

# the Reporter



www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XV, Issue 4, NOVEMBER 2011

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Our City Hall has been operating from a temporary location on Montclair Road since December. In the meantime, our new municipal complex is progressing nicely. The following is an update for the project from Brasfield Gorrie's Construction Manager:

- Installation of the drilled shafts was finished in the middle of August. This activity took longer than anticipated due to the rock being extremely deep beneath a large portion of the site;
- The underground parking is approximately 70% complete but has been delayed due to some sanitary sewer line revisions;
- The first-floor slab on grade over Tibbett Street is in place and the contractor is currently roughing in the mechanical, electrical and plumbing lines in this area;
- Some obstacles have been encountered but we are forging ahead and expect completion by early summer.

The City created a space on our website entitled "See Our Progress" showing the construction activity. We invite you to visit our website at [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org) for updates.

Also, regarding progress on the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation project, Brasfield Gorrie reports that traffic was returned to the replacement bridge on Montevallo Road on June 11th and The Morris Group's project was substantially completed by July 1st. This project is functioning as planned, including a 2-year flood event in July. As usual, our residents have been most patient during construction. The City Council and I appreciate your patience.

Please contact me or the City Manager at 802-3800 if you have any questions about these projects.

Lawrence T. Oden

## WORLD TRADE TOWERS STEEL

### to be Displayed at the New Municipal Complex

The City of Mountain Brook has been very fortunate in acquiring a piece of steel that was a part of the World Trade Towers. The steel is eighty-two inches in length and is a fifteen inch by sixteen inch "H" beam configuration. The piece weighs in at a whopping 1,350 Lbs. City leaders and civic volunteers have already begun the process of drafting ideas and designs for the artful display and placement of the piece around the municipal complex which is due for completion in late May, 2012.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

## SHOP MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRST

Keep your sales tax dollars in Mountain Brook by using **Mountain Brook**, not Birmingham, as your delivery address when ordering online or from catalogs.

[www.welcometomountainbrook](http://www.welcometomountainbrook)

the Reporter  
Mountain Brook, Alabama

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**Mayor Lawrence T. Oden**  
CITY COUNCIL

*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.

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## RECENT CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

**The City Council has adopted the following ordinances since August, 2011.**

- Ordinance #1854 – rezoned the Mountain Brook Country Club to Recreational-2 Zoning District.
- Ordinance #1855 – provided for a stop sign on Country Club Boulevard at its intersection with Fairway Drive.
- Ordinance #1858 – established a 24-hour parking limit on the City leased parking lot on Fairway Drive in English Village.

**The City Council has authorized or approved the following projects since August, 2011.**

- Purchased a 4.7 acre tract of land from Brookwood Baptist Church located on Overton Road for \$250,000.
- Agreed to accept offer from the Elm Research Institute for a Liberty Tree Memorial.
- Approved change orders in the amount of \$52,476 for the municipal complex project.
- Approved change order for the municipal complex project to add a slate roof with Taylor-Miree Construction Company in an amount not to exceed \$216,000.
- Renewed the lease with Armans, LLC

and Redstone Holdings LLC for the two public parking lots in English Village for a five year period.

- Approved the installation of a water fountain in the amount of \$3800 for the playing field at Mountain Brook Elementary School.
- Authorized a professional services contract with Weygand Surveyors in the amount of \$4,950 for a boundary and topo survey of a 4.7 acre tract of land at Overton/Oakdale the City is purchasing from Brookwood Baptist Church.
- Approved change orders in the amount of \$176,429 with The Morris Group for the closeout of Phase 3 of the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation project (Montevallo Road bridge).
- Awarded low bid in the amount of \$46,565 to Paul Pope Equipment for the purchase and installation of a computerized alignment machine and 4-post alignment lift for the Public Works Garage.
- Selected Nimrod Long & Associates to design a Master Plan for the future park at Overton/Oakdale Roads.
- Selected One Beacon as the City's general insurance carrier for FY-2012.

## FUTURE PARK ON OVERTON ROAD

The City has purchased a tract of land on Overton Road at Oakdale Road to be used as a future park. The property is 4.7 acres and one side of it fronts along the Cahaba River. It has a healthy growth of large hardwood trees and was purchased from Brookwood Baptist Church.

The City has engaged Nimrod Long & Associates to design a Master Plan for this property and its use as a public park. The City will seek input from residents on its design and improvements, so be looking for notices about community meetings in 2012.



## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Mountain Brook Tree Commission and the Birmingham Zoo are partnering for the 4th Annual Christmas Tree Recycling event. Residents are encouraged to drop their trees off at the picnic area next to the parking lot at the Zoo, during normal business hours, from Dec. 26 - Jan. 6. Trees only! No Garland! Help the volunteers and help prevent damage to machinery by removing foreign objects before bringing the tree. Participation has increased each year, and we expect the same again this season. Thank you for making it a success!

## THIRD QUARTER CRIME STATISTICS

	2nd Quarter 2011	3rd Quarter 2011
ROBBERY	3	1
BURGLARY/RESIDENCE	20	16
BURGLARY/BUSINESS	0	1
THEFT	80	65
AUTO THEFT	1	3
ASSAULTS (OTHER)	0	3
IDENTITY THEFT	4	14
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	11	8
DRUGS	9	3
FAMILY VIOLENCE	7	7
ACCIDENTS	274	288
A WITH INJURIES	28	22
A WITH FATALITIES	0	0
CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,490	7,117
HOUSE WATCHES	1,536	2,339
PROPERTY STOLEN	\$1,300,730	\$319,758
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$23,366	\$16,619

### 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.*



## AN ACORN TODAY, A TREE TOMORROW

September to November is the perfect time to collect acorns. With a little information and minimal investment, you can provide valuable hands-on education for a youngster, while producing trees that provide years of enjoyment and benefits. White oaks are the easiest to use because they will germinate during the same season. Red oaks require winter temperatures (stratification) to mature, and won't germinate until the following spring. This process can be simulated, and how-to guides are a web search away. With either group, make sure you collect viable seed. Allowing them to lie on the ground results in a large number being ruined by various insects that intrude to feed or lay eggs (the hole is small but visible). A "float test" can weed out most other duds. Simply dump the acorns in a bucket of water; keep the ones that sink.

