



# the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XXVII, Issue 4

## AMWASTE New Solid Waste provider

Amwaste is now providing solid waste, recycling, debris, and bulk trash service for the City of Mountain Brook. Waste is collected twice per week – Monday through Saturday. Your first collection of the week will be household garbage and recycling. (Yard waste should NOT be included in this collection.) All household garbage and recycling should be bagged to minimize litter during collection. Everything collected that day will be transported to RePower South and sorted. Your second collection of the week will be household garbage and yard waste (small amounts of bagged leaves, pine straw, grass clippings, small limbs, etc.) Everything collected that day will be taken to the landfill. No single bags may exceed 50 lbs. Cans should be placed 3 feet from the curb and away from a low-hanging line, utility poles, mailbox, storm drain, hedges and parked vehicles.

Backdoor service will be offered on an elective subscription basis paid quarterly by the homeowner. The cost of backdoor collection will vary depending on the inflation index. (around \$33.72 quarterly) Amwaste will bill the homeowners directly. Invoices will be emailed (default) or exceptions will be made if paper billing is requested.

**If you need to request backdoor service or have any service issues, go to <https://www.mtnbrook.org> and click on the Amwaste black garbage truck icon.**



**Choose what you need to request/report and enter your information. Amwaste monitors this site during business hours and will respond. From your smartphone, you can click on the QR code and request/report an issue as well.**

There are only minor changes in the overall service provided by Amwaste. For more information you can visit the Mountain Brook website at <https://www.mtnbrook.org>.

One noticeable change will be that the City of Mountain Brook Public Works crews will provide leaf service to residents. For more information and a pick-up schedule, click <https://www.mtnbrook.org/publicworks>.

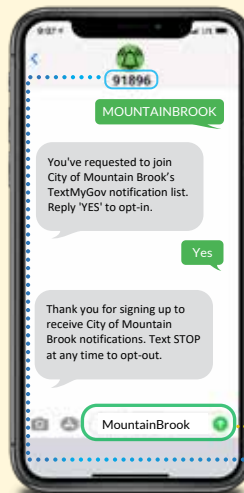
## Mayor's Message

As you are likely aware, we had an excellent turnout for the recent city council elections. About 41% of eligible residents voted, the highest turnout in our history and higher than the 2020 presidential election (39%).

Some of what we learned is the desire for greater communications and as a result, we are highlighting the following:

### RECEIVE TEXT ALERTS

#### ! City of Mountain Brook Alerts



The City of Mountain Brook has a new system to receive city notifications via text message.

#### New Alert Number

1. Switch to 91896 to receive text alerts.
2. Opt-out of 888-777 text alerts from the city as this system is being phased out.

#### Opt-in today,

Text MountainBrook

To: 91896

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TextMyGov

View terms and privacy policy info at: [textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions](https://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions)  
Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text STOP at any time to opt-out.  
Text HELP for contact info.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
PERMIT NO. 40

Mayor: Stewart H. Welch, III  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**Council President:**  
Virginia Carruthers Smith  
Council Pro Tem, William S. "Billy" Pritchard III,  
Alice Womack, Lloyd Shelton, Gerald Garner  
**City Manager:**  
Sam S. Gaston, 802-3800  
For advertising or Chamber of Commerce  
information, call 871-3779

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**Our BUSINESSES need your SUPPORT now more than ever!**  
**UPDATED INFORMATION AT [www.mtnbrookchamber.org](https://www.mtnbrookchamber.org)**  
**SHOP MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRST**

## Mayer Message (cont.)

### 1. Easy access to council agendas.

The easiest way for you to quickly follow what the city council is up to is to review the council agendas. The agenda is posted on the city web site on Friday before the Monday council meetings. We can deliver both the pre-meeting agenda and formal meeting agenda directly and automatically to your smart phone if you sign up for our text message system. You can sign up by texting MOUNTAINBROOK to 91896 using your cell phone. Of course, you are welcome to attend our council meetings in person. They are held the second and fourth Monday of each month. A quick scan of the agendas will give you a sense of what the council is working on and there is 'deep dive' material for topics of greater interest to you.

### 2. Easy access to our official city newsletter.



Our city newsletter, The Reporter, goes to all residents' mailboxes four times per year and provides a wealth of information about what is going on around our city. Mountain Brook Schools and the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce will be contributing to the Reporter to assist in effectively communicating with those residents who are not part of the school system or business community. The newsletter comes out in February, May, August, and November. We have been told that many of our younger residents prefer digital reading versus a paper newsletter. We post the newsletter to our website, [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org) and will begin delivering a direct link via our text message service.

### 3. Email access to council members and the mayor.

We have added photos and email addresses so you can easily reach out to council members with your questions and comments. Visit [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org); click on **GOVERNMENT**; then **CITY COUNCIL** or **MAYOR**.

Our city personnel and council members all work very hard with the common goal of making Mountain Brook a great place to live, play and raise a family. We believe in continuous improvement and always appreciate helpful suggestions from our residents.

## Graham Smith – City Council, Place 1

Thank you Mountain Brook for putting your trust and faith in me! I am beyond excited to get to work for our City. Since August 23rd, Sam Gaston and the City Council members have been working to ensure that I am ready to take office on November 7th. This City does not miss a BEAT! Less than 48 hours post election, your City Councilors were attending a four hour budget meeting, ensuring that Mountain Brook's \$47 million annual budget was balanced and poised to adequately fund our municipal operations in the first class manner we have come to expect. Projects on the horizon include upgrades to our parks and athletic fields, installation of new sidewalks, multiple drainage projects, additional resources and books at O'Neal Library, and further support for our police and fire departments. I could keep going, but you get the point; Mountain Brook is a great place to call home.

I know I speak for my fellow Councilors when I say that we want to hear from you! It's our job and honor to volunteer, serve, and represent you. Please email me if you think of a need, a concern, or simply something you'd like to know more about. My email address is [graham4mb@gmail.com](mailto:graham4mb@gmail.com). Additionally, this election has piqued some interest in municipal service; that's great! Our City has multiple boards and commissions always looking for engaged volunteers. On the City's homepage, [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org), is an easy to find button entitled 'get involved.' There's a quick application that's easy to fill out.

I ran on a platform of hard work for this City without an agenda. In the short time I have served in this role, I am even

more convinced that the position requires this mindset. Strategic thinking, comradery, and the ability to be nimble and flexible are a hallmark of strong, healthy City government. Our Council has this in spades.

If we haven't been formally introduced, here's a bit of background on me. I live in Mountain Brook with my two elementary-age sons and husband Harrison, who is an attorney at Maynard Cooper and a graduate of Mountain Brook High School. I grew up on Long Island, graduated from Washington & Lee University and later received an MBA from The University of Alabama.

I previously worked in the Office of Advancement for the University of Alabama and served as U.S. Senator Richard Shelby's Legislative Director. Currently, I am a stay-at-home mom of two boys and a community volunteer, which has included serving as the PTO President of Cherokee Bend Elementary School and as a member of the Mountain Brook Planning Commission, Editorial Board, and Friends of Jemison Park.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I hope to see you around town. For now, I'm off to work!



## MUNICIPAL ELECTION RECAP

Historically, the city has conducted elections every other (even) year on the fourth Tuesday in August. Following the most recent election in August, the city will hold elections every other (odd) year (in the year 2025 and 2027). This year, City Council Places 1, 3 and 5 were up for re-election. These candidates will serve a 5-year term because their terms were extended by 1-year by an act of Alabama Legislature in order to change elections from even to odd years. After these 5-year terms, all future terms of office will be 4-years.

### • City Council Place 1:

Graham Smith (5,532) won against Christopher Powanda (1,991)

### • City Council Place 3:

Incumbent William S. "Billy" Pritchard III (5,322) won against Kent Osband (2,187)

### • City Council Place 5:

Incumbent Lloyd C. Shelton (5,053) won against Tate A. Davis (2,460)

The newly elected officials shall begin their 5-year terms on the first Monday in November. The voter turnout for the August 23, 2022 election was 41.3%. The next time you vote, please remember to thank your poll workers for their service and the church and school officials who allow the City and Jefferson County the use of their facilities.

The City is responsible for managing municipal elections only. All other elections are managed by Jefferson County. If you have any questions about the November election, please contact the Board of Registrars at (205) 325-5550.

## Alice Womack – Thank You for Your Service!

It is with much gratitude that I end my eight year tenure on the City Council. It is natural when saying “goodbye” to a position to reflect on something for which you take the most pride. For me, that pride is not in a particular project, but in the processes, collaboration and culture of the Mountain Brook City Government that I witness daily in my role as a City Councilor. When Judge Turner Williams was appointed to a supernumerary position earlier this year, he thanked the Council for allowing him the autonomy to do the right thing in his courtroom. His statement resonated with me as the work ethic and mutual level of respect is what I witness regularly with City staff at every level of our city. This does not just happen. We have the best of the best...men and women that are knowledgeable and passionate about what they do every day for our residents, going above and beyond. Our first mayor, Charles Zuloski, established the state’s first mayor-council-manager form of government, and we are fortunate to have the cream of the crop, Sam Gaston, as our city manager. The Council and Mayor are not only provided direct access to each of our department heads and staff (no, this does not happen with all municipalities), but also encouraged to engage with any that would be appropriate to best guide decisions for our residents. So many of you have sent letters

and emails or called to acknowledge your gratitude when one of our departments has provided you a level of service that you appreciate...thank you...each is read and so appreciated. I have learned so much from our department heads and staff. We are fortunate to have a community of volunteers dedicated to our city that serve on commissions and boards that provide expertise and experience to make good decisions. I have learned from our mayor and fellow councilors that engage in respectful dialogue and deliberations. I am grateful.

