City Approves Final Construction of WATKINS BROOK FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

Construction has begun on the final components of the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project within the Mountain Brook Village area – the replacement of the culvert next to Regions Bank, the replacement of Montevallo Road Bridge, and the construction of a new culvert under part of Cahaba Road. At its June 10th meeting, the City Council accepted bid proposals from The Morris Group, Inc., for the Regions culvert and Montevallo Bridge work and Rast Construction, Inc., as low bidder for the Cahaba Road culvert. Earlier this year, C. S. Beatty Construction, Inc. completed the first construction phase which included enlargement of a detention pond at the Zoo, bridge opening improvements at Watkins and Canterbury Roads, and improvements to a drainage structure at Chester Road. The City estimates the entire project to cost $6.54 million when completed, using more than $4.375 million in Federal funds obtained through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Construction has been scheduled to work around peak shopping seasons and school traffic. All work on the Cahaba Road section and Regions Bank culvert should be finished by early November. The replacement of the Montevallo Road bridge should start in January and be completed by March. Temporary traffic rerouting measures should minimize any inconveniences during construction.

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

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The City Council has adopted the following ordinances since April 2010:

- Ordinance No. 1811 - lowers the speed limit on Woodcliff Circle to 20 mph.
- Ordinance No. 1814 - rezones 27 acres in Mountain Brook Village from Local Business District and Residence D District to Planned Unit Development District (PUD) for Lane Parke development.

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

- Approved the contract between the City and the Alabama Department of Transportation for the Jemison Trail/Shades Creek Greenway.
- Renewed a 3-year contract with Waste Management for garbage collection.
- Approved contract in the amount of $4,940 with Bhate Geosciences for geotechnical testing related to the Shades Creek Parkway sidewalk project.
- Approved professional services agreement with Jefferson County Historical Commission in the amount of $1000.
- Approved professional services agreement with the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park in the amount of $1000.
- Approved the conditional use application of Amy Murphy Voice Studio at 2709 Cahaba Road in Mountain Brook Village.
- Approved the conditional use application of Iberia Bank at 100 Euclid Avenue in Crestline Village.
- Approved contract in the amount of $196,800 for construction oversight to Brasfield & Gorrie in conjunction with the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project.
- Accepted bid from Dunn Construction in the amount of $589,575 for the FY-2010 street resurfacing project.
- Approved the conditional use application of 32 Degrees located in Country Club Park shopping center in Crestline Village.
- Adopted a resolution in support of the construction of the “northern loop” of Interstate 459.
- Approved construction contract in the amount of $199,025 to Murray Building Co. for renovations for the temporary city hall offices at No. 8 Office Park.
- Authorized the execution of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program related to the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project.
- Awarded the contract for the Cahaba Road culvert to Rast Construction in the amount of $1,014,000 for work related to the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project.
- Awarded the contract for the Regions Bank culvert and Montevallo Road bridge replacement to The Morris Group in the amount of $2,810,000 for work related to the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project.
- Approved a study by Sain Engineering related to pedestrian safety at Cross Ridge Road and Country Club Road.
- Adopted resolution increasing the fines for leash law violations.
- Approved $75,000 contract with the Birmingham Zoo for projects related to the Watkins Brook Flood Mitigation Project.
- Approved a community garden project at The Emmet O’Neal Library.
- Approved the installation of a public restroom facility at Overton Park.

The 2011 budget process has already begun with the first review by the City Manager of the various departmental budgets back in early-July. The Finance Committee is scheduled to review the second draft of the budget on August 18. The City Council will review the budget and Finance Committee recommendations on August 25. The public hearing to consider the 2011 budget is tentatively scheduled for September 27.

The local economy appears to be improving. Mountain Brook’s 2010 revenues are coming in slightly ahead of original projections. Some of the major revenue highlights through May include:

- Sales taxes are down $140,000 (3%) compared to last year’s collections, however, the collections for each of the past five months has exceeded those from the same month one year ago.
- Building permits are up $57,000 (15%) compared to last year’s collections indicating that building activity is improving.
- Ad valorem taxes are down $264,000 (2%) over last year, however, they are $717,000 over what was budgeted for the year.
- Utility taxes, business licenses, automobile property taxes, and ambulance fee collections are all greater than those for the same period one year ago.