After collection (white oak group), it is time to plant the seed. Use a good, spongy potting soil mix with sphagnum moss. In an 8 ounce Styrofoam cup, punch 3-4 pencil-sized holes in the sides near the bottom. Fill to the top and settle the soil leaving about an inch watering space. Place the acorn horizontally, barely under the surface. Water until it drains at the bottom. Place cups, protected, on a southern aspect, and never let the soil get completely dry. When the stalk grows 5-6" and the first set of leaves spread (usually mid-spring), gradually increase exposure time to outside sun and air. Set the trees outside during the day and return them to protection at night. Watch that late frost! When the second flush of leaves emerge, transfer trees to a tall quart-size container using the same potting soil and water schedule. Inspect the vertical root to see it is not circling the container. Depending on growth rate, it may be necessary to transfer to a larger shrub container even if you intend to plant them in the ground in the fall, and especially if you want to wait until the following spring to plant them. This prevents development of circling, or girdling, roots. Container-grown trees and shrubs can develop severe or lethal root defects quickly in the nursery, then grow and flourish for years before it becomes evident.

Finally, don't be afraid to plant more seedlings than the space can accommodate, in terms of mature trees. Assume that half of them will not survive that long. Also consider planting groups of seedlings, and don't feel obligated to achieve exact spacing. This will get you started, but there are important considerations down the road. Seek planting and young-tree pruning advice from a professional forester or certified arborist to ensure long term success.

Don Cafaro  
City Arborist



## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM MBPD

With the holiday season fast approaching it is especially important for each of us to be cautious and alert when shopping. Crime typically tends to increase significantly during the holiday season. Often with the stresses of family get-togethers, seasonal parties and all sorts of other holiday festivities we tend to be in a rush. Our level of alertness may not be what it should be. Criminals will take advantage of someone who appears to be inattentive and not mindful of his/her surroundings. Here are steps you can take to significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim:



- Use debit or credit cards if possible. Or, carry just enough cash to pay for your errands. If you must carry large amounts of cash, separate it into amounts needed and place in different pockets.
- Be extremely careful using ATM machines. Use them in populated places and constantly pay attention to what is going on around you.
- If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body and always keep it zipped or fastened.
- Park as close as you can to the mall or store where you will be shopping.
- Park only in well lit areas if possible.
- Have your keys ready to open your vehicle before you exit the store.
- Remember exactly where you parked.
- Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less tired.
- When you are hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of ID and credit cards returned to you before leaving.
- Use an escort or store security if you have too many packages or if you are leaving after store closing times.
- Keep gifts or packages out of plain view inside your vehicle.
- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows of your residence.
- After opening gifts, break down boxes and packaging of expensive items such as electronics or from high-end stores. Put them in plastic bags to hide the fact that you have valuable items like them in your home.
- Carry a cell phone and have emergency numbers readily available.

Remember that practicing these steps can go a long way in ensuring that you and your loved ones are not easy targets for would be robbers and thieves. If we all practice due diligence throughout the holiday season we can greatly reduce the chances of being taken advantage of during what should be a joyous time of year.

*(Re-printed using material from the Alabama Fusion Center and Mountain Brook Police Department)*



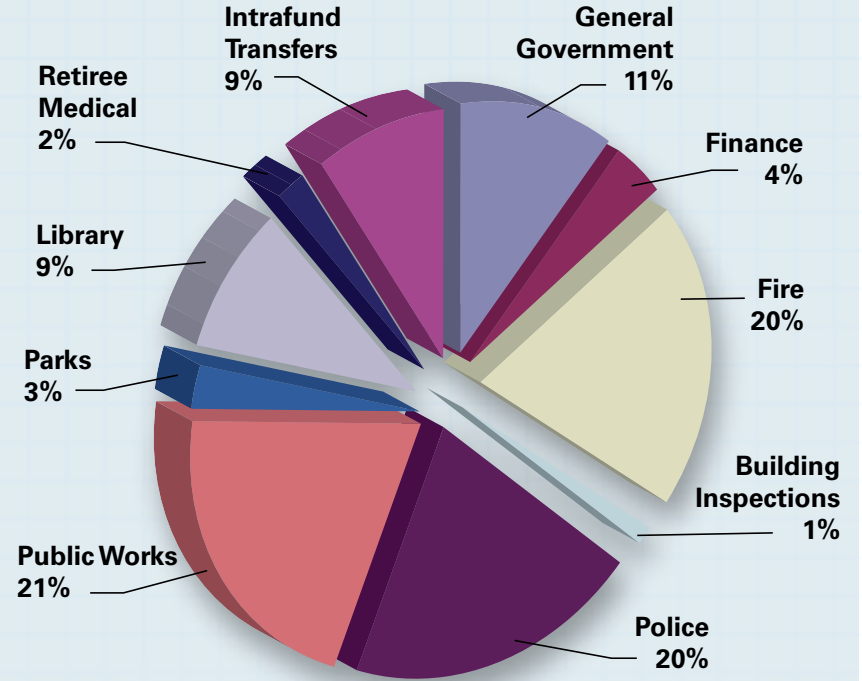
## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS 2012 BUDGET

The City Council adopted the 2012 budget at its September 26, 2011 meeting with a General Fund surplus of \$485,000. The General Fund revenue budget totals \$31,071,568 representing a nominal decrease from last year's budget. Some of the larger General Fund revenue line items include:

Source of Revenue	2011	2012	% Change
Real estate taxes	\$13,900,000	\$13,450,000	(3.2)%
Sales tax	8,075,400	8,200,000	1.5
License and franchise fees	2,736,483	2,849,590	4.1
Construction permits	632,200	676,500	7.0
Fines	412,700	435,950	5.6
All other	5,371,623	5,459,528	1.6
Totals	\$31,128,406	\$31,071,568	(0.005)%

