



the Reporter

Mountain Brook, Ala.

www.mtnbrook.org

Volume XXVIII, Issue 4

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Mountain Brook, Alabama

LEADING THE WAY AWARD



The City of Mountain Brook was recently honored with the Leading the Way Award from the ETC Institute. The ETC Institute conducts surveys for hundreds of communities across the nation on local government services. Mountain Brook participates in this survey every three years.

To be eligible for this award, local governments must rank in the top 10% of all local governments regarding performance in three core areas:

- Satisfaction with the overall quality of services
- Satisfaction with customer service provided by employees
- Satisfaction with the value residents think they receive for local taxes and fees

Mountain Brook is the highest rated community in the nation per the ETC Institute clients. Our City is ranked # 1 in the following categories:

- Overall Value Received for City Tax Dollars and Fees
- Customer Service Provided by City Employees
- Leadership Provided by Elected Officials
- Effectiveness of Department Heads and Staff
- City as a Place to Live
- City as a Place to Raise Children
- Overall Quality of City Services (tied for 1st)
- Overall Quality of Life in the City
- Public Safety

- Effectiveness of Communication
- Enforcing Codes and Ordinances
- Library Services
- Emergency Preparedness
- Police Services
- How Quickly Police Respond to Emergencies (tied for 1st)
- Efforts to Prevent Crime
- Enforcing Traffic Laws
- Overall Feeling of Safety
- Feeling of Safety in Your Neighborhood During the Day
- Feeling of Safety in Your Neighborhood at Night
- Feeling of Safety in Retail Areas
- Feeling of Safety in Parks
- Fire Services
- Mowing and Trimming Along Streets and Public Areas
- Maintenance of City Parks (tied for 1st)
- Quality of Park Facilities
- Enforcing Clean Up of Trash and Debris on Private Property
- City Social Media
- Overall appearance of the City

Our Mayor, City Council and City employees are very appreciative of these high scores and the trust that our residents place in us. This gives us greater motivation to continue this excellent work. We are very proud to have earned these high marks from our residents.

Mayor's Message



Who in the world is mowing lawns in the middle of the night in our city?

As crazy as this sounds, the answer is, "We are!" Parks and Recreation Director, Shanda Williams, is helping transform Mountain Brook into a 'quiet' community. She, along with Public Works Director, Ronnie Vaughn, have converted to electric blowers for our villages and parks. So, the loud sound you don't hear is them blowing leaves. We have a third-party vendor doing some of our blowing (with gas blowers) in the villages and we are working with them to 'go green' as well. They may occasionally have to use a gas blower for heavy, wet leaves during winter months.

What's the deal with the middle-of-the-night mowing? Shanda recently ordered a very sophisticated robotic lawn mower. It uses GPS guidance to map out the area to be mowed. It has its own charging 'house' and mows (quietly!) in the middle

Mayor continued on page 2

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MONTROE, GA

Mayor: Stewart H. Welch, III

CITY COUNCIL

Council President:

Virginia Carruthers Smith

Council Pro Tem,

William S. "Billy" Pritchard III,
Lloyd Shelton, Gerald Garner, Graham Smith

City Manager:

Sam S. Gaston, 802-3800

For advertising or Chamber of
Commerce information, call 871-3779

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of the night and then returns to the house for recharging! Additionally, Shanda has a riding electric mower/blower her folks use for some of our park and field work.

Shanda: "These mowers will not only save on gas, emissions, and noise, but they will reduce the man hours needed to maintain the fields and those employees will

be able to focus on other, much needed, tasks. We expect the fields to always look clean cut and be much healthier because of the reduced compaction from our larger mowers. As we learn more about these mowers, we hope to deploy them on some of our other fields."

All of this activity is part of a bigger picture we are

working on to transition to an eco-friendlier community and plays well into our Bee City, Tree City, and Monarch Butterfly initiatives. We are in the early stages of forming a Sustainability Committee to help shepherd and coordinate these various activities.

Recent City Council Actions

The City Council has adopted or amended the following ordinances since July 1, 2023:

- Ordinance No. 2145 - Amended Chapter 113 of the City Code with respect to Stormwater Detention.
- Ordinance No. 2146 - Provided for a cost-sharing agreement with the City of Birmingham for the Lane Park Road paving improvement project.
- Ordinance No. 2147 - Amended section 50-46(b) (6) of the City Code relating to the speed limit on Marlboro Drive.
- Ordinance No. 2148 - Adopted the City's budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.
- Ordinance No. 2149 - Amended Chapter 109 of the City Code for times within which construction may be conducted.

The City Council has approved the following projects since July 1, 2023:

- Ratified the purchase agreement with International Fire Protection, Inc. for the repair and upgrade of the O'Neal Library sprinkler system.