While economic conditions appear to be improving, 2011 and beyond are shaping up to be lean years financially for the City.

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**BUDGET UPDATE**

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**FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL**

**QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS**

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**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.
VILLAGE TRAFFIC

I occasionally get questions concerning vehicle speeds in our villages and also about the pedestrian crosswalks. Below is some info that everyone needs to be familiar with.

Pedestrians Crossing at Marked Crosswalks: When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk. This applies when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. It is the pedestrian’s responsibility, however, to not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and move into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

Some of the crosswalks are equipped with pedestrian traffic controls. In these situations, be sure that you cross the road only when the pedestrian signal indicates that it is safe to do so.

Crossing at Other Than Marked Crosswalks: Pedestrians crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway. Between adjacent intersections pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk. No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic-control devices.

Speed Limits: With few exceptions the speed limit within the villages, as well as on the approaches, is 20 MPH. Please help us reduce accidents in the villages by adhering to the speed limit. Driving at or below the speed limit will also make it easier to negotiate through the crosswalks and vehicles that are entering or leaving a parking space.

Since pedestrians and motor vehicles do share the roadways, the safest bet is for pedestrians and drivers to be mindful of each other and treat each other with courtesy and respect.

Johnny E. Stanley
Chief of Police

NEW WAYFINDING SIGNS

The City recently installed four (4) additional wayfinding signs. Three are located on Montevallo Road, one near Euclid Avenue and the other two are near the Church Street/Montrose Road intersection. The fourth sign is on Lane Park Road near Fairway Drive.

These signs, along with others installed in 2009, will direct visitors and shoppers to our commercial villages, municipal facilities and area attractions.

CARE ENOUGH NOT TO LITTER

Take pride in our city by doing your part to keep it clean and attractive. Litter is not only unattractive but costly to clean up. Whenever possible, trash and litter should be properly deposited in a waste container or recycling bin. Large trash items should be left at the curb (not in the street) for pick up by Waste Management.

Don Cafaro
City Arborist

TREES AND UTILITIES

As a municipal forester/arborist, I have had many opportunities to discuss the issue of tree trimming and line clearance with utility companies, as well as many residents having trees and landscape features adjacent to a power line. This relationship can become a bit strained from time to time as the utility has a duty to maintain safe and operable lines, to minimize hazards arising from contact between vegetation and energized lines, and to provide consistent service. On the other hand, a homeowner rightly expects to have their assets treated in a sound and professional manner, through proper pruning and prevention of damage to other features. The dilemma presented to the utility is the sheer volume of work; miles of lines that must be addressed on a cyclical basis, coupled with the expectation of many homeowners for them to provide detailed attention similar to a tree or landscape service.

Often the problem is that a particular tree cannot be pruned in such a manner as to satisfy both parties, and the tree (in a physiological sense). This is usually due to the fact that the wrong tree was selected to be placed within what the utility refers to as the “low zone”; generally at least 15ft on either side of the line. In such a case, the best remedy may be to replace the tree with a more appropriate selection. It is important to take into account the mature size of a given species when planting near overhead lines.

Likewise, it is important to consider underground utilities and the potential for root disturbance should the utility line be dug up and serviced in the future. While impossible to avoid entirely, potential conflicts can be drastically reduced if the utility strives to educate tree trimmers on proper pruning techniques, and homeowners and landscape designers use proper species selection criteria when planting trees and shrubs.

Don Cafaro
City Arborist
CITY MANAGER SELECTED

Mountain Brook City Manager Sam Gaston, has been selected as President Elect of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA). He will take office in October and assume the office of President of ICMA in September, 2011.

Founded in 1914, ICMA is the premier leadership and management organization for local government professionals with 9,000 members worldwide. Gaston has served as City Manager of Mountain Brook for the past 17 years. He also served on the ICMA Board from 2005-2008.