My gratitude and respect extends beyond our city as well as I have been fortunate to have served alongside our Council President, Virginia Smith, and a dedicated group of Councilors from approximately 20 other municipalities in Jefferson County. For four years now, Councilors in our region have been intentional in meeting to discuss issues that affect us all and a formalized group was established in 2021 to model the existing Mayor’s Roundtable. Suggested by Hoover Councilor Casey Middlebrooks, facilitated by Jefferson County Commissioner, Steve Ammons, and now led by the Community Foundation, this group has developed supportive relationships that have assisted in formal collaborative efforts like the Cahaba Solid Waste Disposal Authority to tackle garbage and recycling issues to regular



sharing of ideas for ordinances, awareness of legislative issues and most recently navigating the complexities of a pandemic as it relates to city government.

I am so incredibly honored to have served with such a fine group of dedicated individuals at the City of Mountain Brook and the Councilors of our neighboring cities all working tirelessly and collaboratively. Thank you for this opportunity - these relationships I hold most dear and will treasure always.

## Business License Renewals

Business license renewals for the City of Mountain Brook are due on January 1, 2023 and will be delinquent January 31, 2023. Licenses not renewed timely will be subject to penalties and interest.

Business owners should receive a renewal reminder prior to January. If you do not receive your renewal notice prior to January 1, please inform the Revenue Department. Please complete the renewal notice and return along with your payment.

If you pay for your renewal online, the amount that is already populated is only the issue fee, not the total license fee. Many license fees are based on your last year’s gross receipts and require you to input that amount.

If your business receives a renewal notice and you are no longer conducting business in the City, please mark the renewal notice with the ending date of the business and mail it back or fax to **205-870-3590** so that we may update our files.

If you have any questions concerning the renewal of your license or payment of taxes, please call **Senior Revenue Examiner, Jack Bankston at 205-802-3808** or the **Revenue Department at 205-802-2400 option 4**.

New businesses can apply for a license by printing an

application from our website, [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org). The business license application may be found under “Business” on the top navigation bar and then “Business Application” under “Forms and Permits.”

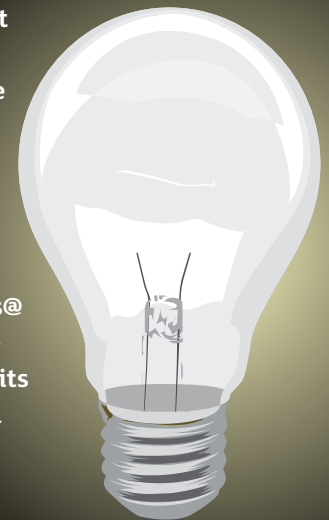
Online payment options for Business Licenses and Sales Taxes are available on our website [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org) under “Pay Bills” located in the middle of the home page.

Please be aware that home-based businesses are required to obtain a home occupation permit in addition to a business license. This permit form is also available from our website [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org) under “Business” on the top navigation bar, then “Home Occupation Application” under “Forms and Permits”.

Residents, please remember to verify with the Revenue Department any contractor hired to perform work at your home, including landscaping/yard work or a service company, that they are licensed to work in the City by calling **205-802-2400 option 4**. Any contracting work being conducted within the city limits must be permitted. **Permit applications may be obtained at City Hall, located at 56 Church Street in Crestline Village.**

## Street Light Out?

**Alabama Power Company maintains nearly 400 street lights on the streets and alleys of our City. However, they do not regularly check for street lights that are not working. If you see a street light that is out, please report it to the City Manager’s office at 802-3800 or [gastons@mtnbrook.org](mailto:gastons@mtnbrook.org) so the City can coordinate its repair with Alabama Power Company.**





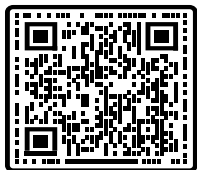
# Waste & Recycling Collection Guidelines



## Collection Schedule

- Waste is collected **2x per week**. Enter your home address at the interactive maps at <https://www.mtnbrook.org/publicworks/page/waste-and-leaf-pick-schedules> to check your scheduled service days.
- Materials should be **out by 6:30am** on your service days. (Routes begin at 7am.)
- First collection day each week:** "mixed stream" – everything collected that day is transported to RePower South and sorted to separate recyclables from waste.
- Second collection day each week:** Large bulk and brush piles will continue to be collected weekly. If space allows, place small limb piles or bagged yard waste in the cart.
- Collection missed or other issue? **Report issues** at the Amwaste tab on our website. Amwaste has direct access to our Amwaste tab and will react to your request promptly. Submit a request under "Garbage Missed Pickup" at <https://tinyurl.com/5xfc28tn>. You can call Public Works at (205) 802-2390.

For more information visit [https://mtnbrookal.gov/ga/WEBAPP/\\_rs/Supporthome.aspx](https://mtnbrookal.gov/ga/WEBAPP/_rs/Supporthome.aspx) or scan the QR code below.



## Recycling

- The **first collection each week is transported to RePower South (RPS)** and sorted to separate recyclables from waste.  
**Nearly everything is recycled**, other than food, organic waste (dirt, rocks, grass, etc.) and glass. Of the remaining materials, RPS transforms approximately 70% of this waste into two products:
  - Sold commodities.** Recyclable commodities are baled and sold into established commodity markets.
  - ReEF fuel.** Some materials, such as non-recyclable papers and some plastics, are not able to be sold as a commodity. RPS recycles these materials into "ReEF" fuel, which is used as a replacement for coal in industrial and energy utility boilers.
- How does RPS "work"?** No need to sort/clean recyclables – recycling and household waste should be bagged together. At RPS, the materials are put through a system of sorters that separate waste materials from recyclables. View the RePower South **recycling process video** at <https://youtu.be/qOxJaOQOkPM>.

## Holidays

- Annual observed holidays:** New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving & Christmas. Dates may be subject to change.
- Service will NOT be delayed by one day** following the holiday. If the holiday falls on a weekend, service will not be interrupted.

## Carts & Placement

- Please use the new carts delivered to your residence for collection service. If your cart requires repair or replacement, please submit a request at the Amwaste tab on our website under "Cart - Deliver/Remove."
- Place recycling and waste in SAME CART** – recycling is NO LONGER collected separately. Bag household waste and recyclable materials together for collection on the first pick-up of the week.
- Place cart on the curb by 6:30am** with the arrows on the lid pointing to the street (3' or less from the curb).
- Do not place carts on:** sidewalk; storm drain cover; gutter; steep slope; elevated platform; under low-hanging utility line/obstruction; or within 6' of a fixed object (mailbox, hedges, parked vehicle, etc.)
- Bag loose garbage & recycling** to prevent wind-blown litter and unsanitary cart conditions.
- Single bags may not exceed 50 lbs.**

## Backdoor Collection

- Backdoor collection is no longer a standard service.** If you would like to receive the elective backdoor service, please request at the Amwaste tab on our website under "Backdoor Pickup - Sign up."
- Amwaste personnel will not enter gates, doors, garages or fenced areas to complete back door service.