- Executed a second amendment to the facility use agreement with Mountain Brook Athletics to modifying the terms and updating the Annual Maintenance fee provisions.
- Recommended to the ABC Board the issuance of a Special Events Retail license to TRO, Inc. (trade name Otey's Fest) for its special event held July 15, 2023.
- Accepted the Public Safety Salary Implementation Plan.
- Authorized the agreement for consulting services with Schoel Engineering for the study of drainage problems in the vicinity of Beech Street and Sims Avenue.
- Proclaimed July 2023 as Parks and Recreation Month.
- Ratified an agreement with JD Morris for the Cherry Street drainage project.
- Authorized an agreement with International Fire Protection Inc. for the suppression system and backflow preventer inspection services for the municipal complex and O'Neal Library.
- Authorized a right-of-way (ROW) encroachment agreement with Jeffrey and Allison Tillett for the

- property located at 700 Braddock Avenue.
- Authorized a right-of-way (ROW) encroachment agreement with James Kent III and Dana Kent for the property located at 147 Fairmont Drive.
- Awarded the bid for the O'Neal Library water damage restoration project.
- Authorized additional work with respect to the Cherry Street drainage project.
- Proclaimed September 2023 as Gynecologic Cancer Awareness month.
- Ratified the bid award for the purchase of an ambulance for use by the Fire Department.
- Accepted the Personnel Board of Jefferson County Market Analysis upgrade for the Assistant City Manager/ Finance Director, Director of Planning, Building, and Sustainability, and Public Works Director III.
- Accepted the dedication of Right of Way (ROW) Parcel 2 on the subdivision map titled Lane Parke Phase II.
- Authorized a Right of Way (ROW) encroachment agreement with CT Dodge and Florence Dodge with respect to 2701 Overhill Road.

- Ratified change order no. 1 with respect to the Canterbury United Methodist Church drainage improvement project.
- Authorized payment from the General Fund of \$300,000 into the City of Mountain Brook Section 115 Retiree Medical Insurance Trust.
- Executed an assignment with EMS Management and Consultants Inc. for the debt recovery and collection services on behalf of the Mountain Brook Fire Department.
- Approved change order no. 2 for the Jemison Nature Trail Improvement Project.
- Proclaimed September 17 – 23, 2023 as Constitution Week.
- Authorized the sale of a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe and trade for a Stryker Powered Stretcher.
- Executed a cost sharing agreement with Mountain Brook Board of Education for the Junior High field project.
- Recommended to the State of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board the issuance of a Restaurant Retail Liquor license to Everest Shushi LLC (trade name: Maro), 361 Rele Street.

- Authorized an increase to the Emergency Medical Services Standby hourly rate to \$110 plus one additional hour of travel time effective October 1, 2023.
- Authorized an agreement with Schoel Engineering Company, Inc. for consulting services associated to potential flood protection measures in the Montevallo Road and Overhill Road area.
- Appointed J. Ross Self as Prosecutor for the City of Mountain Brook.
- Proclaimed October as National Down Syndrome Awareness Month.
- Increased the salary schedule for all classified, unclassified and part-time employees by three percent (3%) and Municipal Judges by three percent (3%).
- Adopted the budget for the Mountain Brook Emergency Communications (E911) District for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.
- Executed an agreement with the Board of Education for construction management services related to the Mountain Brook Junior High.

- Executed an engagement letter with Allen Consulting for the Actuarial Loss Reserve Analysis-Alabama Workers' Compensation.
- Entered into an agreement with the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority.
- Executed a group subscription purchase order with The New York Times and O'Neal Library.
- Approved the second amendment to the garbage service contract with CSWDA regarding fuel cost savings rebate.
- Entered into a Contract for General Services with Birmingham Regional Paratransit Consortium d/b/a ClasTran.
- Executed the Renewal of Franchise Agreement with MCI Metro Access Transmission Services LLC for MCI's fiber-based communications services business activities within the City.
- Executed a Multi-Site Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) Service Agreement with Environmental Biological Services and the Mountain Brook Fire Department.
- Approved the conditional use application for Pinnacle Bank at 2020 Cahaba Road.

