

the Reporter



www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XIV, Issue 1, February 2010

FROM THE TREE COMMISSION

Happy New Year from the Mountain Brook Tree Commission! We would like to thank all who took part in the second annual Christmas tree recycling event. Finding a use for any discarded item is worthwhile and helps save money. In this case, the Birmingham Zoo certainly appreciates the extra "Christmas mulch" for use at its facility. We are also thankful for the blessing of abundant rain this year, and what appears to be an end to the persistent drought of recent years. However, excess rain and high winds have taken down many large trees from properties across the city.

Remember to mark your calendars. Members of the Mountain Brook Tree Commission will be distributing tree seedlings at each village grocery store on Saturday, February 27th from 9am-11am. This year's Arbor Day selections include Eastern hemlock, flowering dogwood, red maple, and longleaf pine 'montane'. So, in the spirit of saving money and restocking our forest with native tree species, come pick up a couple free seedlings that are sure to establish themselves very quickly if given a little care.



Members of the Tree Commission preparing for Arbor Day. (l. to r.) Pinkie Chace, Don Cafaro, Billy Angell, Maves Youngblood and Louise Wrinkle.

BE COUNTED IN 2010

For the 2000 Census the City of Mountain Brook had the highest response rate in the state of Alabama – 80 percent! Let's be #1 again in 2010! Why is participation important? Here are just a few reasons: Every year, over \$300 billion in federal funds are 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. (To view 50 ways that census information is used go to www.mtnbrook.org and navigate to the Planning Department page.) With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Begin looking for your census materials to arrive in March, and be sure you and your family are counted in 2010!

Support Your Local Community

SHOP MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRST

www.welcometomountainbrook.com

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

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.
Bob Moody
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, 2009:

- Ordinance No. 1802 – amended the Sign Ordinance.
- Ordinance No. 1803 – lowered speed limit on Fairmont Drive from 30 mph to 20 mph.

The City has authorized or approved the following projects since October, 2009.

- Approved professional services contract in the amount of \$66,000 with Nimrod Long & Associates for the Villages Trail System, Phase 5B, Shades Creek Parkway sidewalks.
- Declared portions of Mountain Brook Village as a "Historic District".
- Approved contracts for services for FY-2010 with:
 - Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce (\$162,500)
 - Exceptional Foundation (\$7,500)
 - Alabama Symphonic Association (\$10,000)
 - Birmingham Botanical Society (\$5,000)
 - Jefferson County Council on Aging (\$650)
 - Birmingham Museum of Art (\$13,000)
- Recommended to the State ABC Board the issuance of a Retail Table Wine (on or off premises) license and a Retail Beer (on and off premises) to Crestline Seafood Company, LLC located at 63 Church Street.
- Accepted landscape services proposal and contract from Falkner Gardens, Inc. in the amount of \$12,000 for the beautification of a traffic island at Balmoral/Overhill (\$9,000 donated by private sources).
- Approved contract in the amount of \$3,600 with Gallet and Associates for testing services regarding the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation project, Phase I.
- Authorized contract with Bhate Geosciences Corporation in the amount of \$1,380 for the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project on Dexter Avenue.
- Agreed to participate, up to \$27,000, for a roundabout design study for the Cahaba Road/Lane Park Road/Culver Road intersection along with the City of Birmingham.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$31,250 with

Harrison Builders for dorm renovations at Fire Station #3.

- Approved contract with Nimrod Long & Associates for engineering, construction and inspections services for the Village Trail System, Phase 7A, Memory Lane sidewalks.
- Recommended to the State ABC Board the re-issuance/renewal of a Retail Beer (on or off premises) and a Retail Beer (on and off premises) to Newk's Express Café located at 2800 Cahaba Village Plaza.
- Approved lighting plan for Phase 4 of the High School Athletic Complex improvements project.
- Authorized contract with Brasfield & Gorrie in the amount of \$35,000 for construction planning and evaluation services in conjunction with the Watkins Branch Flood Mitigation project.
- Executed contract in the amount of \$10,800 with InSite engineering, LLC for drainage improvements design on Honeysuckle Lane and West Montcrest Drive.
- Executed contract in the amount of \$22,000 with InSite Engineering for a replacement study of the bridge located on Mountain Brook Parkway at Shades Creek.
- Approved contract in the amount of \$93,155 with Cottingham Contracting, Inc. for paving of the parking lot at the Public Works facility.
- Approved office conditional use application by CWC License Holding, inc. located at 2814 Petticoat Lane.
- Authorized contract with Nimrod Long & Associates in the amount of \$9,750 for an alternate design of the Watkins Road Bridge pedestrian access.
- Approved sidewalk café permit application submitted by Olexa's Café, Cakes & Catering located at 2838 Culver Road.
- Executed contract with Architectural Specialties in the amount of \$13,300 for the design and manufacture of four additional wayfinding signs.
- Approved three-year agreement with Chabad of Alabama for use of a portion of their parking lot for overflow parking for users of Overton Park.

QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS

	3rd Quarter 2009	4th Quarter 2009
ROBBERY	2	0
BURGLARY/RESIDENCE	22	19
BURGLARY/BUSINESS	9	7
THEFT	126	68
AUTO	4	6
ASSAULTS (OTHER)	0	0
IDENTITY THEFT	16	12
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	20	18
DRUGS	11	4
FAMILY VIOLENCE	11	6
ACCIDENTS	226	257
A WITH INJURIES	16	33
A WITH FATALITIES	0	0
CALLS FOR SERVICE	7,299	7,295
HOUSE WATCHES	1,717	929
PROPERTY STOLEN	\$277,989	\$420,220
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$9,902	\$3,274
PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$9,902	\$3,274

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.

APPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following appointment:

Parks Board – Charles Carper IV

REAPPOINTMENTS

The City Council has recently made the following reappointments:

Parks Board – Carey Hollingsworth
Board of Zoning Adjustment –
Patrick Higginbotham

BOARD VACANCIES

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

MAX Transit Advisory Committee
 (2-year council appointment)

Tree Commission (3-year council appointment)

If you are interested in these positions, please send a letter of inquiry and your resume to:

Sam S. Gaston, City Manager,
 City of Mountain Brook

56 Church Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213



FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

I regularly have inquiries concerning walkers, joggers and bicyclists and their use of public thoroughfares. Here is how the laws pertain to each:

PEDESTRIANS

Crossing at Marked Crosswalks: When traffic-control signals are not in place, 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 walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

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 at which traffic-control signals are in operation 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.

Pedestrians on the roadway: Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway. Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder, as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway. Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway, and if on a two-way roadway, shall walk only on the left side of the roadway. Except as otherwise noted above, any pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

BICYCLES

Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists are subject to the same traffic control laws, signs and devices as motor vehicles. Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Wherever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the department which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement. Finally, it is unlawful for 1) any person under the age of 16 years to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle unless at all times the person wears a protective bicycle helmet of good fit, fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet, 2) any person to operate a bicycle with a passenger who weighs less than 40 pounds or is less than 40 inches in height unless the passenger is properly seated in and adequately secured in a restraining seat, and 3) any parent or legal guardian of a person under the age of 16 years to knowingly permit the person to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle in violation these laws.

Hopefully this will help clear up some confusion on these issues. Since pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles do share the roadways at times, it is important for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to be mindful of each other and treat each other with courtesy and respect.

Sergeant Roger E. Wells
1956 – 2009

Roger joined the Mountain Brook Police Department in 1987 and was promoted to sergeant in 2000. During his time here, he served in various divisions doing a myriad of tasks and assignments and doing them admirably.



Over the last few years, Roger was working to complete his Masters Degree in Public Administration at UAB. According to UAB sources, Roger had a very positive impact on the MPA program. That he was chosen to serve on the Accreditation Advisory Board for the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration only emphasizes that impact. Roger had completed his course work and, but for his untimely death, would have earned his degree. Due to the selfless efforts of some UAB faculty members, his degree will be awarded posthumously and presented to his family in May of 2010.

Further demonstrating how Roger was viewed by his fellow students and professors, a scholarship has been created in his name. The Roger E. Wells Scholarship is intended for students in UAB's MPA Program. The scholarship will focus on in-service students who, as Roger did, have a family and a full-time occupation. Preference will be given to students who work in law enforcement thereby honoring Roger's chosen profession.

Roger enjoyed teaching, instructing and educating. He was never reluctant to share his knowledge with others. Those who paid attention soon realized that the information they were receiving was very likely worth remembering.

Even after his untimely death, Roger is still educating us. In what may be his last, albeit most important lesson--Roger teaches us that life is too short to spend being unhappy or angry, too uncertain to not let loved ones know they are loved and too precious to waste. Given that none of us are guaranteed tomorrow, we would be foolish to ignore such a valuable lesson.

Anyone wishing to donate to the scholarship fund may do so by making out a check to UAB. It is essential that you write Roger Wells Scholarship Fund at the bottom. Send or deliver the check to: Dept of Government, c/o Roger Wells Scholarship Fund, 1401 University Blvd., UAB Heritage Hall, Room 415, Birmingham, AL 35294-1152

Thanks, Roger, for allowing us to be a part of your life.