## Debris & Bulk Collection

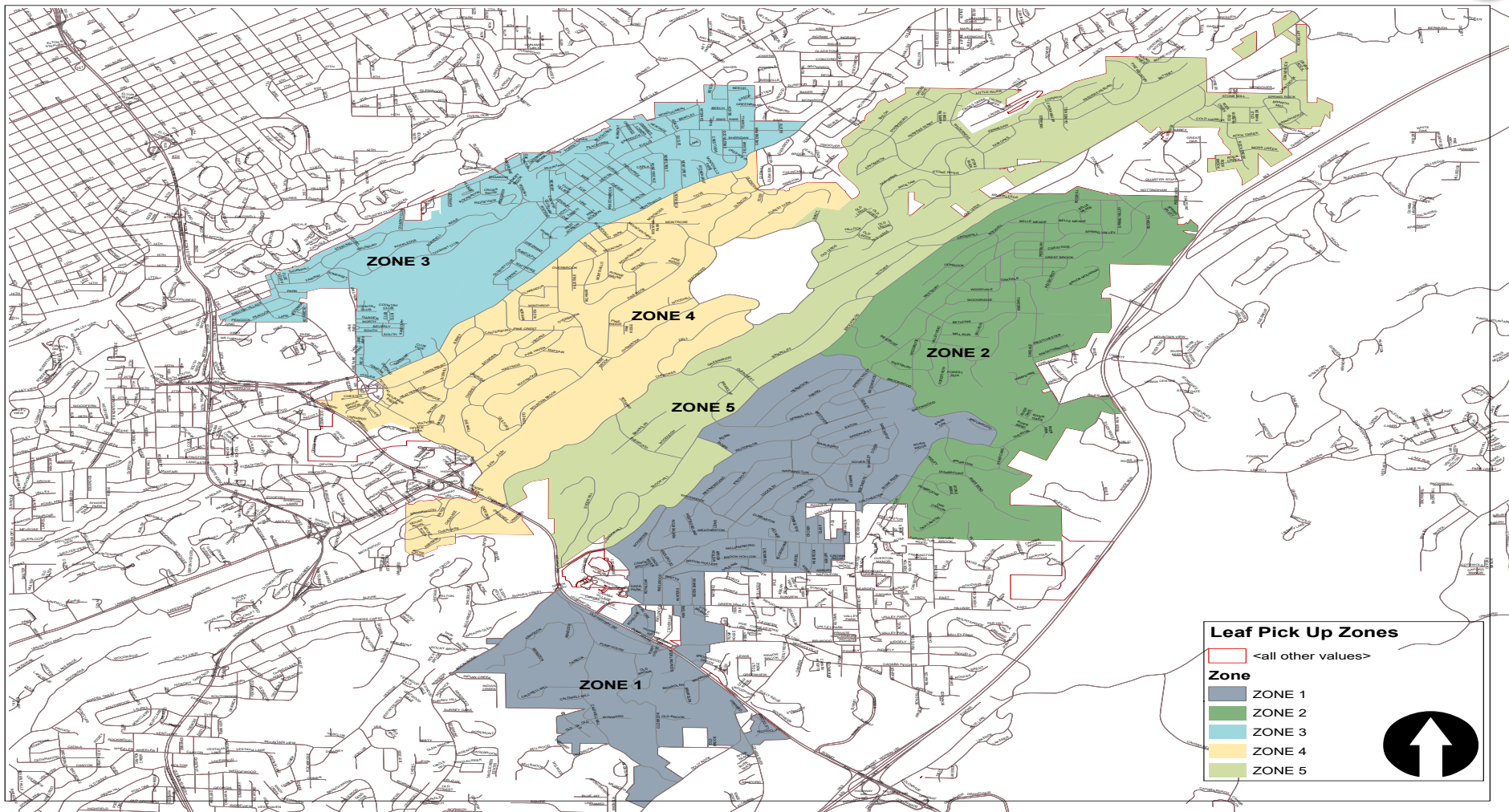
- Bulk and brush will continue to be collected weekly Monday - Friday.** For large piles of yard debris/bulk trash, submit a "Debris/Bulk Request" at the Amwaste tab on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/5xfc28tn>,
- Small amounts of loose debris should be bagged and placed in cart for the second collection of each week.** If it can not be bagged, place small piles next to cart for second collection each week. Submit a pickup request of 10+ bags.
- Only homeowner-generated materials will be collected.** Contracted work (landscaping, construction, etc.) must be removed by the contractor. Use a roll-off dumpster for construction/reno projects generating significant debris.
- Place materials no more than 3' from the curb** and away from obstructions.
- Branches may **not be longer than 6' long**.
- Cross ties (railroad ties) will not be collected.** They contain creosote and are not accepted by landfills.
- Refrigerated appliances require a Freon removal tag** issued by a certified technician.
- Visit <https://www.mtnbrook.org/publicworks/page/waste-and-leaf-pick-schedules> for a **list of material that will/will not be collected**. If you have questions or are unsure, call Public Works at (205) 802-2390.

## Amwaste Observed Holidays

Our new solid waste and recycle provider, Amwaste, will observe the following holidays:

**New Year's Day**  
**Memorial Day**  
**Independence Day**  
**Labor Day**  
**Thanksgiving Day**  
**Christmas Day**

Amwaste will provide twice a week garbage service. Service will not be delayed by a day as in the past. If your service date falls on an observed holiday, there will be no pickup on the holiday, and impacted residents, will receive only one pickup during the holiday week.



## Scheduled Leaf Collection Periods

DAY	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
MONDAY- ZONE 1	OCT. 31 – Nov. 3	Nov. 28 – Dec.1	Dec. 27 – Dec. 30	Jan. 27 – Feb. 2
TUESDAY - ZONE 2	Nov. 4 – Nov. 9	Dec. 2 – Dec. 7	Jan. 3 – Jan. 6	Feb. 3 – Feb. 8
WEDNESDAY- ZONE 3	Nov. 10 – Nov. 14	Dec. 8 – Dec. 12	Jan. 9 – Jan. 12	Feb. 9 – Feb. 13
THURSDAY - ZONE 4	Nov. 15 - Nov. 18	Dec. 13 – Dec. 16	Jan. 13 – Jan. 19	Feb. 14 – Feb. 17
FRIDAY - ZONE 5	Nov. 19 – Nov. 23	Dec. 19 – Dec. 23	Jan. 20 – Jan. 26	Feb. 20 – Feb. 24

### Dear Mountain Brook Resident:

The City of Mountain Brook will be collecting your leaves, not Waste Management or Amwaste. The schedule listed above will be your leaf collection schedule for the fall and winter of 2022-2023. The dates listed are the time frames that we will be in your area.

- Please have your leaves at the curb prior to the beginning of a round.
- Please only place leaves at the curb for this collection, and do not include items such as branches, rocks, or bags within the leaf piles.
- Please do not have your leaf piles staged in close proximity to the storm drains.
- If leaves are not out prior to the start date of your scheduled collection, then your service will take place during the next scheduled round for your area.
- Leaves brought out after the beginning of the final round must be bagged for collection. If you choose to bag your leaves, then your bagged leaves will be serviced on your regularly scheduled trash collection day.

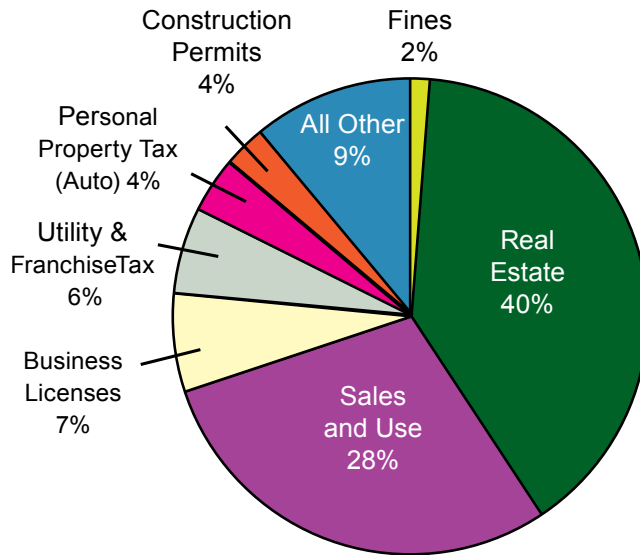


# 2023 City Budget

The City Council adopted the 2023 budget in September. The General Fund budget reflects a surplus of \$181,000, and the General Fund revenue totals \$47 million. Some of the notable General Fund revenues include:

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

## 2023 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET



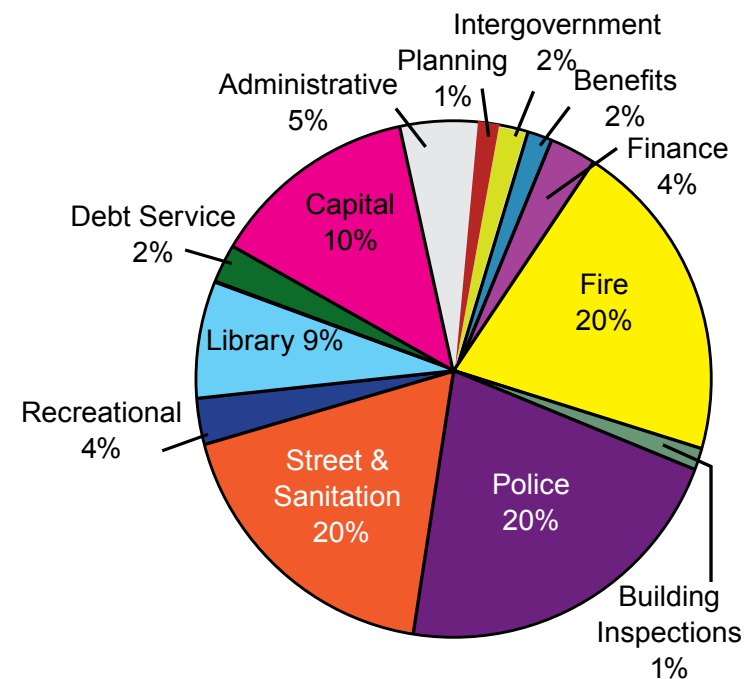
Source of Revenue	2022	2023	% Change
Real estate tax	\$18,150,000	\$18,393,000	1.3%
Sales tax	12,498,000	13,664,000	9.3
Grants	3,406,000	17,500	(99.5)
License & franchise fees	2,766,000	3,503,000	26.6
Utility taxes	1,891,000	1,899,000	0.4
Automobile property tax	1,434,000	1,579,000	10.1
Construction permits	1,070,000	1,078,000	0.7
Fines	386,000	328,000	(15.0)
All other	5,321,042	6,130,246	15.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$47,342,914</b>	<b>\$47,038,884</b>	<b>(0.6%)</b>