NEW BUSINESSES

Amy Elizabeth Collections-jewelry
100 Azalea Road
616-4539

Amy Murphy Studio
2709 Cahaba Road
370-7007

Animallabs, LLC
3928 Montclair Road, Suite 200
868-4779

Barbara Bonfield (state contract broker)
233 Beech Circle
879-5814

Benchmark Food & Beverage
125 Montevallo Lane
276-3407

Beverly Ruff Antiques
2417 Canterbury Road
871-7872

Bridal & Tux Brookwood, LLC
784 Brookwood Suite 249
870-1231

Elizabeth Wilson Designs
3412 N. Woodridge Road
821-3700

FB Real Estate Services
3020 Warrington Road
515-5348

Fire Restaurant (new ownership)
212 Country Club Park
802-1410

Game Plan Solutions (business consulting)
64 Pine Crest Road
370-8436

Grodner Group (event planner)
336 Richmar Drive
202-6023

Hal & Em, LLC-Stella Blu
2730 Cahaba Road
791-4933

Happy Nail Salon
67 Church Street
870-9339

JDS Financial Group
3300 East Briarcliff Road
970-9006

Kelly Landscape Architects
6 Office Park Cir. Suite 311
871-9541

Laura Tran (manicurist)
3800 River Run Drive
972-1400

Mary Beth Shelton Photography
3332 Eaton Road
447-9957

Meredith Keith, Inc. (art sales)
129 Spring Street
870-8962

Moor Plastic Surgery
2850 Cahaba Road
871-2002

Nothing But Noodles Restaurant
2800 Cahaba Village Plaza, Suite 140
238-5511

Pardue & Associates Insurance
6 Office Park Circle, Suite 310
588-1761

Price Bryant Architecture
58 Vine Street
223-8602

R Chase Abston McGriff-hairstylist/barber
5 Dexter Avenue
427-9099

Renasant Bank
44 Church Street
868-2800

S.W.E.E.T. by Design
3800 River Run Drive
972-2930

S.W.E.E.T. by Design
133 Cherry Street
527-2930

ServisFirst Bank
850 Shades Creek Pkwy
949-0302

Starnes Publishing/Village Living
4 Office Park Circle
370-0732

Thistle Properties, LLC
117 Elm Street
531-2658

Tu Pham-Manicurist
3800 River Run Drive
972-1400

Vardaman-May LLC
96 Euclid Avenue
871-2962

Vardaman-May LLC—Mountain Brook Cleaners
96 Euclid Avenue
871-2962

Village Living, LLC
4 Office Park Circle
370-0732

Vo Tran (manicurist)
67 Church Street
427-0612

WSJ & Company (new feature films)
1007 Euclid Avenue
999-0972
Dear Mountain Brook residents and friends,

Summer is a time for family, friends, and hopefully some relaxation. Mountain Brook celebrates these hot summer days most notably with Market Day in Mountain Brook Village and Dawg Daze in Crestline. Market Day occurs on July 24th, and is an annual sale with discounts ranging up to 75% off. A European-style tent sale, Market Day is an unforgettable combination of music, food, and shopping. This is the biggest village-wide sale of the year, so don’t miss it! Dawg Daze is another exciting event with children’s activities, a flea market, music, and most importantly the parade. These events should add to the memories and character of Mountain Brook.

This summer we are also promoting Shop Local, our campaign to ensure that Mountain Brook residents support our community by shopping locally first. Mountain Brook residents spend 32% of their RETAIL shopping expenditures outside of Mountain Brook. That is $3.5 million that we as residents are giving to other Municipalities. Your local purchases keep tax dollars in Mountain Brook, which offers the following benefits:

- Pave Mountain Brook streets
- Fund the Police Department
- Improve Mountain Brook Schools
- Improve the rating of the Fire Department, which can
- Lower your home owners insurance

By spending your money within Mountain Brook, you are supporting local merchants and building our community. Please help us achieve this by thinking of Mountain Brook first for your shopping experience.

One way to support the buy local campaign is by purchasing a Village Gold Gift Certificate. Village Gold Gift Certificates are redeemable at almost every business in Mountain Brook. You can purchase a Village Gold Gift Certificate at Mountain Brook City Hall or at the Mountain Brook Chamber office.