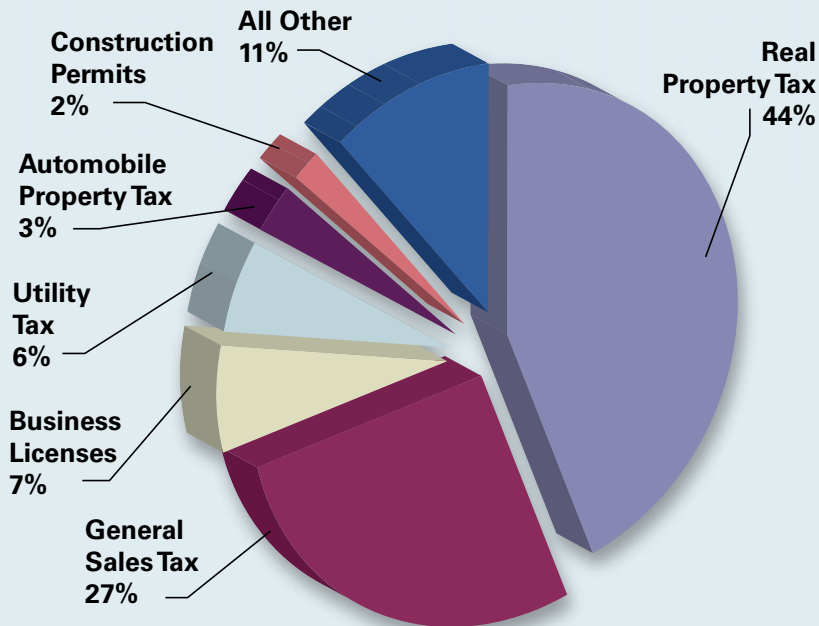
The charts below illustrate the functional and departmental make-up of the City's General Fund expenses:

### 2012 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



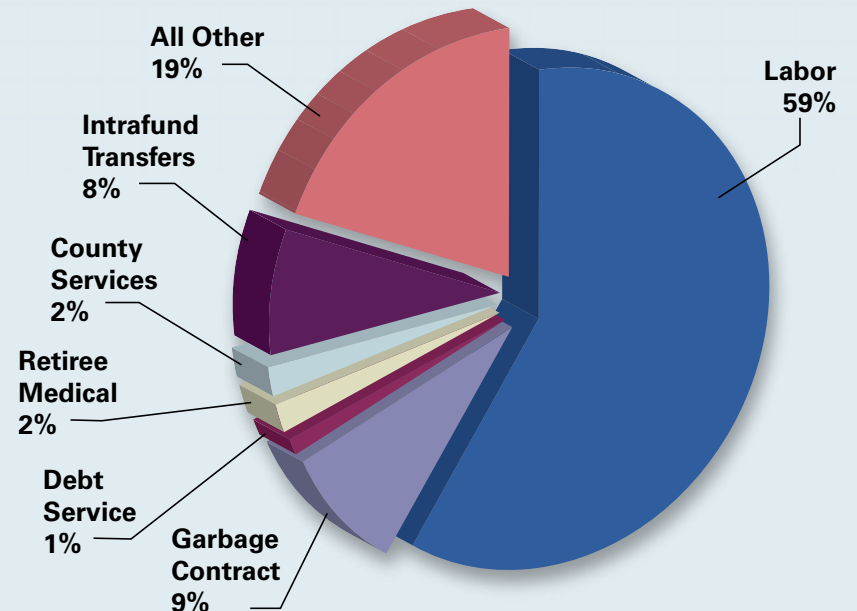
The chart below depicts the relative importance of the various sources of revenue in the General Fund:

### 2012 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET – \$31.1 MM



2012 General Fund expenses totaling \$30,586,482 have essentially been held to the amount of last year's budget.

### 2012 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET – \$30.6MM







## NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



Ronnie Vaughn has been appointed as the new Public Works Director for the City effective October 24th. He will replace Eddy Tate who has served in this position for the past ten years and is retiring later this fall.

A native of Gardendale, Ronnie has over 34 years of experience with the City of Birmingham's Public Works Department serving in several positions, including Acting Director and Deputy Director.

He is active in several organizations such as the American Public Works Association, where he serves on the Alabama Chapter's Executive Board, the Solid Waste Association of North Alabama, the Supervisory Board of the General Employees Credit Union where he serves as Chairman. He is also a Trustee of the City of Birmingham Retirement and Relief Fund. Ronnie has served on the Leadership Speaker's Bureau for United Way and was selected as Loaned Executive of the Year with United Way in 2002.

Earlier this year, Ronnie completed the Advanced Public Works Management program at the University of Georgia and has completed the Integrated Emergency Management course at the National Fire Academy. He has also taken numerous courses through the Auburn University Engineering Extension system.

## 2012 BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS

Business license renewals for the City of Mountain Brook are due on January 1, 2012 and will be considered delinquent January 31, 2012. Licenses not renewed before January 31, 2012 will be subject to penalties and interest. You will receive a renewal statement prior to January. Please complete the renewal notice and mail back 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 return by mail or fax to (205) 870-3590 so that we may properly update our records.

New businesses may 1) apply for a license by printing an application from our website ([www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org)) or 2) may complete their renewal on-line. The business license application is found in the document library under the licenses category. If additional tax forms are needed they can be found in the document library under the category taxes. For on-line renewals, the log-in information is shown on the license renewal notice.

Persons operating a business from home are also required to purchase a license for that activity. The home occupation license may be printed from our website ([www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org)) or you may call the Revenue office and request that a home occupation packet be mailed to you.

Residents, when hiring a contractor to build, renovate, or repair your home or 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. The license and permit regulations are intended for your protection.

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.

## LEAF SEASON SCHEDULE

Leaf season begins on October 31st. Waste Management will collect loose leaves from the curb (not in the gutter) October 31st through March 2nd. 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.