### Other items of interest in the various capital projects funds:

- New sidewalk construction including Pine Ridge Road and the roundabouts in Mountain Brook Village—\$3.8 million of which \$3.45 million will be paid by way of federal awards
- Caldwell Mill Road over Little Shades Creek bridge replacement—\$642,000
- Old Brook Trail over Little Shades Creek and Canterbury Road over Watkins Creek bridge rehabilitation—\$1.7 million of which \$1.3 million will be paid by way of federal awards
- Old Leeds Road sidewalk connecting Shady Lane to Old Leeds Lane—\$302,000
- Brookwood Road sidewalk extension—\$250,000
- Various flood mitigation and drainage projects—\$880,000
- Athletic Complex improvements—\$90,000
- Jemison Trail improvements—\$540,000 (year one of a contemplated 3-year plan)
- Mountain Brook Junior High athletic field improvements—\$300,000
- Tot Lot Park improvements—\$750,000
- Other park facilities and infrastructure improvements—\$478,000
- Design fees related to the anticipated new Fire Station to be constructed on Overton Road to replace the Locksley Drive Fire Station No. 2—\$500,000
- 115 foot ladder truck—\$1.5 million
- Replacement of protective equipment for the Fire Department—\$435,000
- Patrol vehicles and related equipment—\$550,000
- Public Works equipment and vehicles—\$1.6 million
- Fire alarm panel and fire curtain doors for the O’Neal Library—\$89,000

2023 General Fund expenses and transfers total \$47.1 million, which represents a 0.5% decrease from last year’s budget. The chart below illustrate the functional and departmental allocation of the City’s General Fund expenses:

## 2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT





## Recent City Council Actions

### The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since July 1, 2022:

- Ordinance No. 2127 - Amended Section 109-31 of the City Building Code.
- Ordinance No. 2128 - Amended the budget for the year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022.
- Ordinance No. 2129 - Adopted the budget for the year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023.

### The City Council has approved the following projects since July 1, 2022:

- Proclaimed July 2022 as Parks and Recreation Month.
- Approved the proposal between the City and Granicus with respect to the GOVQA software program for garbage services.
- Installed one fire hydrant to service Crestline Elementary School located at 5 Elm Street.
- Authorized the city to join the state of Alabama and other local governments as participants in current and future opioid settlements.
- Awarded the bid for patrol vehicle outfitting to Mobile Communications of America.

- Executed an agreement between the city and Wilbanks Engineering & Environmental Solutions, LLC for the engineering of streambank restoration at Jemison Park.
- Approved the reimbursement agreement between the city and The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham for the Caldwell Mill Road project.
- Remitted the final installment of the infrastructure development incentive with respect to the Lane Parke project.
- Proclaimed September 2022 as Alopecia Awareness Month.
- Accepted the bid for scheduled maintenance of the municipal complex mechanical systems submitted by Comfort Systems USA.
- Accepted the proposal submitted by Sain Associates with respect to on-call/demand contract engineering services.
- Accepted the proposal by Building and Earth for the subsurface exploration and geotechnical consultation services for the Mountain Brook Junior High School storm drainage project.
- Awarded the bid for the Public Works metal roof project to GoodGame Company.
- Awarded the bid for the landscape service

- contract to Blackjack Horticulture.
- Executed a contract with Meadows Contracting Inc. for the fire curtain at The O'Neal Library.
- Executed a contract with Meadows Contracting Inc. for the bullet-resistant windows in the City Manager's office suite.
- Authorized the Right of Way Encroachment Agreement with Grant and Kacey Todd with respect to 2100 English Village Lane.
- Approved the conditional professional office use application for PM Method Physical Therapy at 2000 Cahaba Road, Suite 200 (English Village).
- Appointed poll workers for the August 23, 2022 general municipal election.
- Authorized the agreement with Schoel Engineering Company Inc. for consulting services associated with the study of drainage problems in the vicinity of Lorena Lane and Fairmont Drive.
- Authorized the agreement with Schoel Engineering Company Inc. for consulting services associated with the drainage improvements in the vicinity of 129 Cherry Street.
- Authorized the agreement with Schoel Engineering Company Inc. for consulting services associated

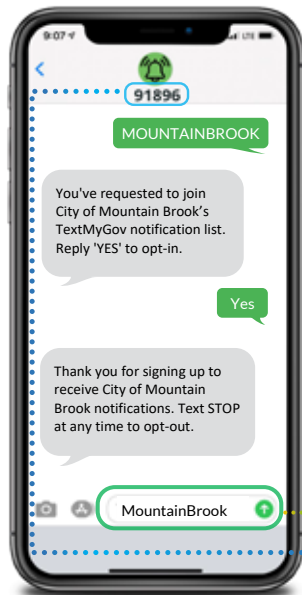
- with the drainage improvements in the 900 Block of Euclid Avenue.
- Authorized the agreement with Schoel Engineering Company Inc. for consulting services to review the city drainage ordinance and recommendations for changes to stormwater management practices.
- Proclaimed September 2022 as Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month.
- Authorized the expenditure of funds for traffic island improvements at the intersection of Fairway and West Jackson.
- Authorized the Regional Training Center Agreement with Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission that grants Mountain Brook to function as a Regional Training Center.
- Approved the conditional service use application submitted by Virginia Grisham and Eleanor Tolbert (Grisham Tolbert Interiors) for property at 2402 Canterbury Lane.
- Authorized change order No. 1 with respect to the Caldwell Mill Road bridge project in the amount of \$61,480.00.
- Canvassed the results of the August 23, 2022 City of Mountain Brook General Municipal Election.
- Presented the Medal of Valor Proclamation to John Michael Chan-Dash.

- Proclaimed September 17 – 23, 2022 as Constitution Week.
- Accepted the proposal by Wright Construction Company and executed a construction contract for the Old Leeds Road Sidewalk Project.
- Accepted the proposal submitted by the Barrett Architecture Studio, LLC for the professional design services of the Mountain Brook Fire Station No. 2 project currently located at 3785 Locksley Drive.
- Accepted the proposal by K&K Systems for the installation of crosswalk warning signs with LED flashing lights at Montrose Road and Mountain Park Drive.
- Executed an agreement with Civil & Structural Solutions LLC for the roof repairs on the Parks and Recreation building.
- Authorized a contract with Bearden Services LLC for the abatement of 751 Bentley Drive.
- Approved the conditional service use for MPower located at 2419 Canterbury Road.
- Approved the conditional use application for lunchtime operation at Rougaroux located at 2716 Culver Road.
- Proclaimed October as Down Syndrome Awareness month.
- Increased the salary schedule for all classified, unclassified and part-time employees by four and one-half percent (4.5%)

- effective October 11, 2022, and increased the compensation for contract security services for the City's Public Works facilities, the City Prosecutor, and Municipal Judges by four and one-half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2022.
- Recommended to the State of Alabama, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the issuance of a Restaurant Retail Liquor license to Real and Rosemary Crestline LLC.
- Executed an audit engagement letter with respect to the city's annual independent financial audit.
- Executed an engagement letter for the retiree medical other post-employment benefit (OPEB) plan.
- Executed a Master Contract for Public Safety Services with Alabama Power Company (APCO) for the use of their facilities for license plate recognition services.
- Entered into an agreement with the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority.
- Approved the conditional office use application for property at 127 Oak Street for homeRN.
- Accepted the services proposal submitted by Bailey Land Group with respect to topographic survey for Fire Station #2 located on Overton Road.

## RECEIVE TEXT ALERTS

### City of Mountain Brook Alerts



The City of Mountain Brook has a new system to receive city notifications via text message.

#### New Alert Number

1. Switch to 91896 to receive text alerts.
2. Opt-out of 888-777 text alerts from the city as this system is being phased out.

#### Opt-in today,

Text **MountainBrook**

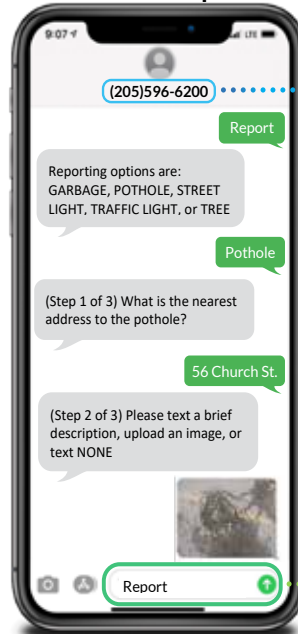
To: **91896**

Powered by **TextMyGov**

View terms and privacy policy info at: [textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions](http://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions)  
Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text STOP at any time to opt-out. Text HELP for contact info.

