

Carmine Jordan
 Executive Director,
 Mountain Brook City
 Schools Foundation

Post Office Box 530834
 Mountain Brook, AL 35253

(205) 414-0042
 mbcfoundation@bellsouth.net

Foundation Offers "Extras"

Established in 1992, the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has a vision to grow a self-sustaining endowment that funds the supplemental requests of the Mountain Brook Schools. The mission of the foundation is to mobilize community support and resources for the academic improvement of the schools.

High national stature, public-private reputation, small class sizes, state of the art technology, and highly trained staff represent the excellence that is now expected from the schools in Mountain Brook. As the foundation seeks to offer assistance in continuing that high level of success, we can state many reasons for and benefits to giving to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation:

It provides a tax-deductible way to make a donation that will directly benefit our own children and grandchildren.

Property values are sustained as long as our school system is top ranked.

Corporations will often match donations given to K-12 Schools demonstrating the high level of importance that businesses are attributing to K-12 education.

Administrators can concentrate on the area of educating and not always on solving a funding crisis.

Decisions for improvement can be based on need and not on budgetary constraints.

Selective colleges and universities look at Mountain Brook High School applicants as having come from a "private school quality" public school and funding the "extras" will help this to continue.

An investment in the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has reaped wonderful dividends for its investors as well as the students and teachers of the school system. The Foundation has provided:

- Computer workstations
- 110,000 hours of teacher training
- Reading and Math specialists
- Video Broadcasting equipment
- Science lab equipment
- Classroom Sound Enhancement Systems
- Mini Laptops
- Classroom Response Systems
- Listening Centers
- Tablet PCs
- Data Projectors
- Document Cameras
- GPS Software
- 21st Century Classroom Project
- 5,000 Library Books

Although the Foundation is not the reason for the success of our schools, it is playing an important role in providing the additions to the classrooms that are necessary for continued success.

**Please start 2011 with a gift to the
 Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.**



PROMETHEAN BOARD TECHNOLOGY WELCOMED TO CLASSROOMS

Approved last year by the foundation for funding, interactive whiteboards (Promethean Boards) are being installed this month at each elementary school in Mountain Brook. Initially a pilot program funded locally at Cherokee Bend, the program has been so successful that the foundation is helping to expand this technology to all four elementary schools. Cherokee Bend teachers Ashley Paulk and Jennifer Collins were the trail blazers and their work and success paved the way for the expansion of the program. Seen in the picture in use in Ashley Paulk's first grade classroom at Cherokee Bend, the display is connected to a computer and projector. Users control the computer by using a device for actions on the display. The board is used for all subjects.

Mrs. Paulk has the following to say about this exciting tool for her class:

This new technology is seen by everyone in the class and the children are able to help each other. It is engaging and motivating for my students and is helping them understand the lessons. The students use the board in a variety of ways, individually and in groups.

Jennifer Collins is using this technology in her Kindergarten classroom at Cherokee Bend. She has the following to say about its advantages:

We love our Promethean Board!

The use of our Promethean board has allowed my students to become more active participants in the classroom, while also giving them a chance to take ownership of their own learning. One of their favorite times of the day is when they go to the "Promethean Board Station" during our literacy instruction time. As a teacher, I love that I can use it to bring in new resources to help enhance my lessons as well as address different learning styles. It is amazing how easy it can be used to engage the students and get them excited about learning. It can be used in so many capacities throughout the day. There is rarely a time in my classroom that my Promethean Board isn't on. We absolutely love it!

Each year the foundation helps to bring innovation into the classrooms that will be effective enhancements to learning.

Call our office at 414-0042 with questions or visit our website at www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com.