## "AT YOUR DOOR" SPECIAL COLLECTION

Waste Management, which provides garbage, trash and recycling services to our City and several others in the Birmingham area, will soon be marketing a new feature. It is "At Your Door" which is a special collection for difficult-to-recycle household items such as automotive waste products, garden chemicals, household cleaners, paint products, swimming pool chemicals, electronic waste and miscellaneous household waste.

Waste Management needs 40,000 households on board to start up this service in the Birmingham area. This would be a city-wide program, not an individual subscription. The City Council has been shown a presentation of this service and would like to know if you are interested. If you are, please email the City Manager, Sam Gaston, at [gastons@mtnbrook.org](mailto:gastons@mtnbrook.org) or call 802-3800.

Be looking for information from Waste Management in the mail soon about the "At Your Door" special collection.



## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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

### BOARD VACANCIES

The City of Mountain Brook has the following board/committee vacancy to fill in the near future:  
Tree Commission – (3-year appointment)

### APPOINTMENTS

The City of Mountain Brook has recently made the following appointments:

- Rob Walker IV – Village Design Review Committee
- Jansen Voss – Mental Health Authority
- Ken Key – Tree Commission
- Carol Johnson – Board of Zoning Adjustment
- J. Russell McElroy III – Jefferson County Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Authority

The City of Mountain Brook has recently made the following reappointments:

- Marianne Sharbel – Mental Health Authority
- Billy Angell – Tree Commission

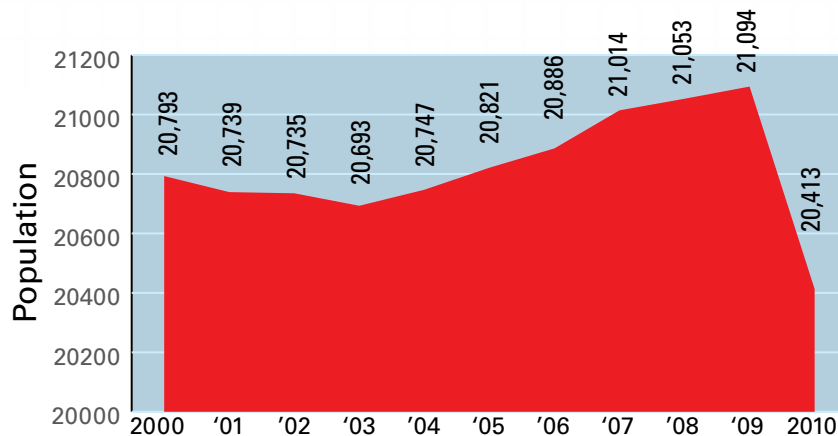
## 2010 CENSUS CHALLENGE

The City of Mountain Brook has submitted a formal challenge to the U.S. Bureau of the Census regarding the 2010 census count for Mountain Brook, which reflected a decrease in population (to 20,413) from the last official count (which was also the result of a previous census challenge by the City in 2004) of 20,693.

The Count Question Resolution includes two boundary challenges for areas that have been within the corporate limits of the City for many years. In addition to these two boundary challenges, coverage challenges have been submitted for 33 Census Blocks. A formal response from the Bureau of the Census is expected within the next 6-12 months.

Why is an accurate population count important? Here are just a few reasons: Every year, over \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. Census data guide planning for new hospitals, schools and other services. Businesses use census data to locate new retail and service establishments, and census data determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MOUNTAIN BROOK POPULATION CHANGE 2000-2010



## NEW BUSINESSES

- 4D Mommies, LLC**  
200 Office Park Drive,  
Suite 216, 265-9584
- Alexander Counseling Service**  
2839 Culver Road,  
538-3099
- American Nationwide Mortgage**  
6 Office Park Circle,  
Suite 100, 870-9600
- Armada International**  
4462 Briar Glen Drive,  
977-5889
- Athletic Consignment of Birmingham**  
3705 Montrose Road,  
253-4310
- Black Belt Solutions**  
3324 Eaton Road,  
298-7655
- Bradford Lander**  
3928 Montclair Road,  
Suite 208, 802-8823
- By His Hands Designs**  
3305 Sandhurst Road,  
243-9131
- CDC Oxford/Kennesaw, LLC**  
431 Office Park Drive,  
414-6400
- Denning E-Solutions, LLC**  
3324 Eaton Road,  
298-7655
- DiPiazza LaRocca Heeter**  
510 Office Park Drive,  
Suite 100, 871-9973
- DIYPC, Inc.**  
2909-2911 Cahaba  
Road, 222-8060
- Fine Cabin, LLC**  
15 Office Park Circle,  
Suite 150, 879-9960
- Global Resource Group, LLC**  
4829 Old Leeds Road,  
223-4715
- Hampton Stephens Design**  
3020 Sterling Road,  
533-0606
- Hayden Ashley, LLC**  
81 Church Street, Suite  
105, 821-8015
- Hester Heating & Cooling**  
3305 Sandhurst Road,  
218-0053
- Jordan Alexander**  
600 Olde English  
Lane, Suite 116,  
868-1391
- Law Office of J. D. Lloyd, LLC**  
3500 Bethune Drive,  
334/332-2576
- Libba's Gardening Services**  
4237 Wilderness Road,  
533-1090
- MacClary Toomey Design/Build**  
14 Office Park Circle,  
Suite 102, 870-9810
- Mountain Brook Mutt Club**  
2623 Lane Park Road,  
873-0230
- Net Access Solutions**  
3657 Oakdale Road,  
837-4106
- Pure Wax and Tan**  
2800 Cahaba Village  
Plaza, Suite 170,  
637-1128
- Resolve Counseling Center**  
6 Office Park Circle,  
Suite 100, 313-1793
- Sababa Restaurant**  
3150 Overton Road,  
Suite 3, 910-9522
- Science Learning Store.com**  
3748 Forest Run Road,  
637-0730
- Shindigs Catering, LLC**  
3700 Spring Valley  
Road, 538-1170
- Superior Bank, NA**  
2717 Culver Road,  
Suite A, 327-3657
- The French Hen/ Interiors**  
2421 Canterbury  
Road, 404/643-9455
- Thompson Architecture, Inc.**  
2913 Cahaba Road,  
414-1272
- Villager Yoga**  
3150 Overton Road,  
Suite 7 & 8, 914-2428
- Vino Restaurant**  
1930 Cahaba Road,  
870-8404
- Yogurt Mountain**  
2037 Cahaba Road  
(inside Joe Muggs),  
909-9136





# Emmet O'Neal Library News



This fall the Emmet O'Neal Library kicks off its biggest season of programming and services ever. Thanks to a \$47,000 grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the library will begin a year of programming centered on personal finance and investing. In this series of programs we will cover all the topics from budgeting to stocks and bonds, investment tools and savings plans.