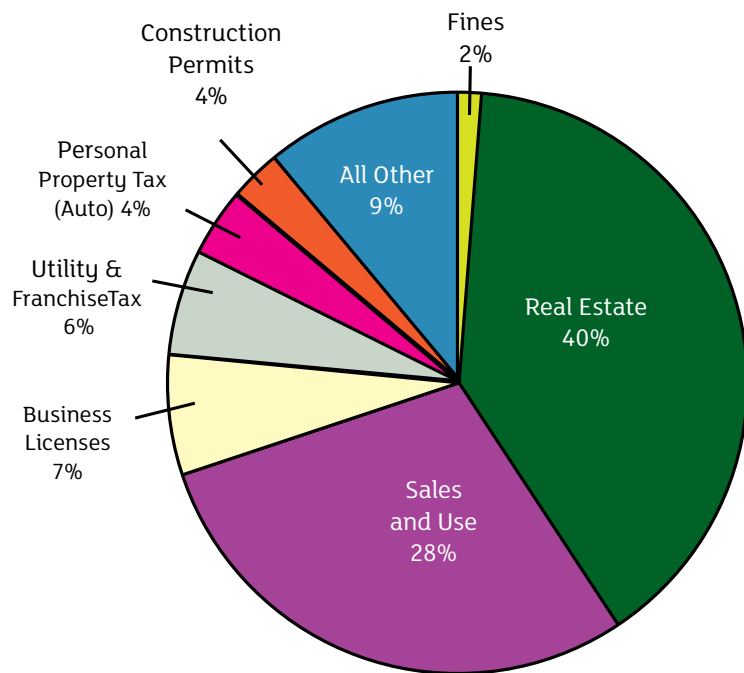


2024 City Budget

The City's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. At its September 25th meeting, the City Council adopted the 2024 budget. The General Fund budget reflects a surplus of \$533,000 from revenue totaling \$50.3 million. The projected fund balance at September 30, 2024 of \$20.6 million approximates six months of General Fund expenses totaling \$44 million. Some of the notable General Fund revenues include:

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

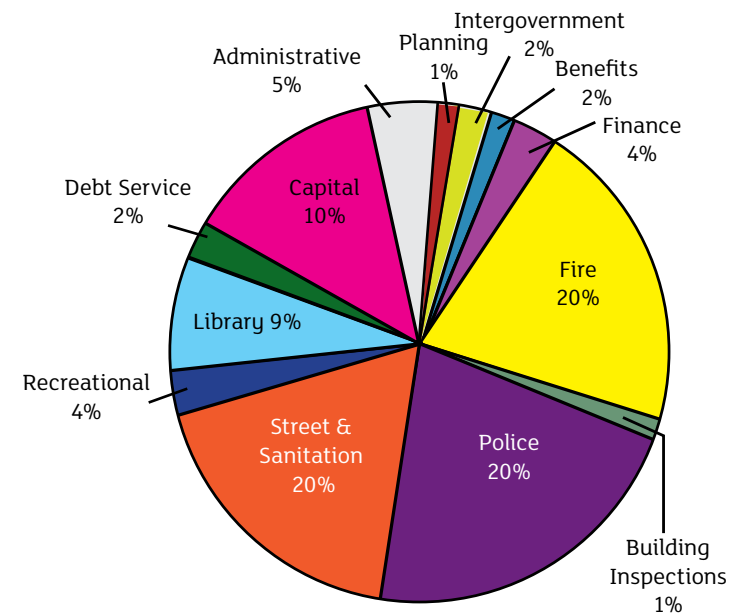
2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET



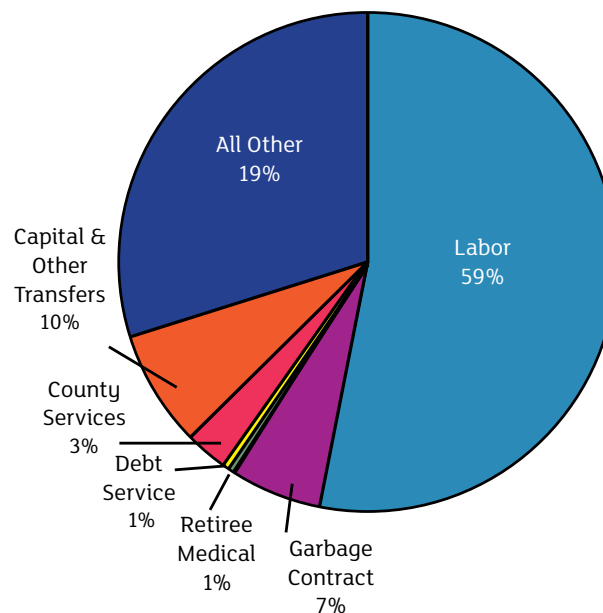
Source of Revenue	Budget		Line Item Percentage Change
	2023	2024	
Real estate tax	\$18,393,000	\$20,652,000	12.3%
Sales tax	13,664,000	13,560,000	(0.8)
License and franchise fees	3,503,000	3,319,000	(5.3)
Utility taxes	1,899,000	2,045,600	7.7
Automobile property tax	1,579,000	2,020,000	27.9
Construction permits	1,078,000	845,000	(21.6)
Lodging tax	800,000	885,000	10.6
Fines	328,000	320,000	(2.4)
All other	5,770,884	6,697,445	16.1
Totals	\$47,014,884	\$50,344,045	7.1%

2024 General Fund expenses and transfers total \$50 million, which represents a 6.2% increase from last year's budget. The charts below illustrate the functional and departmental allocation of the City's General Fund expenses:

2024 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



2024 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET



- 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 \$3.3 million will be paid by way of federal awards
 - Sidewalk on North Woodridge from Robin Drive to Locksley Drive: **\$400,000**
 - Various drainage improvement projects: **\$240,000**
 - Athletic Complex improvements: **\$90,000**
 - Completion of the Jemison Trail improvements: **\$766,000**
 - Completion of the Mountain Brook Junior High athletic field improvements: **\$300,000**
 - Other park facilities and infrastructure improvements: **\$1,082,000**
 - Commencement of the new fire station on Overton Road: **\$5,000,000**

Business License Renewals

Business license renewals for the City of Mountain Brook are due on January 1, 2024 and will be delinquent January 31, 2024. 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 Jan. 1, please inform the Revenue Department. Please complete the renewal notice and return along with your payment.

Remember, if you pay for your renewal online, the amount that is already populated is only the issue fee, not the total license fee. Many of the license fees are based on your last year's gross receipts and require you to input that amount in order to calculate the correct license fee.

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. The business license application may be found under "Business" on the top navigation bar and then looking for "Business Application" under "Forms and Permits."

Online payment options for Business Licenses and Sales Taxes are available on our website 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 under "Business" on the top navigation bar and then looking for "Home Occupation Application" under "Forms and Permits".

Residents, please remember that when hiring a contractor to perform any work at your home, including landscaping/yard work, or hiring a service company, please verify with the Revenue Department that the contractor is 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.

Village Design Review Committee

The Village Design Review Committee reviews signage for all businesses in the commercial areas of the city, as well as all exterior alterations to commercial buildings. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00am. If you are interested in serving on VDR or any of our other boards, please submit an application online at www.mtnbrook.org under Government/Boards, Commissions and Committees.



Pictured (L-R): Graham Smith - Council Liaison, Ashley Spotswood, Lynn Ritchie, Brian Barrett, George Israel, Stutts Everette, David Blackmon (Not pictured: Katie Wohlwend)

Quarterly Crime Statistics

	2nd Quarter 2023	3rd Quarter 2023
Robbery	2	0
Robbery (aggravated shoplifting)	0	0
Burglary/Residence	2	2
Burglary/Business	1	3
Theft	61	54
Theft from Vehicle (UBEV)	19	5
Auto Theft	1	3
Assaults (Other)	5	2
Identity Theft	14	15
Criminal Mischief	9	8
Drugs	60	46
Family Violence	4	6
Accidents	242	199
• With Injuries	14	10
• With Fatalities	0	1
Calls For Service	7337	6940
House Watches	523	550

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.

Holiday Safety Tips from MBPD

With the holiday season fast approaching it is especially important for each of us to be cautious and alert when shopping. Crime typically tends to increase significantly during the holiday season. There are steps you can take to significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim:

- Use debit or credit cards if possible. Or, carry just enough cash to pay for your errands. If you must carry large amounts of cash, separate it into amounts needed and place in different pockets.
- Be careful using ATM machines. Use them in populated places and constantly pay attention to what is going on around you.
- If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body. 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.
- When you are hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of ID and credit cards returned to you before leaving.
- Use an escort or store security if you have too many packages or if you

are leaving after store closing times.

- Keep gifts or packages out of plain view inside your vehicle.
- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows of your residence.
- After opening gifts, break down boxes and packaging of expensive items such as electronics or from high-end stores. Put them in plastic bags to hide the fact that you have valuable new items in your home.
- Carry a cell phone and have emergency numbers readily available.

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

Also be sure to sign up for the next Situational Awareness Class or other classes offered by MBPD. They are free and are held throughout the year. Be sure to check our social media or download the App for information. #mountainbrookpd

Pedestrian Safety

Mountain Brook citizens and visitors enjoy walking through our villages and along our many miles of sidewalks every day. Although Alabama laws exist to protect pedestrians, safety is a shared responsibility between those on foot and those operating motor vehicles.

Who has the Right of Way?

Pedestrians often have the right of way, but there are certain scenarios when they must yield to oncoming traffic. Pedestrians always have the right of way when they are on a sidewalk. When crossing a roadway at an intersection with a signal that indicates “walk,” motorists must yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk. However, pedestrians may not suddenly step off the curb and walk into the path of a vehicle creating an immediate hazard. If no traffic controls are present at an intersection, or they are not functioning, motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing within a crosswalk. Finally, pedestrians must yield to oncoming traffic if crossing the roadway at any point outside of a crosswalk.

What do Alabama State Laws say about sidewalks?

Pedestrians are required to utilize a sidewalk at all times when one is available. When traveling on a roadway without a



sidewalk, a pedestrian must walk on the shoulder or as close to the edge of the roadway as possible. Alabama State Law advises that pedestrians walk on the left side of a roadway, or facing oncoming traffic.

How can you keep yourself safe when walking through Mountain Brook?