We recently held a Small Business Economic Development forum, which was moderated by Alabama Representative Paul DeMarco. This was a joint effort with the Mountain Brook and Homewood Chambers of Commerce. A panel of experts, including representatives from the business community and Alabama Department of Revenue, deliberated on the economic impact of small businesses.

I would also like to congratulate Sam Gaston, recently voted President-elect to head the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) beginning in October. Sam has been an essential part of this community, serving as Mountain Brook City Manager for the past 17 years. The ICMA is an organization based in Washington D.C. focused on providing training and professional development for city, town and county government officials all over the world. Congrats Sam!

Finally, I would like to remind you of the Chamber Website, www.welcometomountainbrook.com, which contains daily updates about events and businesses in the Mountain Brook community. You can also follow us on Twitter, at shopmtnbrook, or find information on our blog, mountainbrookchamber.blogspot. These are great resources for up-to-date information about Mountain Brook.

Sincerely,

John V. Rucker

President, Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce

John is Vice President at Sterne Agee and he can be reached at 414-3368.
Governor Riley’s cabinet comes to town for Small Business Luncheon

Paul DeMarco, Alabama State Representative and Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce board member moderates the Small Business Luncheon hosted by Mountain Brook and Homewood Chambers of Commerce. Panel members included Cynthia Underwood, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Revenue; John Harrison, State of Alabama Banking Department Superintendent; Tom Surtees, Director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations; Randy Adamy, Homewood small business owner; and Vic Nigri, Mountain Brook small business owner.

Thank You Madison!

The Chamber would like to thank our summer intern Madison Morrow, a graduate of Mountain Brook High School, for her great attitude and hard work. Madison is a sophomore at Vanderbilt University and will be majoring in English. Madison is the daughter of Randall and Carmen Morrow.
Welcome to the Villages of Mountain Brook

Mountain Brook, Rev Your Engines!
City of Mountain Brook and antique car collectors get ready for Legends of Motorsports Road Rally - May 20th

pictured: Brooks Emory, antique car collector, John Rucker, president of the board of the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce, Hannon Davidson, Project Manager of the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce and Sperry Snow, Owner of Barton-Clay Fine Jewelers.

Where in the world can you get a 111% satisfaction guarantee?
If you’re unhappy with our work for any reason, we’ll redo it free. We want you to be more than 100% satisfied. Our professional electricians are the best in skill, attitude, and workmanship. Call us today for help with any home electrical needs.

Kerry Adkins, owner
“Service OnTime or we pay you 59!”

SNOOZY’S KIDS!
Clever, Very Clever Backpacks and Lunch Boxes!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Berthon’s Cleaners
Beverly Ruff Antiques, Linens, & Accessories
Birmingham Jewish Federation
Brogue and Cuff Clothiers
Canterbury Nails
Connor’s Creamery, Inc.
Crestline Bagel Company, Inc.
Daniel Homes, LLC
Drs. Phillips, Todd & Taylor, P.C. Orthodontics
Goodwin, Mills, & Cawood, Inc.
Jannrobinson Culinary Living
Jean Troughton for Chanel Cosmetics at Macy’s Brookwood Village
Jones & Combs, LLC
Marla H. Wohlman M.D., P.C.
Mitchell’s Craft Marq, Inc.
Ousler Sandwiches
Over the Mountain Journal Inc.
Quixotic Travel, LLC
Steeple Arts Academy of Dance
Stella Blu
The Trak Shak
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
Help plan and/or promote local community events.
- Market Day in Mountain Brook Village – July 24, 2010
- Sprint for the Spill - July 31st, 2010
- Dawg Daze in Crestline Village – August 21, 2010
- Holiday Open Houses in all the villages - December 4-5, 2010
- Holiday Parade in Mountain Brook Village - December 5, 2010
- Village to Village Run - January 22, 2011
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Spring a Ling a Ding Dong
- Mafiaoz’s Italian Street Festival
- Legends of Motorsports Road Rally
- Imagine Mountain Brook
- Leadership Mountain Brook
- Mountain Brook Challenge - A Fitness Initiative

Promotes Leadership Mountain Brook
Leadership Mountain Brook is a highly visible leadership building class coor-
dinated by the City of Mountain Brook Mayor’s office, the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce, and Mountain Brook High School. This extraor-
dinary partnership will offer students the opportunity to develop leadership
skills, gain knowledge of business management, city government, and com-
community service, and to apply these skills within the Mountain Brook area.