## REPORT AN ISSUE

### Need to Report an Issue?



Use your phone's text messaging service to report issues to the City of Mountain Brook.

#### Try it today,

Text **Report**  
To: **(205)596-6200**

Additional Report Texting Keyword Options Include:  
POTHOLE, STREET LIGHT, TRAFFIC LIGHT, ANIMAL CONTROL, GARBAGE, and TREE

Powered by **TextMyGov**

View terms and privacy policy info at: [textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions](http://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions)  
Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies.

## Safety Tips for Pedestrians



### Be Safe and Be Seen:

#### Make yourself visible to drivers

- Wear bright/light colored clothing and reflective materials.
- Carry a flashlight when walking at night.
- Cross the street in a well-lit area at night.
- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing so drivers can see you.

### Be Smart and Alert:

#### Avoid dangerous behaviors

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Stay sober; walking while impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Don't assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers, don't just look at the vehicle. If a driver is on a cell phone, he or she may not be paying enough attention to drive safely.
- Don't rely solely on pedestrian signals. Look before you cross the road.
- Be alert to engine noise or backup lights on cars when in parking lots and near on-street parking spaces.

### Be Careful at Crossings: Look before you step

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.
- Obey traffic signals such as WALK/DON'T WALK signs.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Watch for turning vehicles. Make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- Look across ALL lanes you must cross and visually clear each lane before proceeding. Even if one motorist stops, do not presume drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.
- Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing.

### Municipal Code Sec. 46-7. - Use of city streets and roadways by pedestrians.

- During the hours of 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m., individuals shall be permitted to walk, jog, or run along and upon city streets and roadways, as long as said individuals are within six feet of the edge of the street or roadway, and provided that said individuals shall wear either:
  1. Reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back that covers at least 50 square inches; or
  2. Strobe style continuously flashing lights at least two inches in diameter between the waist and shoulders that are visible from the front and back.

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holiday season fast approaching it is especially important for each of us to be cautious and alert when shopping. Crime tends to increase significantly during the holiday season. Due to the stress of family get-togethers, seasonal parties and all sorts of other holiday festivities we tend to be in a rush. Our level of alertness may not be what it should. This is exactly the time and opportunity criminals are looking for; someone who appears to be inattentive and not being mindful of their surroundings. In other words, an "easy target." The following are steps you can take to significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim:

- Use a credit card if possible. Or, carry just enough cash to pay for your errands. If you must carry large amounts of cash, separate it

- into amounts needed and place in different pockets.
- Be extremely careful using an ATM. Use them in populated places and constantly pay attention to what is going on around you.
- If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body and always keep it zipped or fastened.
- Park as close as you can to the mall or store where you will be shopping.
- Park only in well lit areas if possible.
- Have your keys ready to open your vehicle before you exit the store.
- Remember exactly where you parked.
- Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less tired.
- When you are hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of ID and credit cards returned to you before leaving.
- Use an escort or store security if you

- have too many packages or if you are leaving after store closing times.
- Keep gifts or packages out of plain view inside your vehicle.
- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows of your residence.
- After opening gifts, break down boxes and packaging of expensive items such as electronics or from high-end stores. Put them in plastic bags to hide you have valuable items like them in your home.
- Carry a cell phone and have emergency numbers readily available.

Practicing these steps can go a long way in ensuring that you and your loved ones are not easy targets for would be criminals. An ounce of precaution throughout the holiday season can greatly reduce the chances of being taken advantage of during what should be a joyous time of year.





## Quarterly Crime Statistics

	2nd Quarter 2022	3rd Quarter 2022
Robbery	0	0
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0
Burglary/Residence	6	12
Burglary/Business	1	0
Theft	43	53
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	19	17
Auto Theft	1	7
Assaults (Other)	0	2
Identity Theft	19	15
Criminal Mischief	8	13
Drugs	61	54
Family Violence	5	7
Accidents	334	251
• With Injuries	12	21
• With Fatalities	0	0
Calls For Service	6275	7408
House Watches	499	402

### WANT TO HELP US LOWER THESE NUMBERS?

1. Lock your vehicle.
2. Take your keys.
3. Do not 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 are not at home.

**See it! Hear it! Report it!** Let us know when you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

## Schedule of Meetings

<b>CITY COUNCIL</b>	2nd & 4th Mon.	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
	<i>(Call 205-802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting)</i>		
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office 205-871-4608
<b>LIBRARY BOARD</b>	3rd Tues.	4:30 p.m.	Library
<b>PARK &amp; REC. BOARD</b>	2nd Tues.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
<b>BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT</b>	3rd Mon.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b>	1st Mon.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
<b>DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE</b>	3rd Wed.	8:00 a.m.	City Hall
<b>BOARD OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN</b>	1st Tues.	5:15 p.m.	City Hall
<b>CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	City Hall

## Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	2nd Quarter - 2022		3rd Quarter - 2022	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	8	\$ 11,360,827	5	\$ 4,729,013
Alterations/Additions	111	\$ 18,977,932	82	\$ 24,334,367
Repairs/Other	190	\$ 6,500,906	167	\$ 4,726,069
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>\$ 36,839,665</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>\$ 33,789,449</b>

### COMPARISON OF YEAR - 2021

Permit Type:	2nd Quarter - 2021		2nd Quarter - 2021	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	15	\$ 29,108,043	15	\$ 10,876,450
Alterations/Additions	115	\$ 72,481,187	92	\$ 14,557,930
Repairs/Other	199	\$ 7,061,576	212	\$ 5,288,381
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>\$108,650,806</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>\$ 30,722,761</b>

## New Businesses

### PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Courtney Wood LLC Counseling and Consulting, 3 Office Park Circle, 205-915-6292
- Luca LLC, 2730 Courtland Drive, 205-719-4151
- Rentless Strategies, 225 Country Club Park, 205-623-0804
- Ritchey, Paige, (dba\ Professor Paige), 3736 Montrose Road, 205-913-8555
- Jeremy Edgerly OD LLC, (dba\ Mountain Brook Eye Care), 921 Jemison Lane, 205-902-2765
- Rheumatology Associates, PC, 12 Office Park Circle, 205-933-0320
- The Morning Sickness Clinic LLC, 2700 US Highway 280, 720-600-1571

### RESTAURANTS & RETAILERS

- The HWH Group LLC, 2003 Cahaba Road, 205-202-3133
- JCPS LLC, (dba\ Planet Smoothie), 2737 US Highway 280, 205-871-8143
- Children's Edit, 2003 Cahaba Road, 334-441-9036
- Organics Brands Lane Parke LLC, (dba\ Clean Juice Lane Parke), 1081 Jemison Lane, 205-922-9065
- Jenis Splendid Ice Creams LLC, 2525 Lane Parke Road, 614-307-5555
- Ladybird Taco BHM, 300 Rele Street, 512-906-9858

## Board Appointments/Reappointments:

- Re-appointed Ashley Spotswood to the Village Design Review Committee with the term of office to end August 12, 2025.
- Re-appointed Katie Wohlwend to the Village Design Review Committee with the term of office to end August 23, 2025.
- Re-appointed Russ Doyle to the Board of Zoning Adjustment with the term of office to end September 13, 2025.
- Appointed LaVonda Keel to the O'Neal Library Board with the term of office to end September 30, 2026.

# Mountain Brook Parks & Recreation

## Recycled Yard Signs

In September, the city collected yard signs from many different events including recent elections. Neowaste picked up the signs and will recycle them at their plant in Pell City. Thanks to everyone for this green initiative! We appreciate Public Works organizing and loading the signs on the trailer.



## Field #1 Improvements at the Athletic Complex

Field #1 improvements are almost complete. This is the last baseball field to be converted to artificial turf. The dramatic changes to this field also include the addition of extra fields in the outfield corners, a restroom/concession stand building, and a massive multipurpose batting facility. Morris-Shea Bridge Company did a fabulous job bringing this vision to life!

## Youth Athletic Programs

The City of Mountain Brook partners with three sports organizations to provide our youth with some of the finest recreational programs in the area. These organizations are listed along with their website addresses. No experience is necessary and there are a variety of sports for your children to try and see which one they love the most

- **Mountain Brook Athletics (MBA)**  
www.mbatletics.org  
Registration for Spring Sports will begin mid-late December.

- **Mountain Brook Lacrosse** www.gbyla.org  
email: mountainbrooklacrosse@gmail.com  
Registration opened Nov 1 using the new website.
- **Mountain Brook Soccer Club**  
www.birminghamunited.com  
email: rec@birminghamunited.com  
Registration for Spring season will open December 1.





## Tree City USA Growth Award

Mountain Brook was recently recognized by The Arbor Day Foundation for 20 consecutive years of earning a Growth Award as part of the Tree City USA program. This is a remarkable achievement and places Mountain Brook as a leader within the state of Alabama for tree conservation and urban forestry.