- **Follow Alabama Laws:** Cross roadways in marked crosswalks and utilize sidewalks when possible.
- **Be Visible:** Wear reflective clothing and gear at night and

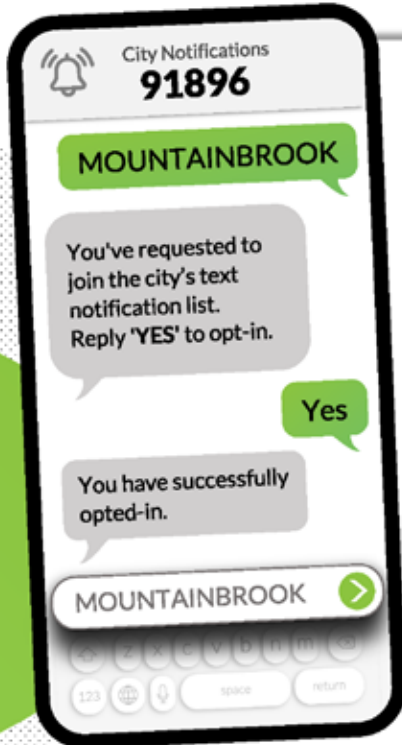
brightly colored clothing in the daytime.

- **Make Eye Contact:** Never assume a driver sees you, even if you are crossing roadways in marked crosswalks.
- **Be Intentional:** When driving, especially in one of the villages, intentionally look for pedestrians and proceed with caution.

The Police Department hopes to promote a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone in our city! Use these tips to enhance your visit to Mountain Brook.

RECEIVE TEXT ALERTS

City of Mountain Brook **TextMyGov**
Text Alerts
 Get city updates sent directly to your phone via text message.



Sign up to receive city text message notifications!

Opt-in today,
 Text **MOUNTAINBROOK**
 to: **91896**



What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply **YES** to verify opt-in.
- Message frequency varies. Notifications may include: **Upcoming Events, Road Closures, and Council Meetings.**
- You can text **STOP** at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

REPORT AN ISSUE

City of Mountain Brook **TextMyGov**
Need to report an issue?



Send a Text Message

Skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's text messaging service to quickly report an issue on the go.

24/7 Smart Texting Service

Reporting an issue to the city is easier than ever and can be done at any time.

Simply text the word **REPORT** to our smart texting number. You will then be prompted to type in the keyword for the type of issue you are reporting and guided through a few easy steps to complete your report.

You can report issues such as: **ANIMAL CONTROL, POT HOLE, STREET ISSUES, DRAINAGE, or OTHER**

Get Started

Text **Report** to: **205.596.6200**

Save our text messaging number to your phone to access it anytime you need it!

Msg & Data rates apply. View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

New Businesses

BANKING, PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER SERVICES

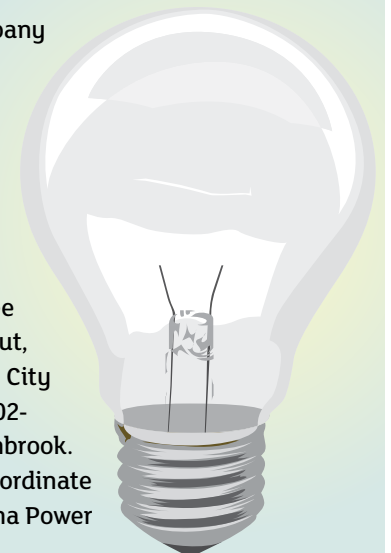
- CB&S Bank Inc., (dba/CB&S Bank), 7 Office Park Circle, 256-332-1710
- Cleff IV Golf, LLC, 18 W Montcrest Drive, 205-767-0350
- Connect Counseling & Consulting LLC, 402 Office Park Drive, 205-202-1143
- DeMedicis, Steve, (dba/Kats Houses), 2308 English Village Lane, 205-445-1108
- DJ International LLC, 2600 Abingdon Road, 205-563-8909
- Forge and Flourish Coaching, LLC, 4 Office Park Circle, Suite 107, 205-855-8592
- Gretchen Norris Design LLC, 2613 Beverly Drive, 641-414-0940
- Hancock Law LLC, 3233 Brookwood Road, 205-913-5007
- Optima Physical Therapy, LLC, 10 Office Park Circle #100, 205-229-9309
- The Kahlon Network LLC, 3745 Rock Brook Lane, 917-647-5658

RETAIL AND RESTAURANT

- Cleere Se LLC, 3016 Cherokee Road, 205-410-1310
- Mountain Brook Village Holdings LLC, (dba/Little Betty), 321 Rele Street Suite E8, 706-402-5893
- Polished on Church Nails & Boutique, 67 Church Street, 205-870-9339
- The Flower Truck LLC, 429 Hillwood Drive, 678-756-8017
- The Garden Mountain Brook LLC, 3150 Overton Road, 205-567-7944
- Village Wolves Hospitality Group LLC, (dba/Rougaroux), 2716 Culver Road, 850-766-9864

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 so the City can coordinate its repair with Alabama Power Company.