Johnny E. Stanley
Chief of Police

NEW BUSINESSES

Amerisafe Risk Service 14 Office Park Circle, Suite 104.....	414-0063
Barry Pate Massage—therapist at Smart Skin 32 Church Street.....	871-8707
Battle Advisory Group, LLP—consulting 6 Office Park Circle, Suite 100.....	879-7679
Boardwalk Commercial Real Estate 9 Office Park Circle, Suite 206.....	870-8222
C. Ted Reveley, M.D. 400 Office Park Drive, Suite 110.....	870-8415
Campus Dining, Inc.—food/concessions 3576 East Street (Rathmall Park).....	365-9310
Canterbury Nails & Spa 2800 Cahaba Village Plaza.....	567-7503
Charles Schwab & Co. 3000 Cahaba Village Plaza, Suite 130.....	968-6941
Donnelly Family Chiropractic 6 Office Park Circle, Suite 203.....	427-1874
Fred Astaire Dance Studio 600 Olde English Lane, Suite 112.....	879-2669
Full Circle Design 2848 Southwood Road.....	915-6688
H & H Interiors 3464 Country Club Road.....	999-6005
Hiller Pharmacy Management—consulting 162 Peachtree Street.....	803-0055
InterFirst Capital—mortgage company 2700 Highway 280, Suite 315W.....	879-6996
Jeffords Associates 2913 Warrington Road.....	532-6494
Joanna Wellisch—hairdresser at Arthurs Coiffures 2718 Cahaba Road.....	879-8455
Jones & Combs—Jilbere (new owner) 2800 Cahaba Village Plaza, Suite 280.....	870-4247
Kiki Risa 2734 Cahaba Road.....	850/586-3211
PTAC Consulting Engineers 4 Office Park Circle, Suite 111.....	871-0204
Sandra Watson—counseling 3 Office Park Circle, Suite 116.....	824-2978
Specialty Pharma Association 6 Office Park Circle, Suite 301.....	879-9924
The Comer Foundation 400 Office Park, Suite 240.....	408-9118
Think Capital Advisors, LLC—strategic advisory 500 Office Park Drive, Suite 110.....	919-6522

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)

WASTE PICKUP INFORMATION FOR MOUNTAIN BROOK

GARBAGE:

Is picked up once a week behind the house or by the garage. Garbage is kitchen and bathroom waste only. Cans cannot be any larger than 30 gallons. Anything larger, including 90-gallon rolling carts, will have to be placed at the curb for pickup. If the driveway is blocked or the dog is out, Waste Management will not pick up the garbage.

RECYCLING:

Is picked up once a week at the curb, the same day as the garbage.

The following items are recycled:

- Newspaper
- Aluminum
- Steel and other metal cans
- No. 1 through 6 plastics
(HDPE-clear plastic milk jugs and PET plastic soft drink containers)
- Magazines
- Telephone books
- Cardboard (with no food on it)
- No Glass

One bin per household is provided by Waste Management. Additional bins can be purchased from Waste Management for \$20.00 each.

TRASH:

Is picked up once a week at the curb, the same day as the garbage. Items such as the following are considered to be trash:

- Small piles of limbs
- Bagged grass and leaves, unless more than 4 or 5 bags
- Furniture and appliances (mattresses included)
- Clothing
- Paper products and moving boxes
- Yard work supplies
(flowerpots, hose, and tools)
- Glass, crockery, and metal

KNUCKLEBOOM:

Collected on a weekly basis. Should be on the same day as your garbage service. Service may be slower during the warm months due to spring cleaning. Trash and large piles of limbs and shrubs need to be at the curb, as close to the street as possible without being in the street. Tree limbs cannot weigh more than 90 pounds each or be longer than 4 to 6 feet. Only trees and limbs cut by the resident will be picked up by Waste Management. Any tree cutting and trimming work done by a contractor MUST be hauled away by the contractor.

PREPARATION FOR SPECIAL ITEMS:

Paint cans – Remove the lids of the cans. If paint is still inside, put sand, dirt or kitty litter on top of it, then set the cans, with the lids off, at the curb on garbage pick up day.

Appliances with Freon (such as refrigerators and air conditioners) - Will not be picked up until these appliances have been drained of freon and a certified sticker has been placed on the item. A technician at an appliance service department can provide the freon removal. The items can then be placed at the curb for pickup.

ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP:

Dirt, rocks, gravel, concrete, bricks, construction material, batteries, and tires.

For requests or complaints, please contact waste management at (205) 841-2740.



Discover Mountain Brook

... explore the unique

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 2010 Board of Directors

- President:
John Rucker
- Executive Vice President:
Stephen Hydinger
- Vice President Governmental Affairs:
Paul DeMarco
- Vice President, Community Affairs:
Amy Jackson
- Vice President, Membership Development:
Hugh Morrow
- Vice President, Business Development:
Bob Schuler
- Vice President, Marketing Communications:
Cindi Akins
- Vice President of Retail:
Wesley Lassen
- Secretary
Martha Gorham
- Treasurer
John Wilson
- Assistant V P Governmental Affairs:
Derick Belden
- Assistant V P, Community Affairs:
Lee Perry
- Assistant V P, Membership Development:
Elizabeth Lyman
- Assistant V P, Business Development:
Chuck Branch
- Assistant VP, Marketing Communications:
Howard Torch
- Director at Large
John Montgomery
- General Counsel:
David Faulkner
- Past President:
Frank Caley
- 2nd Past President:
Alice Womack
- Sustaining Member:
Sam Gaston
- City Council Liaison:
Bob Moody
- Executive Director:
Suzan Smith-Doidge

Welcome Chamber President John Rucker

It is my pleasure to introduce John Rucker as the incoming president of the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce. John is employed with Sterne Agee, and is an active member of the Mountain Brook community. John and his wife, Kelli, along with their children, Lily, Jay and Anna, attend Canterbury United Methodist.