Upcoming seminars will be lead by Dr. Andreas Rauterkus, Assistant Professor of Finance at UAB. His seminars will be lecture style and will include plenty of time for Q&A. Since it's dinner time for so many folks, food will be served! Please register for each program at [www.eolib.org/smart-investing.php](http://www.eolib.org/smart-investing.php) or call the library at 445-1121. Every event is free and open to all.

## Banking and Credit

Thursday, November 3

Dr. Rauterkus will introduce terms and topics in the worlds of banking, credit and credit cards. Topics will include: determining your banking needs, finding the "right" bank, maintaining a bank account, credit reports and scores, basic credit features, and of course, credit card fees.



## Women & Money

Saturday, November 5th

This seminar is designed specifically for women! Whether you are recently widowed or divorced and handling family finances for the first time, or, you may have recently had to join the workforce and need more information on savings and retirement vehicles. Whatever the reason, this seminar has been designed for you. A light breakfast and lunch will be served.

## Saving and Investing

Thursday, December 1

Dr. Rauterkus will cover the basics of saving and investing in today's seminar. Topics will include: the role of saving and investing products, how to analyze savings products, and how to match appropriate savings and investment vehicles to specific financial goals.

Upcoming topics for Smart Investing @ Your Library in 2012 include couponing, paying off college loans, and a program for young families on how to save for education and retirement at the same time!

## Teen News



## National Gaming Day

The Young Adult Department at the Emmet O'Neal Library will be celebrating the 3rd Annual National Gaming Day on Saturday, November 12th from noon-5 pm. This event gives teens the opportunity to get together for a great afternoon of socializing and gaming. Rumor has it that a certain teen librarian is even bringing in a Donkey Kong arcade game for the event. In addition to the video games the library will have board and card games plus great prizes.



## Exam Breaks

December brings exam time for our junior and senior high school students, and the library will once again open up our large meeting room for exam breaks. Students have consistently stated that exam breaks offer them a great opportunity to study with their peers in a relaxed atmosphere. Exam Breaks will be happening from December 13th-19th.

## Children's Department News

New technology is popping up everywhere in the Emmet O'Neal Children's Department. This fall, we added Playaway Views to our collection of multimedia material. These are a visual version of the Playaway mp3 players that are especially popular for long car rides and fluency practice. When you check out a Playaway View, your child can use a hand-held screen to watch a video of a book or a non-fiction topic – no DVD player is necessary. Thanks to the Junior Women's Committee of 100, we have also added two new touch-screen computers to our department. These units, called The Edge, are geared toward upper elementary students and are loaded with lively educational content and tightly controlled web access. On days when you find yourself unable to make it to the library, be sure to browse our online collection of downloadable audio books and e-books. We are constantly adding more titles for children of all ages.

### This winter holds plenty of top-quality programming for our youngest patrons:

Throughout the winter, we will continue to offer the weekly storytimes and programs you have come to love. Check out our calendar for more specifics, and don't forget that you can register for age-specific children's programs online by visiting the library's website, [www.eolib.org](http://www.eolib.org).

We hope you will take special note of the programs we are offering in the series Smart Investing @ EOL. If you missed your October opportunity to register both yourself and your child for simultaneous programs, be sure to keep an eye out in the spring for another chance. We will again be offering a money-themed program for children ages 3-8 in concurrence with an adult program about investing.

## NOVEMBER

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Family Night Birmingham Children's Theater presents Cinderella  
5:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

After School Thanksgiving Special with Starshine Faces  
Join us for face painting and stories about giving thanks.  
3:30 PM

## DECEMBER

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Family Night Dinner and Movie  
5:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

After School Special  
Atlantic Coast Theatre will present A Beatrix Potter Holiday  
3:30 PM

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Grinchmas Bookmania for 4th-6th graders  
Registration required  
6-7 PM

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

3rd Annual Fancy Nancy Hairdo Hullabaloo  
11 AM – 1 PM



## Friends News

The Friends of the Emmet O'Neal Library would love a donation from you! Cleaning out your house? Moving? Please consider donating your gently used books, DVDs, CDs, etc. for our annual booksale. Just bring your boxes or bags to the library's back door and ring the doorbell. Drop off your items and we'll give you a tax receipt! We accept donations all year long. The proceeds from the booksale help fund all the great programs we offer you here at the library!

## JANUARY

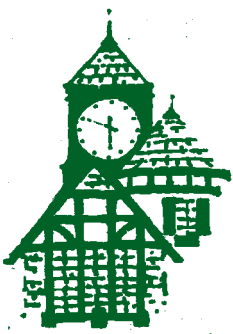
### TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Family Night Double puppet feature of The Three Pigs and Jack and the Beanstock  
5:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

After School Special  
Red String Wayang Theater will present Hansel and Gretel.  
3:30 PM





# SHOP. DINE. DISCOVER.

## Welcome to the Villages of Mountain Brook

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### Letter from the President

I know you have seen them. We have all seen them. Travel around the country and you will find lots of new, gorgeous developments trying to create something we already have... a community. However, no matter how many pretty buildings, new schools, great homes and lakes are created they are unable to immediately create what Mountain Brook has been blessed to have nurtured over 60 years: community.