Schedule of Meetings

CITY COUNCIL	2nd & 4th Mon.	7:00 p.m. <i>(Call 205-802-3800 for time of Pre-Meeting)</i>	City Hall
BOARD OF EDUCATION	2nd Mon.	3:30 p.m.	Call Board of Ed Office 205-871-4608
LIBRARY BOARD	3rd Tues.	8:45 a.m.	Library
PARK & REC. BOARD	2nd Tues.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT	3rd Mon.	5:00 p.m.	City Hall
PLANNING COMMISSION	1st Mon.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
VILLAGE DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE	3rd Wed.	9:00 a.m.	City Hall
BOARD OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN	1st Tues.	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	3rd Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	City Hall
EDITORIAL BOARD	Quarterly		City Hall

Building Permit Activity

Permit Type:	2nd Quarter - 2023		3rd Quarter - 2023	
	No. Permits	Permit Value	No. Permits	Permit Value
New Construction	15	\$ 12,857,625	13	\$ 10,851,571
Alterations/Additions	87	\$ 18,075,151	117	\$ 23,165,691
Repairs/Other	215	\$ 32,498,218	143	\$ 5,320,805
Totals:	317	\$ 63,430,994	273	\$ 39,338,067

COMPARISON OF PREVIOUS YEAR

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
Totals:	309	\$ 36,839,665	254	\$ 33,789,449

Board Appointments/Reappointments:

- Appointed Blake Russell to the Park and Recreation Board with the term of office to end July 10, 2028.
- Re-appointed Paige B. Daniel to the Finance Committee with the term of office to end July 10, 2027.
- Re-appointed Charles Polmatier to the Finance Committee with the term of office to end July 10, 2027.
- Re-appointed W. Craig Fravert to the Finance Committee with the term of office to end July 10, 2027.
- Appointed Norman Jetmundsen to The O'Neal Library Board with the term of office to end September 30, 2027.
- Re-appointed Brian Barrett to the Village Design Review Committee with the term of office to end September 11, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS

Five Fun Facts About Trees

1 Trees are the longest living organisms on Earth, and never die of old age.

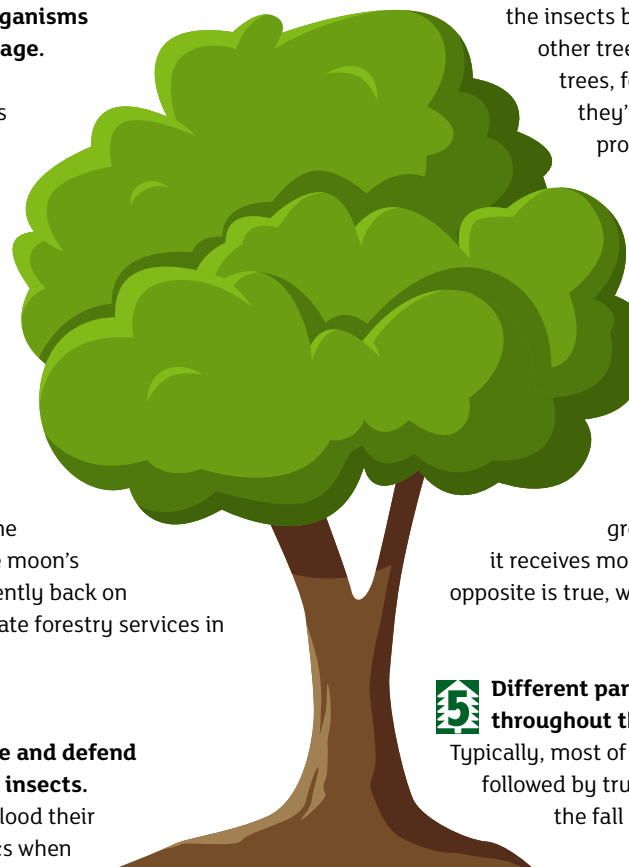
California holds the record for the oldest living trees. Some of the state's bristlecone pines and giant sequoias are 4,000-5,000 years old. Methuselah, an estimated 4,852-year-old ancient Bristlecone Pine, is one of the oldest living trees in the world.

2 Some trees have been to the moon.

"Moon trees" were grown from seeds taken to the moon during the Apollo 14 mission in early 1971. NASA and the US Forest Service wanted to see if the moon's orbit caused the seeds to grow differently back on earth. These trees were donated to state forestry services in 1975 and 1976.

3 Trees are able to communicate and defend themselves against attacking insects.

Scientists have found that trees can flood their leaves with chemicals called phenolics when



the insects begin their raid. They can also signal danger to other trees so they can start their own defense. Willow trees, for example, emit certain chemicals when they're attacked by webworms. Other willows then produce more tannin, making their leaves harder for the pests to digest.