John has served as a volunteer for the Mountain Brook Chamber for many years, most recently as Executive Vice President. He's excited about the number of events planned for 2010, including Imagine Mountain Brook, the Mountain Brook Challenge, the Village to Village Run, Market Days, Dawg Daze, Go and Grows, Quarterly Luncheons, and much more.

As we welcome John, I want to thank Frank Caley, Mountain Brook Chamber Past President, for his vision, hard work and determination, enabling the Chamber to have a successful 2009. We initiated our advertising campaign, and enjoyed our first Spring-a-Ling-a-Ding-Dong and Italian Street Festival. Thanks to the efforts of many enthusiastic community volunteers, we expanded our Holiday Parade. Also in 2009, the Mountain Brook Chamber launched a new website, and utilized social media to provide better communication to our members, our merchants, and to encourage visitors and shoppers to "Shop, Dine and Discover Mountain Brook".

As a member-driven organization, we strive each year to add value for our members. Chamber events serve as examples of how residents, businesses and schools come together as one to build a better community.

Welcome, John! We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Suzan Doidge
Executive Director
Mountain Brook Chamber



Mountain Brook Challenge Committee
(l to r) Dr. Brad Hassig, Dr. Lori Hassig, Beth Nigri, Vic Nigri, Dr. Kevin Alexander, Montego Temple

Mountain Brook Challenge

The Mountain Brook Challenge will be an exciting community-wide event focusing on fun competition to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. It will use the expertise of local health providers and health-related businesses to support teams looking to become healthier. This will be done through a series of informative workshops on varying health topics, and with valuable and convenient health screenings held at the Board of Education Building in Crestline. Current chamber events will be incorporated and supported by the Challenge, including the kick-off, which will be at the Village to Village Run on January 23rd. The actual Challenge will then begin on February 1. Emphasis will be placed on getting kids started right in making healthy lifestyle choices, as well as supporting those looking to achieve specific health and wellness goals.

Gold Level Members:

Bryant Bank | First Commercial Bank | Regions | Red Mountain Bank | ReMax | Sterne Agee | Borland Benefield | Christian Small



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



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

Albert Lighton



951-9292



pictured are: (front, l to r) Mayor Terry Oden, Gayle Lantz, Chamber President John Rucker; (back, l to r) City Manager Sam Gaston, Chamber Executive Director Suzan Doidge

Imagine Mountain Brook

The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce an exciting new initiative to help Mountain Brook explore possibilities for creating a positive future - Imagine Mountain Brook. The experience will assist the Chamber in setting its strategic direction and serving the community in the best ways possible. Leadership Consultant Gayle Lantz of WorkMatters will lead the group through this process to imagine Mountain Brook at its best.

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Kerry Adkins, owner



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pictured are: (l to r) Steven Hydinger of BREC Development, Becky Ingalls of Burch Corporation and Beth Nigri of The Fitness Center. Not pictured are Bob Schuler and Hannon Davidson.

Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce Village to Village Run Committee!

This year's Village to Village Run was held on Saturday, January 23, at 8'clock a.m. The race route was changed for the scenic 10K run. A 1 mile Fun Run was added for the young runners. This committee consists of volunteers Steven Hydinger, Becky Ingalls, Beth Nigri, Bob Schuler and Hannon Davidson.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Indie Candy

Ribbon Cutting for Indie Candy in Crestline! Shop owner Hanson Watkins helps Mayor Terry Oden cut the ribbon, as Hannon Davidson and members of "The Rockets" look on. Indie Candy specializes in candy and treats made with all-natural ingredients. No peanut products are used. Delicious!



pictured are: (l to r), Linda Flaherty, Mayor Terry Oden, Sarah Bailey

Once Upon A Time

A ribbon cutting was recently held at Once Upon a Time in Crestline. Mayor Terry Oden cut the ribbon for the grand opening at Once Upon a Time's new location.



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CONCEPTS

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Valentines Day
Sunday February 14!