Village Gold Gift Cards
The Chamber promotes the “SHOP LOCAL” campaign to keep tax dollars
in the community through gift cards entitled Village Gold. These gift cards
are used only in Mountain Brook. The Chamber plans special promotions
throughout the year where Village Gold Gift Cards are used as prizes.

Become a member!
Join by phone 871-3779, or online at www.welcometomountainbrook.com.
Thanks for your support of your community!
School System’s Teen Driving Program Focuses on Prevention

Mountain Brook Schools offers what its officials believe may be the most involved and consistent teen driving safety program in the nation. Student Services Director Dr. Dale Wisely answered questions about the program for The Reporter.

Describe the school system’s teen driving program.

Dale Wisely: We offer driver’s education at the high school, of course, but we know that most students don’t take it, and even the ones that do aren’t necessarily going to be safe drivers. Larry Wilson is a private driving instructor who works with us through the Community Education program, providing something I wish all young drivers could get, individualized driving instruction from a skilled instructor—someone in addition to their parents. (See page 10) Through our Community Education program we offer my Parenting the Teenage Driver workshop five or six times a year. This is a parent workshop I have offered at least once a year in the school system for about twelve years. Then I picked up the pace and started offering it more frequently after I came to work in the school system in 2006. By offering it more frequently, we tend to get groups of about 25 or 30 parents, which is a good-sized audience for this kind of workshop.

What kinds of things do you cover in the workshop?

I go over the statistics about teen driving, which can be sobering for parents. I think most people now are aware that the most common cause of death among teenagers by far is motor vehicle accidents. We lose about 5500 teenagers in the USA every year as a result of these accidents. In addition, auto accidents are the most common cause of disabling injuries, such as spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. I identify the best information we have about why teenagers are so much more vulnerable to auto accidents, and then try to turn those into things parents can focus on in their efforts to keep their kids safe. I encourage a parent-teen driving contract and I provide that to parents at the workshop. I have offered that contract free on the Internet for several years and it’s in wide use all over the country.

Do you offer something like this workshop for students?

Not exactly, although last year we showed a very powerful video produced by Farmer’s Insurance to high school and junior high students. We are always looking at ways to do more of that. We have tended to focus on informing and empowering parents. The truth is that no one has discovered an effective way of influencing teenagers to consistently drive in a safer way. Some of the things schools have done, like parking wrecked cars in front of high schools, seem only to have a very brief effect on driving behavior, if any at all. “Preaching” to teenagers about their driving doesn’t necessarily help. Scare tactics don’t seem to help, either.

Six Critical Risk Factors for Teen Drivers

1. PASSENGERS. Unlike adult drivers, teen drivers are much more likely to have accidents when their peers are in the car. This effect increases with each added passenger.
2. SEAT BELTS. Teens use them less often, which increases injuries in accidents.
3. NIGHT DRIVING. Driving late at night is associated with high crash rates.
4. ALCOHOL USE. Drinking impairs all drivers, but impairs young drivers earlier and more.
5. SLEEP DEPRIVATION. The age group with the most asleep-at-the-wheel crashes is teenagers.
6. HANDHELD ELECTRONICS. Talking, dialing, texting and use of devices distracts all drivers and is compound when the driver is inexperienced.

That’s why we have mostly focused on informing and empowering parents.

Given that automobile accidents are such a major cause of death and injury to young people, one has to wonder why it’s not a major focus in all school systems.

Here’s a comparison I’ve been thinking about. In recent years, schools have increasingly been putting resources toward preventing school violence.

— continued on page 10
Most of this is due to the Columbine incident. As should be the case, many schools are also focusing on suicide prevention. However important those efforts are, it is worth remembering that a high school student is far more likely to be lost to us in an auto accident than by an act of violence in school. Fatal auto accidents are also much more common in teenagers than suicides.

What are the factors parents should focus on in parenting a young driver?