4 Trees can help you find your way if you are lost in the woods

In northern temperate climates, moss will grow on the northern side of the tree trunk, where there is more shade. Also, a tree's rings can help point you in the right direction too. If you're in the northern hemisphere, you can see the rings of the tree grow slightly thicker on the southern side since it receives more light. In the southern hemisphere, the opposite is true, with rings being thicker on the north side.

5 Different parts of a tree grow at different times throughout the year.

Typically, most of the foliage growth happens in the spring, followed by trunk growth in the summer and root growth in the fall and winter.

Jemison Park Renovations

Last summer, Mountain Brook broke ground on the city's \$3million renovation project for Jemison Park. The project includes a new nine (9) foot wide asphalt trail to replace the existing narrow concrete trail, improvement to the picnic area and additional parking. General Contractor C.S. Beatty Construction is making good progress and the project is on track to be complete in January 2024.

Throughout the summer and early fall, workers removed the old concrete sidewalk and began laying the new asphalt trail. You may have noticed the orange fencing crisscrossing the length of the park – it shows the limits where the contractor is allowed to operate within the park and provides a visual edge to protect the trees when heavy equipment is being used.

Work over the summer included regrading some of the more eroded drainage ways and lining them with native stone to slow erosion. Where the old concrete walks are removed, the ground will be gently regraded to direct water away from the new trail and allow it to filter naturally



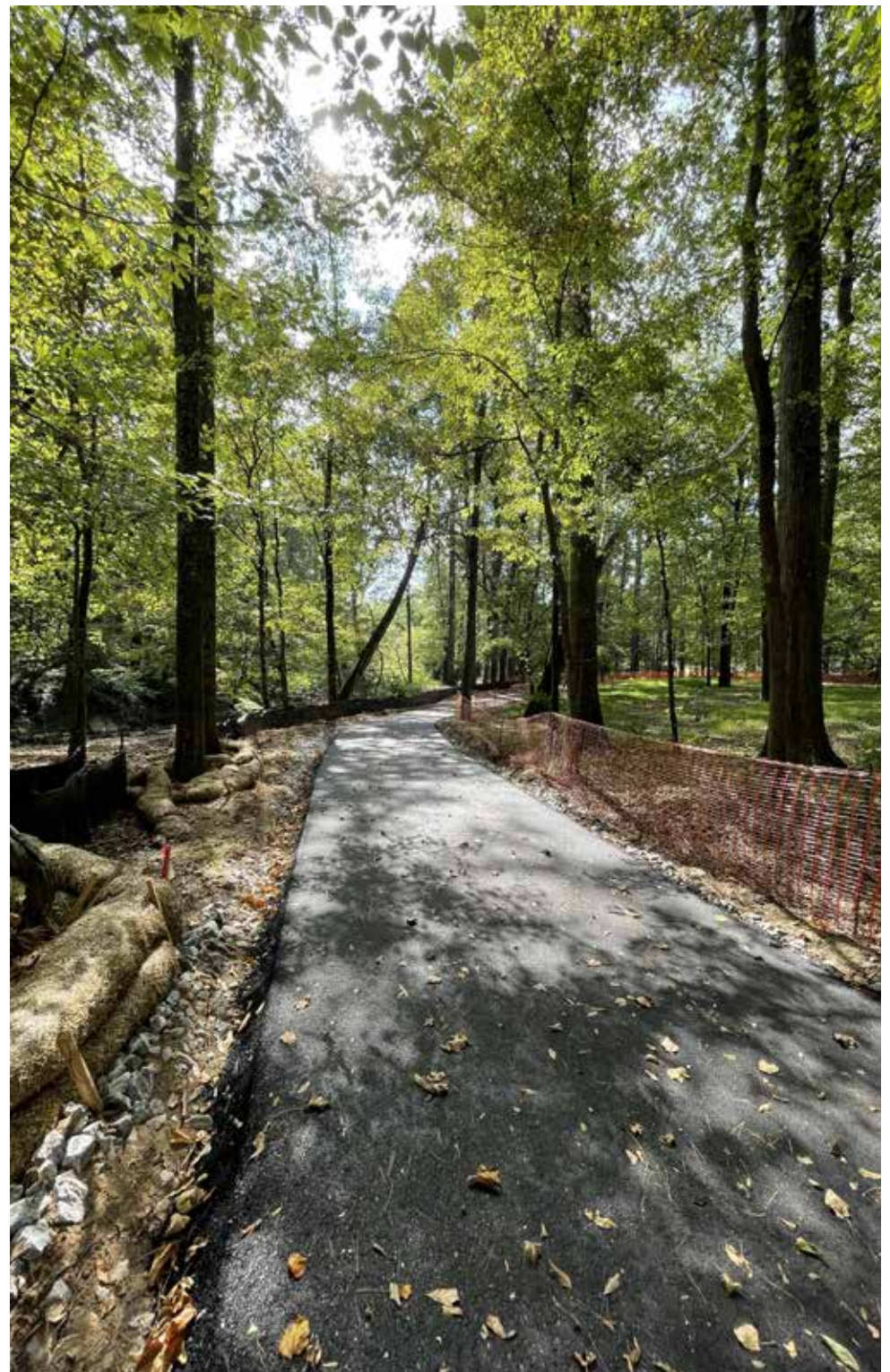
New asphalt trail brings trail users away from Mountain Brook Parkway and closer to Shades Creek.