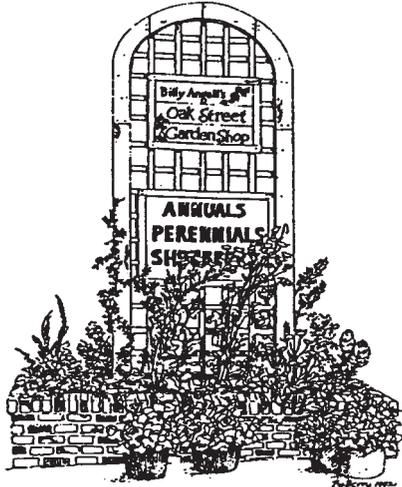
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shipping services available

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KIDS!**

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Mon. - Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 10-5

Oak Street Garden Shop

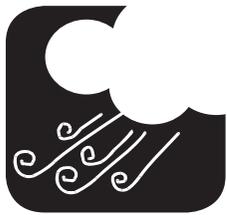
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Garden Accessories
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**Bromberg's Celebrates 50 Years In
Mountain Brook Village!**



Pictured (l to r) Ricky Bromberg, Frank Bromberg, Jr., Frank Bromberg, III, Paul Byrne, Russell Byrne

2009 Holiday Parade

The Mountain Brook Holiday Parade was on December 6, 2009.



Parade Committee:

(l to r): John Feagin, Suzan Doidge, Amy Jackson, Carole Pitard, Dr. Frank Blanton, Gail Kidd, Debbie Bartoletti, and Parade Chairman Paul Allen.



Pictured are Dr. Clark Thomas and Dr. Lauten Johnson, of Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry, parade sponsors.



What is Happening Today?

The November, 2009, edition of the Mountain Brook Schools section of *The Reporter* was devoted to the 50th birthday of the school system and featured highlights of the past fifty years. This issue focuses on today—what is happening, how well students are achieving, and how people feel about the school system. This page is devoted to two special groups – high school students who were named National Merit Semifinalists and teachers who have recently received National Board certification. The following pages feature results of standardized tests taken by students last spring and results of parent, teacher and student surveys, also from last spring.



First row (L to R) Audrey Waldrop, Barrett LaRussa, David Elmets, Allison Weaver, Mary Sellers Shaw, Lauren Spivey, Michael Bolus. Second row (L to R) Kevin Jiang, Margaret Ellen Crawford, Alex Reddy, Sara Black, Lizzie Ernstberger, Stephen Elliott, Colby Sieber

MBHS Announces Fourteen National Merit Semifinalists

Each year approximately 1.5 million students enter the National Merit Scholarship competition and 50,000 are identified as “high scorers.” From this group the top 1-1 ½ % of students from each state are named semifinalists. This year there were fourteen National Merit Semifinalists from Mountain Brook High School. These students have been provided with scholarship applications and materials explaining requirements to advance in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards.

In addition to the fourteen semifinalists, ten students were named as National Merit Commended Students. They are Sean Bryson, Helen Buckley, Harrison Edmonds, Grace Elledge, Billy Massey, Elliott Potter, Catherine Prater, Leah Schoel, Butler Sparks and Mary Morgan Weed.

Principal, Mr. Vic Wilson, commented, “These are terrific young people who have greatly improved their prospects for college admission and scholarships by being named National Merit Semifinalists. This is the result of hard work by the students and great support from the school system staff and the families of these students. It is also very important to point out that these students are not only successful academically, but are also involved in many extra-curricular activities as well as community endeavors. They are all remarkably well-rounded.”

Superintendent, Mr. Dicky Barlow, added, “On behalf of all of us at Mountain Brook Schools, I congratulate the National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students.”



Standing (L to R) Jennifer Summerlin, April Cartee, Jo Sims, Cherry Thomas, Ruth Beenken, Heather Wint, Erika Ponder, Audrey Laird, Janet Nelson, Amanda Johnson. Seated (L to R) Alicia Hunsburger, Kristin Coppock, Christina McGovern

Twenty Teachers Receive National Board Certification

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards believes the single most important step the nation can take to improve schools is to strengthen teaching. To that end NPTS has developed high, rigorous standards for this national certification. The certification process takes one to three years and requires teachers to demonstrate their knowledge and skills as professional educators. Each candidate’s performance is individually examined by trained teachers and measured against the highest standards set by the profession.

To complete the process, teachers submit five portfolios including videotapes that document the candidate’s teaching practice and examples of student work. These are supported by commentaries on the goals and purposes of instruction, an analysis of the lessons and a rationale for the decisions/judgments made. This is followed by a formal, timed assessment designed to elicit knowledge of subject matter.

Mountain Brook Schools is pleased to recognize teachers who have received National Board certification over the past two years. In November of 2008, certification was granted to Erika Ponder (1st grade – BWF), Katie Wigton (2nd grade – BWF), Julie Hudson (5th grade – BWF), Debbie Stump (Science – MBJH), Kristin Coppock (English – MBJH), Connie Shaw (Multi-media – MBHS), and Heather Wint (Spanish – MBHS).