I urge parents to focus especially on six risk factors. First, limit passengers. When teenagers have teenage passengers, they are much more likely to have accidents. This is a dramatic effect, shown in multiple analyses of the data. Recently, Alabama strengthened its Graduated Drivers License law, which, among other things, makes it unlawful for any 16-year-old driver (and 17-year-old drivers licensed less than six months), to drive with more than one teenage passenger. Second, insist on seat belt use for the driver and for all passengers. Teenagers use them less often than adult drivers and that is a major contributor to injuries and fatalities. Third, discourage late night driving. Night driving is related to the likelihood of an accident. Parents ought to impose reasonable curfews. Fourth, focus on non-use of alcohol. Drinking is a major contributor to serious auto accidents in all age groups, of course, but the evidence tells us that teenagers are more impaired by smaller amounts of alcohol. Fifth, encourage sufficient sleep. Teenagers routinely don't sleep enough, especially during the school year, and that increases their risk of accidents. Finally, discourage driving while using cell phones and other handheld devices. This one is getting a lot of attention right now.

That is texting among teenagers?

Most notoriously, but that isn't the whole picture. I am pleased that texting among teen drivers is getting a lot of attention, but that focus makes it easy to forget some other important aspects of this problem. First, we have evidence that adult drivers are more and more likely to text while driving. A study released just this summer indicates that the gap between adult texting and teen texting is closing. Second, I am concerned that the focus on texting while driving is going to cause us to lose sight of the fact that talking on a cell phone is also a very bad idea for teen drivers and for all drivers. I'm worried it's leading to the idea that texting is so bad, that by contrast, just talking on your phone while driving is ok. It's really not ok. It very significantly increases the risk of an accident.

If readers are interested in the workshop, or your teen driving contract, what should they do?

Watch their email for announcements of upcoming workshops for 2010-2011.

Some of the material I present and the driving contract are available at www.parentingteendrivers.com.
Busy Dance Program Offered by MBHS Graduate

One of the most active programs in Community Education is Dance With Lauren. Lauren Marsh, owner and instructor graduated from Mountain Brook High School in 2000 and then attended the University of Alabama, earning a degree in Communications. Lauren trained in dance all over the country for twenty-five years. She studied in Los Angeles and New York under talents such as Sonia Arova, Thor Stukowski, Cornelius Carter, Mandy Moore, Stevan Grebel, and KC Bennett. She toured with the State of Alabama Ballet and received overall highpoint awards at numerous competitions.

After graduating from the University of Alabama, Lauren returned to Mountain Brook hoping to develop a dance program. Dance With Lauren was formed in 2006 and opened with a class of six children. Very quickly, the program grew to include 58 children at the first recital. Since then, hundreds of students have come to Mountain Brook Elementary to take dance classes. It has helped many students achieve goals such as participation on dance teams and theatre performances. Classes are held Monday through Thursday at Mountain Brook Elementary, beginning after school and extending well into the evening. Lauren employees Mountain Brook High School students as assistants, but personally teaches every class she offers.

What do you see as the benefits of dance and dance instruction for young people?

Lauren Marsh: The first thing I think of is self-confidence. Being on stage builds confidence. One of my main missions is to have every one of my students be in the front row at some point. I want every student to feel accomplished and I really discourage a “star” system that focuses on the most talented students. Dance also helps kids to be better athletes. It builds coordination, flexibility, agility, balance and strength. Those are health benefits and I am thinking about how much physical flexibility has been emphasized lately as a part of healthy living. And, of course, dance is a social activity. There’s a social aspect to coming to dance class and participating with peers, but there’s also having the ability to dance in social settings.

What ages do you teach in the program?

We have classes starting at age four and going up through high school. Roughly, the students are grouped by age or school grade, but we also pay attention to how much experience and training they already have in putting classes together.

Your program is very much connected to the school community.

Offering the program through Mountain Brook Community Education and at Mountain Brook Elementary is something I am proud of. It is a very convenient location for our families. The faculty and the leadership at the school are very supportive. One example of something I am proud of is the relationship of our classes to the junior high dance team, the Spartanettes. That program has opened up an additional opportunity for involvement in a student activity at the junior high and I’m proud to say that 15 of our students were chosen for the Spartanettes.