For any city to be recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA, that city must meet four criteria:

1. Someone must have statutory authority over the city's trees. This can be a citizen advisory board – like our Board of Landscape Design – or it can be a specific city department. When there is a citizen's board, it generally works in tandem with a city department.
2. There must be a tree care ordinance that, at a minimum, is in force 24/7/365 and establishes criteria for managing the city's trees (something addressing standards for planting, removal, and care of public trees).
3. The city must spend at least \$2 per capita on its trees.
4. The city must host an annual Arbor Day celebration that includes a proclamation by the mayor.

Being recognized by Tree City USA is a great way to build public interest in the city's urban forest and grow support for improving that resource so it provides as much benefit to the city as it possibly can. Mountain Brook has been

a Tree City USA for 28 consecutive years.

The Growth Award program was implemented to recognize communities that go beyond the four basic criteria and really begin working to improve their urban canopy. There is an array of tree-centric activities that earn a city "points" toward its Growth Award. To apply for a growth award, a city must have been a Tree City USA for at least a year and show proof of activities worth at least 10 points.

In the decades since the program began, 46 communities in Alabama have been recognized with Growth Awards for their urban forest achievements. However, in 2021, only four cities were so recognized. Mountain Brook was not only one of those four cities, 2021 was at least their 20th consecutive year of recognition. Only Daphne, Gulf Shores, and Foley can claim similar years of recognition, and only Gulf Shores has matched Mountain Brook in recent years. For Mountain Brook to have been recognized for consistent program development for two decades is especially significant when you realize they began applying for and receiving the recognition within 8 years of first achieving Tree City USA status. Many cities spend decades simply maintaining the minimum standard before they ever consider growing their program. This speaks to the city's tremendous commitment to tree conservation and sustainable practices.



Most of Mountain Brook is kept clean, but there are times that litter does collect in certain locations. If the garbage can closest to you is full, please deposit your trash in the next available can. When trash and litter are left on the ground, it makes its way into our streams and negatively affects the ecosystem and communities downstream from us.

Our parks see the results of litter left on the ground. Each time it rains, trash collects along our creek banks causing hazards to our wildlife and native plants. We are fortunate to have caring individuals such as Paul Brown, Jean Owens, and Blair Agricola that collect this trash and report it to our Parks and Recreation department

to remove. We also appreciate The Friends of Jemison and local boy scouts for their help in cleaning up the parks and creek banks. It takes all of us to care for our natural resources and keep Mountain Brook clean and beautiful.

## Changes to the Dog Control Ordinance

For the safety and wellbeing of the children and general public that use city and school playgrounds and playing fields, dogs are no longer allowed at those facilities.

After years of discussions and public postings asking people to pick up after their dogs and comply with the then current laws, the City Council unanimously decided to take a different approach and change the "dog ordinance". This decision was not taken lightly and happened after much discussion over multiple council meetings that included input from the police, school officials, the Park and Rec Board, the sports groups, and dog owners. It is unfortunate that the responsible dog owners are affected by this change, but there were too many irresponsible dog owners to ignore it any longer.

Dogs are still welcome on our trails and can be off leash at any of the three dog parks in Mountain Brook. They are located at Cahaba River Walk, by Mountain Brook Elementary field, and by the Lane Parke Apartments. The city is working to improve these areas and create more community spaces for dogs.

If you would like to read the "dog ordinance" in its entirety, you may find it on the city's website at [www.mtnbrook.org](http://www.mtnbrook.org) under the Parks and Recreation page.



Pictured left to right: Senior Arborist Don Cafaro, Arborist Jerry Weiss, Brooke Sanders, Katie Wiswall with Alabama Forestry Commission, Lydia Purcell, Brandon Plowden, Andrew Hicks, David Lyles, Senior Planner Tyler Slaten

## Mountain Brook Schools: Budget Process



The purpose of Mountain Brook Schools (MBS) is to provide an effective, challenging and engaging education for every one of its students. In September 2022, the MBS Board of Education approved a \$70 million budget for the upcoming fiscal year (October 1 - September 30). This begs the question: how does MBS come up with its annual budget?

Each year, MBS Chief School Financial Officer, Kari Austin, and her staff evaluate the revenue coming into the school system. MBS revenue streams from three main avenues: the state of Alabama's Education Trust Fund, local money and the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation (MBCSF).

While most school systems in Alabama depend on state money for a majority of their budget, the state allotment only makes up 34% of the MBS budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The majority (63%) of the budget comes from local money (ad valorem taxes through the city of Mountain Brook). The MBCSF's annual contribution makes up the remainder of the budget and this year's grant exceeded \$514,000, the largest ever in the foundation's 30-year history.

"The financial support we receive from our community allows us to go above and beyond to provide the highest quality education for our students," Superintendent Dr. Dicky Barlow said. "Additional staff, technology and enhanced resources allow for new opportunities of growth which cultivate a learning environment."

Eighty percent of the Mountain Brook School System general fund expenditures are personnel costs. The remaining 20 percent are operating costs. When fine-tuning the function of the general fund expenditures, \$49.9 million (79%) of all budget-related items are for instructional services and support. Other areas of budget spending include debt service, capital projects, operations, administrative and more.

Each May, the MBS finance staff receives allocations from the Alabama State Department of Education. Numbers are finalized in order to approve salary schedules for the ensuing school year at the June MBS Board of Education meeting. Budget information is provided to district administrators in July while school principals verify enrollment and unit

information numbers with Austin.

"The largest parts of budget preparation are projecting local ad valorem tax revenues and state funding as well as the staffing we will have in place for the upcoming school year," Austin said. "Once those pieces are in place, the rest of the budget comes together very quickly."

In August, Austin reviews any changes from department directors and works to create the final budget presentation for Dr. Barlow. The budget is distributed to Board members at the beginning of September before two separate public budget hearings are held and the Board members finalize the budget for the coming fiscal year.

Thanks to the MBS budget, each elementary school was able to add a new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teacher this school year. A new math lab was created at Mountain Brook High School as well. In total, MBS is locally funding 125 teachers this year.

Visit [www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us](http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us) to learn more about Mountain Brook Schools.

# How Does Mountain Brook Schools Develop Curriculum? ?

What is the totality of the experiences that occur in the educational process? “Curriculum” refers to the set of learning goals and standards educators have devised that allow them to best promote student learning. But what is the curriculum? And how is it established in Mountain Brook Schools?

“I think those in our community who have not been involved in curriculum development would be surprised and impressed by what a thorough and wide-ranging process it is,” said Dr. Missy Brooks, Director of Instruction at Mountain Brook Schools. “It is about as close as one can get to the heart of what we’re about as a learning organization, and we are proud of the way we engage people in the process.”

The Alabama Department of Education periodically revises and updates content standards in each of the Alabama Courses of Study. There are standards for Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Arts Education, Career/Technical Education, Driver and Traffic Safety Education, Health, World Languages, and Physical Education, among others.

“When we receive a new and revised set of standards,” said Dr. Brooks, “our local task is to develop curriculum and to adopt materials that best suit our students. It is important that the process creates educational programs which are consistent with our purpose to provide an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students. Working with the standards is always done before any implementation of the curriculum takes place”

To accomplish this, the school system establishes curriculum committees. Their work is extensive and painstaking and the process of developing curriculum for a given academic area can require much of an academic year. These committees include faculty, parents and, when possible, students.

“This is an important part of how we accomplish curriculum development,” said

Dr. Dicky Barlow, Superintendent of Mountain Brook Schools. “These are large committees with broad representation from both the school community and the Mountain Brook community at large. And it’s not a short process, because there is much to do and much to consider.”

In any given academic year, it is typical for a curriculum committee to be in the process of reviewing and revising curriculum for one of the major academic areas. The academic area up next for revision and adoption will be Science, as the Alabama Board of Education is expected to vote on new standards for science education next school year.

According to Brooks, shortly after the new standards are passed, the school system will form a committee consisting of teachers, media specialists, counselors, principals, central office administrators, parents, students, and community members with relevant expertise.

The committee, often working in subcommittees, will gather and analyze data including needs assessments and student performance data. Groups will also collect and review research in science education.

“We will study the state guidelines and relevant publications and materials provided by professional associations,” said Dr. Brooks. “We will do a search for the best practices and best ideas out there.”

Early on, the school system will identify professional development needs for teachers. This often includes bringing in experts in instructional methods for the particular subject being reviewed.

Subcommittees will develop an instructional framework that includes the school system’s philosophy, goals, and specific academic objectives. Ultimately, teachers will develop course content sequences and assessments allowing for flexibility at the level of each classroom to meet the needs of individual students.

“The goal is always to develop an



alignment of standards from grade to grade with the freedom for individual teachers to employ different materials and methods to meet the needs of students,” said Dr. Brooks. “That’s the idea behind the use of the term ‘instructional framework.’ The basic structure is there, but at the level of each classroom, there’s room for how the individual teacher will accomplish the learning goals.”

Once the instructional framework is drafted and presented to the Board of Education, school staff, students, parents, and the community are provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed framework. After reviewing that input, the committee finalizes the recommendation. The Mountain Brook Schools Board of Education then votes on approval of the instructional framework.