In November of 2009, these teachers were certified: April Cartee (4th grade – CB), Jennifer Summerlin (Reading Coach—CB), Alicia Hunsburger (Special Education—CB), Jayne Euwer (Kindergarten—CES), Janet Nelson (Music—CES), Amanda Johnson (3rd grade—CES), Cherry Thomas (PE—MBE), Leslie Carlson (Social Studies—MBJH), Christina McGovern (English—MBHS), Audrey Laird (French—MBHS), Jo Sims (Spanish—MBHS), and Beth Hines (Science—MBHS).

Teachers receive National Board certification for a ten-year period. At the end of that time, they must go through a recertification process. Ruth Beenken, English teacher at Mountain Brook Junior High, recertified this fall, and is the first Mountain Brook teacher to do so.

“This is a very rigorous process. Teachers who complete it examine their practices and reflect on why they do what they do. It is excellent professional development and our teachers benefit from it, which, in turn, benefits our students and other staff members who work with those teachers,” says Dr. Lisa Beckham, Director of Instruction.



SCHOOL SYSTEM MAKES EXTENSIVE USE OF SURVEYS

As is true in other settings, educators are making more use of various kinds of data to evaluate the effectiveness of what they do. Mountain Brook Schools maintains an active system of surveys designed to help school leaders measure a wide range of attitudes about academics, school climate, effectiveness of instruction, and all aspects of the school system. Among other groups, the school system surveys students, graduates, faculty, and parents on a regular basis.

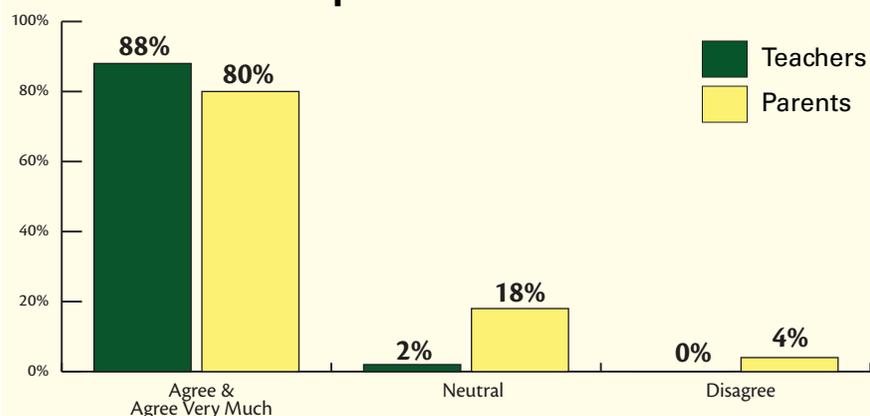
“Surveys are time-consuming, but we believe they are critical,” said Dicky Barlow, Superintendent of Schools. “We are serious about keeping up with the satisfaction level of various key groups. We survey our students as early as in the third grade and we continue to survey students through high school. Then, we survey our graduates three years after graduation. Parent surveys occur regularly at all grade levels, and those are especially important to our decision-making processes. We also survey teachers regularly and we look carefully at that data in planning programs and evaluating their effectiveness.”

In this issue of *The Reporter*, we are summarizing data from just a small sample of the questions asked on Mountain Brook Schools surveys. We are focusing on “school climate” questions posed to elementary students (Table 1), “Climate of openness and trust” as perceived by parents and by teachers, and, an overall “grade” assigned to the schools by junior high and high school students and parents.

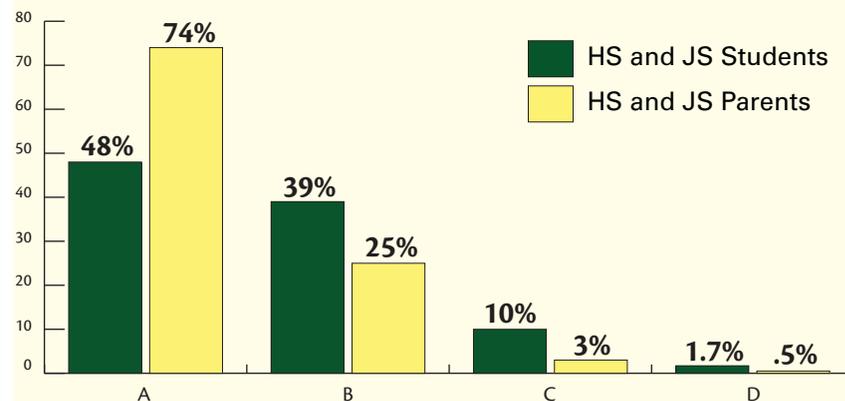
Elementary Students Feel Safe, Comfortable at School (2009 Survey of Mountain Brook Students, Grades 3-6)

Most students behave well in my school.	Yes	91%
I feel safe when at school.	Yes	98%
Most students at my school are helpful to each other.	Yes	90%
The rules at my school are fair.	Yes	94%
Most students at my school are respectful of me.	Yes	88%
Most adults at my school are respectful of me.	Yes	96%

A climate of openness and trust exists between parents and teachers.