Summer Happiness in Play (SHIP)

We asked Sarah Crevelin to tell the story of Community Education’s longest-running program.

In the 1970s, the Junior League sent me to a professional conference in San Antonio. A group of teachers who presented there were putting on a summer program to help students avoid getting behind over the summer months. In 1978, the Community Education program had just started in Mountain Brook. Lucia Chambers and I had been teaching together. We approached Jim Felton, who was in charge of the Community Education program at the time, about starting a program for four-year-old children through rising second graders. At that time there were Bible schools at the area churches but few other summer programs. Some of the programs that now exist, such as the ones at the zoo and the Botanical Gardens, did not exist at that time. We developed a theme—sailing away to different places to play, and thought it would make a great program. We initially offered two 4-week sessions. The first two years we were at the old Girl Scout house in Crestline Village and then the next 18 summers were at Mountain Brook Elementary. Since then, we have primarily been at Crestline Elementary, and this summer are at Cherokee Bend. We changed to two 3-week sessions somewhere along the way.

Many children over the years have come to both programs and many come for all three years they are age-eligible. Siblings come, some visiting out-of-town cousins or grandchildren come, and now we have children of the children who attended years ago. Over the years, 7,548 children have participated.

Peggy Pate has been my co-captain for 19 years. Lucia Chambers, who started SHIP with me, worked with me for 8 summers and later became the children’s librarian at Emmet O’Neal. Edna Rush worked with me for 9 summers.

Many high school and college students have worked in the SHIP program over the years. One young woman, Sally Moody, worked in the program and there met a young man, Brad Baker who worked in the program and they later married. She now teaches in the school system and this summer their son is attending SHIP.

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.
Foundation reaches Milestone for Mountain Brook Schools - Over $4 million in Grants since 1995

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation reached an exciting milestone in April with the approval of school funding for the 2010-2011 school year. With the approved $382,640 that will be distributed to the schools over the next months, the foundation will have given over $4 million in grants since distributions started in 1995. Thanks to the vision of its founders, the fundraising efforts of many devoted volunteers, the dedication of its board of directors, and the donations from thousands of individuals throughout our community the foundation has been able to make an extremely positive impact on learning in our schools. In an area where education is a top priority, where excellence is expected and where learning must be “effective, challenging and engaging” the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has been a critical funding source for extras that the school system would have done without otherwise.

Although the foundation has reached an impressive $4 million milestone, we need to do more. The needs of the school system surpass our funding capability each year and prioritization of the request has been a necessity. Our goal is to be able to fund a greater percentage of the annual request from the schools. The national economic downturn has made foundation resources more vital than ever for continued excellence in the Mountain Brook Schools. We ask that you consider a gift if you have not given before or that you continue your support of the foundation with any gift that you can. Increasing the endowment is essential in order to meet more of the needs of the schools. A pledge card is enclosed in this publication or you can download one from www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com.

Allocation approved for 2010 – 2011

The Program and Needs Committee of the foundation meets annually to hear a request from the Mountain Brook Schools. Each item on the request is carefully evaluated by the committee and staff members are available to answer questions regarding the need and the potential benefits for our schools. The process resulted in approval of the following allocation for the upcoming school year:

Library Enhancement
• Books, Magazines, Software Supplies ........................................... $12,000

Staff Development:
• Two Math Coaches................................................ $120,000
• Summer Staff Development ......................... $80,000

Technology
• K-1 Pilot 21st Century Classroom with interactive whiteboard, clickers, pad and software – 1 per elementary school(4)........... $26,000
• InterWrite Pad Replacement Pilot - 2 per elementary(8), 4 per secondary (8)........ $8,000
• Laptop Replacements .............................................. $136,640

TOTAL: ..........................................................$382,640

CLASS of 1980 REUNION

The class of 1980 has established a website so that classmates can register for the reunion there. Visit the website at http://mbhs80.myevent.com/?cp=1 to get all the exciting details. The reunion is scheduled for August 27 and 28.

The Mountain Brook Schools have won national recognition for the Staff Development program that the foundation has helped to fund. Over 85% of the teachers participate in over 13,000 hours of training during the summer. This effective professional development program enables "continuous improvement" in the classroom.