Once approval has been obtained, the next steps involve the selection of resources and materials for instruction, a phase referred to as “materials adoption.” This is a similarly extensive process, which leads to a separate review and approval by the Board.

Shannon Marks is a member of the English

department at Mountain Brook High School and was involved in the curriculum adoption process for English Language Arts (ELA) in the school district last school year.

“We met consistently to talk through curricular decisions in every grade in order to ensure that we were making thoughtful, intentional choices,” Marks said. “We had solid plans in place by the end of last school year so that teachers could work together over the summer to be ready and confident to deliver new instruction this year.”

Throughout the year post-curriculum implementation, MBS Professional Learning Communities (PLCs - grade level/subject groups) meet on a regular basis to discuss the fulfillment of the new curriculum. Additional professional development is provided if PLCs find it necessary.

“What I learned through this process is that we can’t underestimate the importance of preparedness,” Marks said. “This was as smooth as it could be when a group of people are undergoing the level of change that we were.”

# O'Neal Library News

## Children's Department



### Changes and constants

Regular patrons may have already spotted some changes to the Children's Department's programming this school year. **Patty Cake Lapsit Storytime** for the Library's very youngest patrons (infants up to about 18 months) is now on Tuesdays. In *Patty Cake*, the storyteller offers activities and guidance to help caregivers engage with kids in songs, fingerplays, stories, and sensory experiences. When a child is ready to give attention to and follow instructions directly from a storyteller, it's time to try **Toddler Tales** on Wednesdays, stories and directed movement for kids about 18 months up to age 3. **Movers & Makers** is a kindergarten prep storytime for preschoolers aged 3 to 5 and takes place on Wednesday afternoons. Preschoolers of any age will get a kick out of the energetic **All Together Storytime** on Thursday mornings – no need to register ahead of time. After starting kindergarten, your child is the right age to attend **LOL Story Adventure**, an after-school drop-off program for kindergarteners through 2nd graders where storytellers act out stories, do puppet shows, share read-alouds, and offer opportunities for interactive story engagement.



This semester also marks the return of **Eyeplay**, everyone's favorite rainy-day playground. Eyeplay projects interactive

games onto the floor, cycling through more than a dozen different scenes and challenges that respond to kids' movement by a motion sensor. The Eyeplay schedule is posted at the entrance to the Storytelling Room. Stop by and take a picture of it so you'll know the best time to come if you'd like to include Eyeplay in your library visit.

### STEAM

**STEAM Powered** is back for 4th – 6th graders! Every month, upper elementary students can register to participate in a wide range of activities on the STEM + art spectrum. This year's programs have included constructing instruments to learn about the science of sound and creating infinity art in the style of artist Yayoi Kusama. In November, STEAM is all about paleontology, so sign up your dinosaur experts today at [oneallibrary.org](http://oneallibrary.org).

### Book Buddies

Every winter, the Junior Women's Committee of 100 hosts a Children's Department fundraiser called **Book Buddies**, a book donation party and Santa Claus meet-and-greet. The Library will place nameplates in new children's books in honor of kids, teachers, family members -- whomever donors designate. At the Book Buddies holiday party, kids have the chance to read and check out the book their family donated and to visit with Santa. This year's party is November 30 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. To make a donation, visit the Children's Desk and let the librarians know you would like to participate in Book Buddies.

ONEAL LIBRARY ADULT DEPARTMENT

Stay current with events being scheduled by downloading the O'Neal Library app (iOS and Play Store) or viewing the registration calendar at [www.oneallibrary.org](http://www.oneallibrary.org). Don't forget our vibrant book group community at ONL, from popular fiction to short stories to trending topics, we've got it all! We have several surprises in the works, including a **Sustainable Style** program with local fashion designer Julie Maesele, so sign up for our weekly event newsletter on the website to be notified about upcoming events!



We're giving thanks this November for great programs like **An Afternoon with the Author** featuring **Will Bowron**, Saturday Nov 5th 3pm-5pm, discussing his new book, "Vigilant." On Wednesday Nov 9th 1p-2pm, Red Mountain Theater's Seasoned Performers will offer a reading of "The Canton Culture Club." Medicare is confusing at the best of times so join us, Tuesday Nov 15th 10am-noon, as presenter Michael Wimberly shares information you need to know to get started with the program. **Winecraft** returns in December on Wednesday Dec 7th 6:30-8pm for adults ages 21+, registration required. We'll have delectable snacks and make holiday-themed shadow boxes and wineglass crafts. The ever-popular **Samford Strings quartet** returns on Wednesday Dec 21st at 11am to perform a lovely holiday concert.



The O'Neal Library offers fun programs for teens in grades 7-12 throughout the year! We host book clubs, **Dungeons & Dragons**, gaming programs, and so much more at

the library. Ever wonder how actors make the fight scenes so real on the screen and stage? Learn their tricks at the **Stage Combat 101** on Friday, November 4 at 5-7PM with Chelsea Reynolds, a Red Mountain Theatre Company teaching artist. Follow it up with our monthly **DIY Yums** program: Mug Recipe Dinner Sides on Wednesday, November 9 at 4-5PM.

In December, we host an **Exam Breaks** study program at the library. Extra tables and study-goody-bags will be available to students in grades 7-12 during exam week. A **Hand-in-Paw** therapy animal group will be making a special visit to the library on Wednesday, December 14 at 12-2PM to give our students a break from their notes and papers. Continuing the pet theme, Chris Davis of Drawdog Art will lead the teens in a **Pet Portrait** program on Saturday, December 17 at 1-3PM. These are only a fraction of the fun! Visit [www.oneallibrary.org](http://www.oneallibrary.org) to register for awesome teen events.

# O'Neal Library News

## Samford String Quartet

The Samford String Quartet made a second appearance at the O'Neal Library this year. Musicians Caroline & Samuel Nordlund and Angela & Jeffrey Flaniken mesmerized the audience with their beautiful performance. In between pieces, Jeffrey Flaniken highlighted different composers and what made each piece special, providing an intimate and exclusive experience with classical music. Patrons were thrilled to see the Samford String Quartet again. "It's so wonderful that [the Library] brings this to the community, to educate everyone" said Margaret Grub who attended the concert. The O'Neal Library looks forward to another holiday performance by the Samford String Quartet on Wednesday Dec 21st at 11am.



## Under the Mountain

**O**n September 17 patrons gathered again, Under the Mountain, this time to see Jeff VanderMeer! Noted for his ability to create mysterious and perilous worlds where nature and technology run amok, VanderMeer offered the audience a different take on horror, forcing readers to think about nature, climate change and what could happen to our beloved world.

The event was attended by 77 patrons in-person, and 31 users streamed the event live. VanderMeer gave a presentation, followed by a Q&A and book signing. As he engaged with the audience, patrons could see and feel his appreciation for his home state of Florida and nature of all kinds. "Most details are firsthand when I write," VanderMeer noted, referring to the ample amount of research that he has done about different animal species and habitats for each of his novels. Patrons in the audience were entertained with stories of hijinks and inspiration for VanderMeer's work.

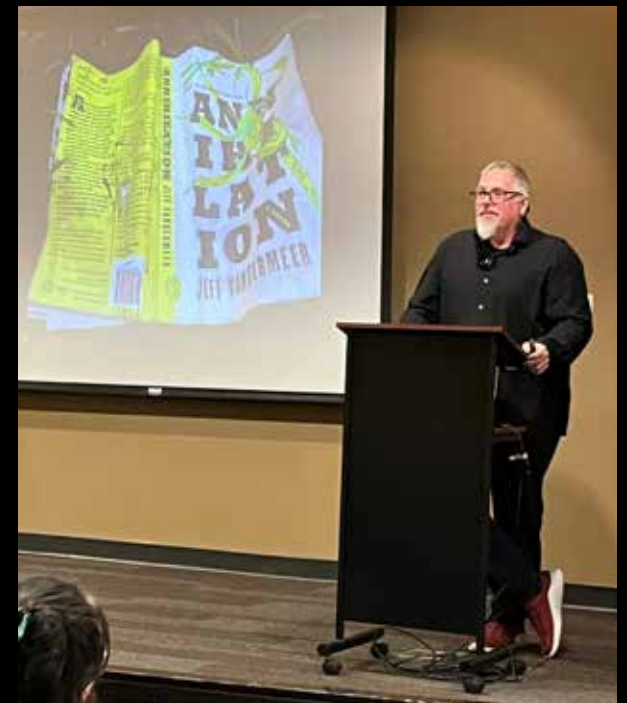
What surprised staff the most was VanderMeer's review of the Under the Mountain event at O'Neal Library. "I might add that this was one of the top 5

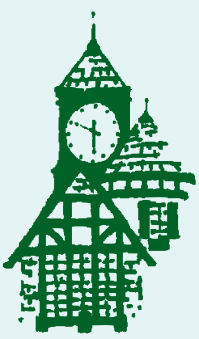
most professionally run and writer-friendly events I've done," VanderMeer tweeted to his followers after the event.