Overall, what grade would you give Mountain Brook Schools?



Mountain Brook Sports Corporation Scores with Annual Fundraisers

Mountain Brook Sports Corporation (“MBSC”), a charitable organization formed to assist with the funding of the athletic programs at Mountain Brook High School and Mountain Brook Junior High School, announces the results of its two annual fundraisers. A few months ago, MBSC conducted its 11th Annual Golf Tournament at Highland Park Golf Course. Over 140 golfers participated in this Golf Tournament, including coaches, administrators, former players, parents and several avid golfers. MBSC would like to thank its major sponsors: Ready Mix USA; Regions Bank; Royal Cup Coffee; Kirkpatrick Concrete; ServisFirst Bank; First Protective Corporation; Lloyd, Gray & Whitehead; NBC Securities; AmWins Group; Oakworth Capital Bank, Golden Rule BBQ, Mountain Brook Sporting Goods and

Stone Building Company. The foursome of Ed Morris, Matt Moore, Jim Harmon and Patrick Drummond won the Tournament. Some of the money raised by this Tournament has already been used by the Mountain Brook High School athletic programs.

Also, MBSC conducted its First Annual Parent/Child Dove Shoot at Leavellwood Lodge in Greene County, Alabama on September 13, 2009. MBSC had over fifty guns participating in the fundraising event. The Dove Hunt gave many young hunters an opportunity to spend some quality time with their parent and learn about the outdoors. A great time was had by all. A special thank you goes out to Pam and Trey Montgomery from the Leavellwood Lodge for their great hospitality.

Over \$60,000 was raised from both fundraisers,

to be used for the athletic programs at Mountain Brook High School and Mountain Brook Junior High School. Recently, MBSC has purchased equipment or provided funding for the football, basketball, soccer, baseball, track, wrestling and volleyball programs at Mountain Brook High School. MBSC thanks all who participated in, and organized, both fundraisers.

In addition to the annual fundraisers, MBSC accepts charitable contributions from the public. Also, MBSC has started an Endowment Fund to provide long term financial stability to the athletic programs. If you would like further information about Mountain Brook Sports Corporation, please contact Mike Morrison at 870-3257 or Doug Centeno at 278-8000.



MOUNTAIN BROOK STUDENTS EXCEL ON STANDARDIZED TESTING

School systems make extensive use of standardized testing and other measures to evaluate educational effectiveness and to assess the progress of individual students and groups of students. In this issue of *The Reporter*, focusing on where the school system is, we present test score data on three tests, the Alabama Reading and Math Test (ARMT) and the American College Testing (ACT) program, along with a look at students' involvement in the Advanced Placement (AP) program.

The ARMT is a state-mandated, criterion-referenced test given to students in Grades 3 through 8. It is part of a system by which schools are accountable for educational outcomes. The ACT is familiar to readers as one of two major tests used by colleges and universities in the selection process and is taken by about 96% of the senior class. Advanced Placement courses are offered at the high school level and can be taken for college credit. A test is given at the end of the course to determine if college credit is earned. Twenty-four AP courses were offered last year at Mountain Brook High School.

Regarding the increase in students taking Advanced Placement courses, Mountain Brook High School Assistant Principal Missy Brooks said, "The main advantage of taking AP courses is they enhance preparation for college. It has been shown that students master in depth content at the college level more easily after completing AP courses in high school. Students also acquire more sophisticated academic skills and increased self-confidence in preparation for college."

Spring 2009 ARMT TESTING Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standard

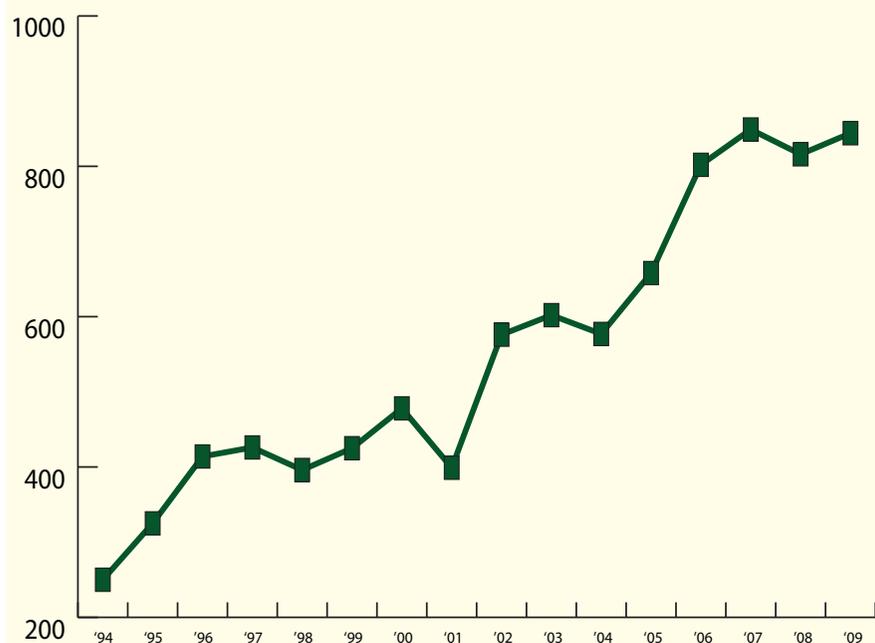
	Reading	Math
3rd Grade	98	99
4th Grade	99	99
5th Grade	99	98
6th Grade	98	98
7th Grade	98	97
8th Grade	97	98

