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.

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!
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 ($3,000 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 Olea’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.

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

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

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.
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, not to 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, bicyclists 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.

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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
5 Office Park Circle,
Suite 100......................... 879-7679

Boardwalk Commercial Real Estate
7 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 Wellsch—hairdresser at Arthurs Coiffures
2718 Cahaba Road.............. 879-8455

Jones & Combs—Jibere (new owner)
3000 Cahaba Village Plaza,
Suite 120.......................... 870-4247

Kiki Risa
2734 Cahaba Road................ 850/586-3211

PTAC Consulting Engineers
400 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

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)

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
- Flowers, 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.
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

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.
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.

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.
Discover Mountain Brook  ... explore the unique

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!

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.

WOW!
Have you seen our jewelry?
Valentines Day
Sunday February 14!

free wrapping and shipping services available

SNOOZY’S KIDS!
Crestline • 871-2662
Mon. - Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 10-5

Oak Street
Garden Shop
Valentine’s Gifts
Indoor & Outdoor
Flowers & Plants
Garden Accessories
Gift Baskets
Delivery Available

115 Oak Street
Crestline Village
205-870-7542

Travel in style with hip, fun & functional bags by Linda B.

2406 Canterbury Road
Mtn. Brook Village
879.2730
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

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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.

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.”

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 Hunshburger (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.

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.
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.”
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 professionals 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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