We are all benefactors of the hard work those who came before us did when they planted the seeds of the city back in 1929. The original plan for Mountain Brook was to have small commerce centers surrounded by households. The idea of central, locally owned commerce supported by households was, and still is, paramount to our success, our future, and our quality of life. With the increased competition from other shopping venues, it is more important than ever for all of us to "BUY LOCAL" whenever possible. This is not just a silly slogan, it is a financial fact. Mountain Brook derives 27% of the entire city budget from sales taxes. If sales tax revenues decline, it will mean higher and higher property taxes to support our stellar schools, safe neighborhoods, and overall quality of life we have all come to expect and rely upon as a community.

If we all do not BUY LOCAL when possible, we could first lose our character and then endanger the community we all love so dearly. How many communities can immediately identify with such long time icons as a Gus' hot dog, Gilchrist limeade, Billy's chicken sandwich or fresh bread at Continental Bakery? Or taking a day to stroll through the villages shopping at some of your local favorites such as Bromberg's and Barton-Clay, Mobley and Sons and Harrison's, Western and Piggly Wiggly or walking "fashion row" in Mountain Brook Village or seeking children's items in Crestline. We are so blessed to have so many long standing stores in the Villages. At the same time, we must remember the importance of Cahaba Village and Overton Village, too. Newcomers to Mountain Brook like Yogurt Mountain, Maki Fresh, Player's Choice, Whole Foods, Mountain High Outfitters, Fleet Feet, Publix, and Magic Muffin are crucial to the future support and growth of our city while maintaining our character. And when the need to visit larger regional malls arises, do not forget to give Macy's a look as they are Mountain Brook's largest sales tax producer.

There was a time years ago when Mountain Brook was the new development. Unfortunately, many of the established neighborhoods at that time have slipped in quality of life, character, and community support. None of us want that to happen to our city. If we all want to ensure our great school system, city services, and fabulous quality of life, we must remind ourselves to BUY LOCAL and support our local businesses whenever possible.

I hope you have seen the signs around town urging residents to BUY LOCAL. Check out this new campaign at [www.shopmountainbrook.com](http://www.shopmountainbrook.com). If you can't make it to the store, now you can shop with them online. Now is a great time to get involved with the Chamber as we are in the middle of a membership campaign. Join the Chamber of Commerce today and help us continue the promotion of our city. [www.welcometomountainbrook.com/join.php](http://www.welcometomountainbrook.com/join.php)

Sincerely,

Steven C. Hydinger  
Chamber President, 2011

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From left to right Lisa Christopher, Mary Evelyn McKee, Hannon Davidson



From left to right Steven Hydinger, Terry Chapman, State Representative Paul DeMarco, Suzan Doidge



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From left to right Alice Womack, Gerry O'Toole, Eileen Kunzman, Steven Hyding

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## Chamber Luncheons

Birmingham News addresses Chamber



From left to right Lauren Stewart, owner of Lulie's On Cahaba; Carole Sullivan, owner of Lagniappe Designs, Inc.; Julie Howell, Elizabeth Roberts owners of Lamb's Ears.

### Economic Outlook Luncheon

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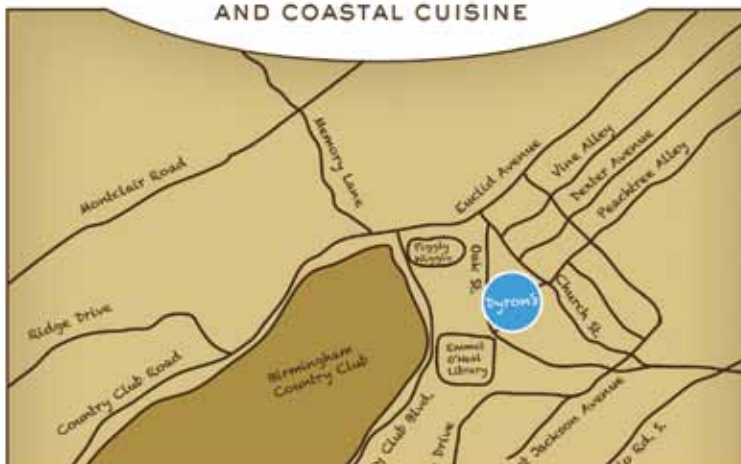
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# MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS

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## “SUCCESS FOR ONE IS SUCCESS FOR ALL” MOUNTAIN BROOK’S ATHLETIC PROGRAM



In recent issues of THE REPORTER, we have focused on Mountain Brook Schools’ academic programs, fine arts programs, and other aspects of a balanced school experience. In this issue, we look at the school system’s broad-ranging, highly successful athletic program. We began by speaking with Terry Cooper, who is approaching 20 years as the system’s Athletics Director.

During that time the Mountain Brook High School Spartans have won 136 state championships. “We believe this is the highest number of any public school system in the state,” said Coach Cooper. “By no means is it our primary focus, but winning is a boost for all of us and a tribute to the hard work of our athletes and our staff.” Mountain Brook’s athletic program has been recognized as the best overall program in the state and recently was named the *Birmingham News* Metro Area Program of the Year.

Coach Cooper credits the success of the Spartan program to the outstanding student athletes who have participated, the coaches who guided them, and the support provided by the faculty, administration, and the Mountain Brook parents and community. Coach Cooper also recognizes the outstanding contributions of the various sport booster clubs and of the Mountain Brook Sports Corporation. “The community is critical to the athletic program and, really, athletics is critical to the community,” said Cooper.

Because of his longevity at Mountain Brook, Coach Cooper has perspectives to share about how Mountain Brook’s athletic programs have changed over the years. “First, girls’ sports have progressed tremendously. In a way, this began with Title IX, which insures that female athletes have full access to athletic programs. But, far beyond that, I have seen the level of competitive-

— continued on page 18



*continued from page 17 —*

ness and the athleticism of the girls grow tremendously. They have come so far in a relatively short time. Just as is true of the boys, they just aren't involved in their sports seasonally. They are in the training process year-round."

A second major change Cooper notes is the addition and upgrade of athletic facilities. "We have the arena at the high school, the competition gyms, baseball fields, the softball complex, an Olympic track surface, the new artificial turf on the football fields. But, these upgrades to facilities aren't limited to the high school. System wide, we can be proud of the facilities we provide our students."