2009 ACT Average Scores TOTAL TEST

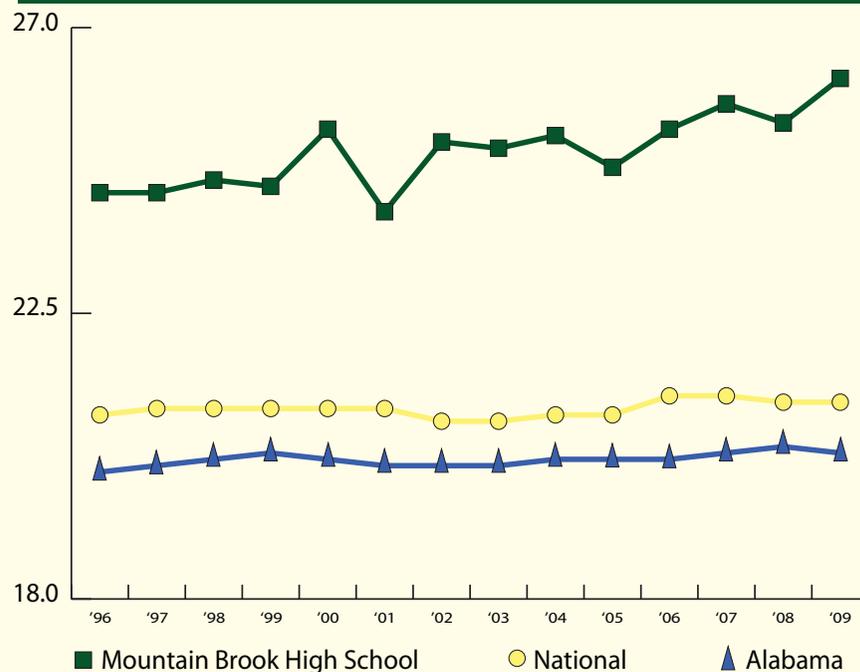
National Average	21.1
Alabama Average	20.3
MBHS Average	26.2

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Number of AP tests taken by MB students, 1994-2009



ACT Averages: National, Alabama and Mountain Brook Scores, 1996-2009





Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation



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Online Experience at Mountain Brook Junior High

Each year the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation provides funding for the schools in the areas of technology and staff development. The requests from the school system are made to a large group of foundation board members who collectively decide where our limited funds will go. The request for the 2009-2010 school year included \$40,000 for Tablet PCs and \$35,000 for a portable videoconferencing system at Mountain Brook Junior High. Approval of those requests put the wheels in motion and these innovative teaching tools are in place and offering a total online experience for students through the Health class.

With the Tablet PCs in the classroom, students use touch screen technology to access, analyze, and create course assignments and projects. These tablets allow students to write notes and convert them to text which are laptop functions, but they also have the ability to act as a notebook and pen. In addition to the latest hardware, the students use the latest software through Moodle which is a free online content management system. Recognized as one of the best learning management systems in education, Moodle helps engage students in learning while providing online organization for course delivery. It is available for students and teachers twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.

The online environment enables students to connect with speakers, presentations, other classrooms and health professional by using the two-way video conferencing system. This



video conferencing system not only will allow a cost effective opportunity for students to connect with guest speakers, but also will allow them to visit other classrooms, lectures, and health professionals around the world.

Funding for this exciting learning experience has provided technology which is being used every day during every period at the Junior High. By using the latest technology tools available, the MBJH Health class students are learning the health curriculum and developing 21st century skills to succeed in a digital world. **This would not have been possible without the support of the Foundation.** In order to continue to fund innovative enhancements to the classrooms, we need to increase our endowment. To accomplish that goal, we need your help. Please consider a gift to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation. A pledge card is included in this publication.

Your Gift Will Keep on Giving:

The mission of the Foundation is to mobilize community support and resources for the academic improvement of the school system. Guidelines established in its beginnings assure that every donation to the Foundation goes into an endowment operated under a spending formula that guarantees the school system a minimum distribution each year while maintaining the fund's principal. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. Contact your accountant or tax advisor to see how you can benefit from current tax rules or call us at 414-0042 for more information.

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Contact Information:

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