Under the Mountain is a monthly program for all lovers of thrills and chills, providing unique events, raffle prizes, and a free short story every month, each paired with illustrations by Birmingham-based artists. Previous events have included movie screenings, a lecture on Japanese ghosts by comic book writer/artist Bri Tippetts, and a visit from best-selling novelist Stephen Graham Jones.

This fall, Under the Mountain will present a screening of the silent film *Nosferatu*, featuring a live score by Birmingham musician Chayse Porter on Sunday Nov 13th 7pm-9pm. Then, we're harkening back to the Victorian tradition of sharing ghostly, gothic tales during the holiday season with sweet treats and a live reading of a classic ghost story by award-winning voice actor Matt Godfrey on Sunday Dec 4th 7pm-9pm.

Be sure to follow @UNDRMTN on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook!





## THE VILLAGES OF MOUNTAIN BROOK

**The Most Wonderful Time of Year in Mountain Brook!**



MOUNTAIN BROOK  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MB Chamber "State of the City" Luncheon  
November 16th

Crestline Village Holiday Open House  
November 17th

English Village Holiday Open House  
December 1st

Mountain Brook Holiday Open House  
December 1st

Mountain Brook Holiday Parade  
December 4th

Learn more about these and other events at [www.mtnbrookchamber.org](http://www.mtnbrookchamber.org)

*Santa Claus is Coming to Town!*



MOUNTAIN BROOK  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Mountain Brook  
Holiday Parade**

December 4, 2022 | 3:00 PM  
Mountain Brook Village

**Welcome Leadership Mountain Brook**



Welcome to the Leadership Mountain Brook Class of 2022-2023! This year's class includes Martha Anderson, Evelyn Berry, Hannah Blalock, Laura Buha, Randi Cron, Stutts Everette, Jackson Herron, Halli Hollingsworth, Lily Johnson, Lauren Jones, Jack McDonald, Charlotte Robbins, Mallie Robinett, Oliver Salter, Abigail Sharp, Mary Frances Springfield, Henry Sullivan, and Rachel White.

*Keep Up To Date with  
Mountain Brook!*

MONTHLY UPDATES ABOUT COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS SENT  
RIGHT TO YOUR INBOX!

**SIGN UP FOR THE MOUNTAIN BROOK  
CHAMBER NEWSLETTER "THIS MONTH IN  
MOUNTAIN BROOK" AT  
[WWW.MTNBROOKCHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.MTNBROOKCHAMBER.ORG)**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

Oakley Group • The Travel Studio • Haus to Home  
Clean Juice Lane Parke • Ashlynn Smith Realty  
Manufacture Goods • Zen Business  
Grace Klein Community • BCR Wealth Strategies  
Gholston Tree Service • Melt Lane Parke  
Bossi Leisure • English Village Lane  
Summit Smiles Pediatric Dentistry

**HIGH LEVEL  
MARKETING**



Gold Level Investors: Alabama Power Company | Alliance Publishing | Brasfield & Gorrie | Bryant Bank | Classic Car Motoring  
First Bank | Home Instead Senior Care | IberiaBank | JAMM Entertainment Services | Morningstar Storage | Oakworth Capital Bank  
Regions Bank | Stifel Financial | Southern States Bank | West Alabama Bank

## MOUNTAIN BROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Wilson, Alice Womack

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### JUNIOR BOARD LIAISON

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English Village - Cathy Catalano  
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Mountain Brook Plaza - Ann Sanders  
Mountain Brook Village - Dr. Jenny Sobera  
Office Park - Ladd Tucker

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Laura Finch, Kimberly Jackson, Hollins Rush,  
Lauren Tatum, Jimmy Tracy

Secretary - Martha Gorham

Treasurer - John Wilson

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Sustaining Member - Sam Gaston

City Council Liaison - Alice Womack

Executive Director - Emily Jensen





# Thursday Night Live

On August 18th, the Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce Junior Board hosted their second annual Thursday Night Live event and raised \$20,100 for Friends of Jemison Park. The Chamber's Junior Board is led by President Lee Mallette and consists of young professionals between the ages of 25 and 35 who live or work in Mountain Brook.



## WATERFORD

Darling for baby's first Christmas, our crystal Teddy Bear ornament is \$80. Personalization by **Master Hand Engraver Harold Herglotz, Jr.** is available for an additional fee.



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As a life-long Birmingham resident and a third generation working at Guin, I feel great pride and responsibility in carrying on the legacy of honesty and hard work that my grandfather began over 60 years ago. Family is very important to us, and we treat our customers with the same care and respect as members of our own family. It would be a privilege to serve you.



AL#12175

Mention this ad to receive a free diagnostic service call.



# LUCY SAYS STOP!

The holidays are just around the corner, stop by and see what we have for all your entertainment needs!



2841 Cahaba Road | Mtn. Brook Village • 205-879-5277  
M-F 10-5 • Sat 10-4  
[www.thecookstoremtnbrook.com](http://www.thecookstoremtnbrook.com)

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



Home with Hechart • Tuesday, September 13th



Ignite Cycle • Saturday, September 17th



Clean Juice • Thursday, September 22nd



# SPECIALTY

TURFCARE & LANDSCAPING



We enjoy making your yard better!!! Call 951-9292



# Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce *Quarterly Luncheon*

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Join us for the State of the City Address  
featuring Mayor Stewart Welch and  
members of the Mountain Brook City  
Council

Wednesday, November 16th  
11AM - 1PM

To register & for more details,  
visit [mtnbrookchamber.org](http://mtnbrookchamber.org)



### Christine's on Canterbury

2404 Canterbury Road • 205-871-8297



## FRESH Fraser Fir Christmas Trees\*

Wreaths & Garlands

Seasonal Greenery

Custom Mailbox Decorations

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\*Delivery and Set-Up Available



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# Mobilizing the community for academic excellence.

The Mission of the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation is to mobilize community support and resources for the academic improvement of the school system. Funds raised become part of a permanent endowment.

## MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Key R. Hudson '00, President  
Kristin Ritter, President-Elect

Greg Butrus '89  
Al B. Cohn  
Cheryl A. Collat  
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Faith Couvillon  
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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

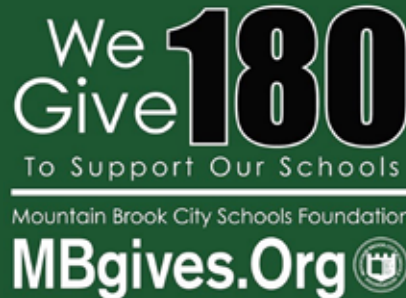
Rachel Weingartner  
32 Vine Street  
Mountain Brook, Alabama 35213  
Phone: 205.414.0042  
Email: Rachel@MBGives.org  
MBGives.org

The Foundation exists to provide financial support to meet the academic needs that are beyond the current scope and means of the school system. The Foundation's work is based on the needs of the school system as a whole.

## Grandparents Club Campaign 2022-2023

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation will kick-off this year's Grandparents Club Campaign in October 2022. The 2022-2023 campaign chairs are **Jan & Grantland Rice**. Committee members are **Maggie & Will Brooke, Tanya & Skip Cooper, Betts & Felix Drennen, Karen & Doug Eddleman, Julie & Jim Goyer, Lynne & Tim Hennessy, Linda & Charlie Israel, Lauri & Randy Jordan, Tara & Tommy Mayfield, Chollet & Stephen Still** and **Marlene & TJ Willings**.

In appreciation of a donor's gift, the Foundation will send the donor's grandchildren a note letting them know that a gift has been made in their honor. Tax-deductible donations can be made at **MBGives.org** or by contacting **Info@MBGives.org**.



## Give 180 To Support MB Schools

The goal with Give 180 is 100% participation from Mountain Brook families. This annual campaign asks each family to give \$1 for every day their student is learning through Mountain Brook Schools. It is not too late to join the 615 donors who have already given to this fundraising effort and have raised \$185,000 for our schools!

These donations help fund Chromebooks for all teachers and students, a summer learning conference for Mountain Brook teachers, OverDrive Education and much more. **Please visit MBGives.org to give today.**

## MB Teachers Know Every Dollar Counts

Mountain Brook teachers generously give back to the school system every year through the Foundation's Every Dollar Counts Campaign. More than 40% of teachers and administrators participated last year!

The 2022-2023 Campaign Chairs are: **Kelsey Frey (Mountain Brook Elementary), Lars Porter (Mountain Brook Junior High)** and **Perry Wright (Brookwood Forest)**. The 2022-2023 Committee members are: **Suzanne Andrews (Mountain Brook Elementary), Samantha Austin (Cherokee Bend), Amy Kathryn Gannon (Mountain Brook High School), Tami Genry (Mountain Brook Junior High), Katie Meyerpeter (Crestline)** and **Katie Seeger (Brookwood Forest)**.



## Foundation Board Approves 2022-2023 Annual Grant to Mountain Brook Schools

The Foundation's Board of Directors approved its annual grant to the school system for a total of \$514,983. Since its founding in 1992, the Foundation has given more than \$9.3 million back to Mountain Brook Schools in the areas of technology, professional development and library enhancements. For more information, please visit **MBGives.org**.