Third, Coach Cooper has seen major changes in the training programs for all athletes. "Sports never really stop for our student athletes, even though the actual competitions are seasonal. To be competitive and to maximize the health benefits, our student athletes train all year."

One of the best features of the school system's athletic programs, according to Coach Cooper, is the integration of the junior high program with the high school program. "By design, we want to make this a true joint program. We want the programs to blend as much as possible and to be seamless. We are preparing our junior high athletes to be high school athletes." This approach is illustrated by the track program. *(See article below).*

"...some years ago I asked all our coaches to talk about their own measures of success. Not one coach mentioned the importance of winning. Instead, they talked about the team reaching their potential, about character, discipline, sacrifice, and teamwork."

— Terry Cooper

Coach Cooper shared an interesting perspective on coaching student athletes who are often also excellent students. "Our students are often interested in the knowledge part of the game. We take advantage of that by going beyond the physical athleticism of training and teaching more of the strategic elements of the sports. And, of course, many of our students are very much driven to be successful overall, in academics, extra-curricular activities, and in sports."

We asked Coach Cooper about the coaching staff at Mountain Brook Schools. "We have a philosophy we feel strongly about that our coaches are educators first and foremost. Of course, many

teach academic classes and are teachers in that regard, but they are also educators and teachers when they are coaching. These are people who are passionate about helping kids maximize their abilities and reach their potentials. I would add that we have a number of assistant coaches who are capable of being head coaches, but have chosen, for example, to remain at the junior high level because they have found their passion in working with students at that level."

Coach Cooper has ideas about how to measure the success of a school athletic program. "I don't want to say that winning is unimportant, and we have done our share of winning. But I remember that some years ago I asked all our coaches to talk about their own measures of success. Not one coach mentioned the importance of winning. Instead, they talked about the team reaching their potential, about character, discipline, sacrifice, and teamwork."

But, Coach Cooper believes there is another factor that motivates students to be involved in sports. "One question we ask ourselves all the time is 'are the kids having fun?'" said Cooper. "I really believe that is probably the chief reason, and one of the real benefits, of participation in sports. Our students tend to work very hard at school and, while the competitiveness is there, they come out to have fun, and that's a good thing."

## COACH GREG MORROW: Culture Of MBJH Athletics—Loyalty, Respect, Collaboration



When Greg Morrow talks about the Mountain Brook Junior High athletic program, he gets almost misty-eyed. The 20+ year veteran coach and assistant athletic director has a passion for coaching sports and for students at the adolescent level. Terry Cooper told us that he tells the Junior High athletes "how lucky they are to play for Greg Morrow."

Coach Greg Morrow described his vision and focus for the junior high athletic program as one that is cohesive with the high school athletics program. "Terry Cooper's vision is for the JH and HS programs to be cohesive and seamless and I support that vision," Coach Morrow said. "Our goal

at the junior high is to get the student athletes ready for varsity athletics. Kids develop and progress at different rates, but we train and teach all our athletes on their skills. There is something about a 12- or 13-year-old, they have that naive eagerness to know more and they absorb everything we teach them because they want to be really good. They realize their coaches know what they are doing, and they want to learn from them. "

On its own, the Junior High athletic program has been highly successful. As a member of the Metro South League, Mountain Brook Junior High has won the all-sports trophy 10 of the last 11 years by winning league championships in several sports in the same year. Membership in the Metro South League is competitive and member teams have the best athletes and best coaches in the area. Morrow credits the coaching staff at the Junior High with making the athletics program successful. While any of the Junior High coaches has the skills and knowledge to coach varsity, each has chosen to work and coach at the Junior High. "Our coaches are highly competent and any would be capable of going as high up in coaching as they want to go," said Coach Morrow, "but all our coaches choose to stay here because they like working with this age group of students, and they like who they work with. They are all professionals and great people to work with."

The success of the program and of each sport comes from the culture of loyalty and collaboration among the coaches at the junior high. Morrow takes that culture very seriously. "Loyalty and trust are everything. You've got to keep building it every day. If you get that right, the coaches perform like great athletes. When everyone is on the same page, everything else takes care of itself."

Another measure of the program's success is the legacy of the coaches, according to Morrow. "Many of our current coaches are children or relatives of former Mountain Brook coaches, or friends of former coaches. Many are children of former students and athletes from Mountain Brook. Our program's reputation, built by our coaches and students, speaks volumes and people want to be a part of it."





# ATHLETIC TRAINERS PROVIDE EXPERT CARE OF STUDENT ATHLETES



In our conversation with Terry Cooper, he included in a list of the three most significant changes in the school system's athletic programs the role of training. "A successful athletic program has a number of unsung heroes," Cooper added. "Examples of these would be our athletic trainers."

Athletic trainers play a significant role in the prevention of injuries among student athletes, as well as the recognition, management, and rehabilitation of injured athletes. They develop athletic injury prevention and treatment programs using their knowledge of biomechanics, anatomy and pathology.

Athletic trainers also provide a critical communication link between the injured athlete, the coach, and sometimes the athlete's family, to determine when it's right to return to practice and competition.

We spoke to Mountain Brook athletic trainers Jake Jordan and Kristie Harris.

How long have you worked in Mountain Brook?

**Jake Jordan:** This is my 6th school year. Wow, time really does fly by.

**Kristie Harris:** This is my 7th year

What are your responsibilities?

**Jake Jordan:** The prevention, care, and treatment of all athletic injuries.

**Kristie Harris:** I teach four P.E. classes, a lunch duty, and monitor auditorium (quiet study). As far as the athletic training side-I order supplies, collect and file physical exams, treat and evaluate injuries, tape/pad/bandage before practices, set up doctor appointments for injured athletes, and fill out an injury log for coaches.

What sports and activities do you work with?

**Jake Jordan:** I primarily work with Varsity Football in the fall, and oversee the athletic

training coverage for the rest of the sports with my two assistant athletic trainers, Lesley Bearden and Errol Lewis. They are provided to us by a partnership with Champion Sports Medicine. They are actually paid by that organization and spend part of their time with us.

**Kristie Harris:** This year I will work with 7th and 8th grade football, volleyball, cross country, girls & boys basketball, wrestling, and off season track.

Do you work together with the junior high trainer at games or do you each have assigned games/events to split up the responsibilities?

**Jake Jordan:** Kristie is the head athletic trainer at the JH, and I am the head athletic trainer at the HS. We typically don't have any crossover coverage; we both have our hands full with our own group.

Where did you learn your skills? What schools did you attend?

**Jordan:** I have a bachelor's degree in athletic training, as well as a masters in kinesiology from the University of West Alabama.

**Harris:** My high school did not have an athletic trainer, I was introduced to the profession as a collegiate athlete. I graduated from Samford University.

What led you to an interest in athletic training and sports medicine?

**Jordan:** I am a sports fanatic, and am not a fan of manual labor, so it seemed like the perfect fit.

**Harris:** I had torn my ACL in the 9th grade, but didn't have the repair until my 1st year of college. I spent a lot of time in the training room over the following 5 months.

What can you do that others/coaches cannot?

**Jordan:** Just about everything we do is a trained skill that fits under the National Athletic Trainers Association guidelines. Coaches often have a lot of knowledge that overlaps with ours, but an advantage to having trainers is it allows for some specialization of skills. We are very much focused on the injury prevention and response aspects.

Why is it important to have a sports medicine program and athletic trainers at games and practices?

**Jordan:** It is in my opinion the most important aspect of a sports program. The safety of the athletes comes first, and any of our coaches will tell you that. Having a trained health care professional there to take care of the hundreds of situations that may arise is vital to the success and well-being of that team.

**Harris:** We are trained to handle everything from ingrown toenails to broken necks. We are first responders and are an extension of the sports medicine doctors. With coaches having increased demands on them, they should not be expected to give the same care that a health care professional can give.

## 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.

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Mountain Brook Schools that no person within the district shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subject to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability or age in any program, activity, or employment practice. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Dale Wisely, *Director of Student Services (Title VI)*; Mrs. Sylvia Harper, *Personnel Director (Title IX)*; Dr. Missy Brooks, *Director of Instruction (Title II)*; Mrs. Shannon Mundy, *Special Education Director (Section 504)*. Contact Information: 32 Vine Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213, phone: 205-871-4608



# Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation



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*The Class of 1971 40th Reunion organizing committee presented a check for \$40,220 at a gathering to celebrate their fundraising success and a wonderful reunion with classmates. Seen left to right front row are Allene Parker Parnell, Chollet Perry Still, Ann Beck Thomas, Bari Cotton, Cathy Herren Nick, Em Corr Lee, Diane Stubbs Mills, Kathy Trafton Leaver, Judy Wilson Matthews. Left to right on the back row are Principal Vic Wilson, Ross Mason, Rebecca Washington Mason, Lissie Pfrimmer Stewart, Nancy Logan Seymour, Philip Plotka, David Pittman, Nancy White Griffin and Barbara Scott Sandner.*

## Class of 1971 Celebrates 40th Reunion

In celebration of the 40th Reunion of the Mountain Brook High School Class of 1971 classmates raised over \$40,000 in donations that will go to projects at the high school and for the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation. The leadership committee for this milestone reunion for the Class of 1971 worked with Principal Wilson in choosing projects that would have a significant impact at MBHS and also have the potential to help students in other school systems.

David Pittman who was one of the organizers of the Reunion for the Class of 1971 describes the selected projects as follows:

In recent years, Mountain Brook High School students have participated in several initiatives where MBHS clubs or departments partner with area schools. There have been two joint drama productions - one with Fairfield and one with Holy Family. In addition, during Annual Heritage Panel days, MBHS students spend two days at Wenonah High and Wenonah students spend two days MBHS. In order to expand this collaboration, Mr. Wilson will use some of the funds raised by the Class of 1971 to establish a Larger Community

Fund to support and expand efforts to bring MBHS more directly in contact Metropolitan Birmingham schools.

The following student and teacher testimonials highlight the success of the current efforts:

"The Heritage Panel program is extremely important to me as an educator because it provides Mountain Brook students with a chance to interact with students from completely different backgrounds with whom they may never otherwise have a chance to interact. It is terribly exciting to watch our students find common bonds and build relationships with students who seem as though they are often a world away. I have also found that the Heritage Panel provides a home base for students who sometimes do not seem to fit in with the "norm". It allows for an accepting and diverse environment welcoming to all. With bullying at an unfortunate all time high in today's society, all students need a place to feel welcomed; the Heritage Panel provides just such an environment." (teacher)

"Although Heritage Panel may have at first seemed like an appealing way to

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PLEASE consider a donation to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation as a part of your annual giving plans. Giving options include checks, securities, multi-year pledges, matching gifts, honor/memorial gifts or bequests. All gifts are tax deductible and go toward maintaining the long standing tradition of academic excellence for Mountain Brook Schools. We need your support!

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miss a couple of days of school, once I actually listened to a roomful of strangers from two different worlds, the initial difference of skin color between us melted away, taking with it my ignorant view of racism. It made me re-think who I was drawn to talk to based on an inconsequential exterior. This quote says it all: "Choose your friends by their character and your socks by their color. Choosing socks by their character makes no sense, and choosing your friends by their color should be unthinkable." (Senior girl)

"The Heritage Panel has been a life-changing experience. Over the two years I have been involved in the Heritage Panel, I have freed myself from all stereotypes, prejudices, and "isms" of all kinds. Through involving myself in this club, I have gained respect, knowledge, and most importantly love for all people. This club truly brought hope for a more inclusive world for me." (Senior boy and Heritage Panel president)

A portion of the Class of 1971 Gift will go to support an ongoing, multi year plan to enhance campus security in that the safety of student, faculty and staff is of utmost concern.

Remaining contributions will go to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation which provides academic support for the entire school district in the areas of technology, staff development and library enhancement.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS to the CLASS OF 1971**