into the soil. Once grading is finished, the disturbed soil will be sowed with a custom seed mix designed to replicate the native plants in Jemison Park.

All the existing benches in the park were removed to prevent them from being damaged during construction. At the end of the project, the benches will be reinstalled at or very near their original locations. In the picnic area, tables will be replaced with new furniture on a new stone terrace.

In the coming month, work will shift to the Overbrook Road park entrance. Work will include building an accessible route from the Overbrook Road area parking to the trail. The new approach will follow the same route but have a gentler slope. New railing will protect children, people with strollers and those with mobility aids from the steep embankment to Shades Creek.

The project is jointly funded by the City of Mountain Brook and the Friends of Jemison Park.



New smaller paths link parking areas to the main trail.

Sidewalk Projects Wrapping Up

The City of Mountain Brook is currently completing two sidewalk extension projects. The council approved an extension of sidewalks on Locksley Drive and also along Brookwood Road.

The Locksley Drive sidewalk project extended the sidewalk from Dunbarton Drive to Warrington Road. This sidewalk addition was constructed by city staff and was approximately 2,800 feet in length. The project was completed the first week of October and has already been very busy with a steady flow of walkers.

The Brookwood Road sidewalk project was opened for bid and the contractor for this work was Gillespie Construction. The project extension was ninety percent completed the first week of October but has been temporarily held up by utility relocation (water meters). Hopefully this hold up will be resolved very soon. This project along Brookwood Road extends the sidewalk from Crosshill Road heading east towards Brookleeds Road and ends at the driveway of 3633 Brookwood Road.



Locksley Drive Sidewalk



Brookwood Road Sidewalk

Amwaste Observed Holidays

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

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



Doo Your Part

Please Doo Your Part! and clean up after your dog. This problem exists at all of our parks, trails and sidewalks. The city provides disposable bags available for your use in our doggie stations at all of our parks and trails. Please properly dispose of your bag after use. If you see any that need to be refilled, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (205)802-3877.



SCHEDULED LEAF COLLECTION PERIODS

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
ZONE 1	Oct. 31 – Nov. 3	Nov. 27 – Nov. 30	Dec. 26 – Dec. 29	Jan. 26 – Feb. 1

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
ZONE 2	Nov. 4 – Nov. 8	Dec. 1 – Dec. 6	Jan. 2 – Jan. 5	Feb. 2 – Feb. 7

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
ZONE 3	Nov. 9 – Nov. 13	Dec. 7 – Dec. 11	Jan. 8 – Jan. 11	Feb. 8 – Feb. 12

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
ZONE 4	Nov. 14 - Nov. 17	Dec. 12 – Dec. 15	Jan. 12 – Jan. 18	Feb. 13 – Feb. 16

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
ZONE 5	Nov. 18 – Nov. 22	Dec. 18 – Dec. 21	Jan. 19 – Jan. 25	Feb. 19 – Feb. 23

Dear Mountain Brook Resident:

The City of Mountain Brook will be collecting your leaves based on the schedule listed above. The dates listed are the time frames that our work crews will be in your area. Please have your leaves at the curb prior to the beginning of your scheduled times. Please only place leaves at the curb for collection, and do not include items such as branches, rocks, or bags within the leaf piles. Also, please do not have your leaf piles staged in close proximity to the storm drains. If leaves are not out prior to the date of your scheduled collections, 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.

For more information go to

WWW.MTNBROOK.ORG
GO TO PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CLICK ON WASTE AND LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULES

INTERACTIVE MAP LINK

AIM CAMERA AT QR CODE CLICK LINK THEN TYPE IN ADDRESS TO SEE WHICH ZONE YOU'RE IN



MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS: 25 MBHS STUDENTS NAMED A NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST



A total of 25 students from Mountain Brook High School have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their outstanding academic achievements and named a '2024 National Merit Semifinalist.'

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a program that recognizes academically talented high school students in the nation. 1.5 million high school students around the country enter the program every year

by taking the PSAT or the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Only 16,000 students with the highest PSAT/NMSQT scores are accepted as Semifinalists for the program. There were over 250 high school students in the state of Alabama who received this distinction and Mountain Brook High School's 25 students make up a staggering 10% of these students statewide.

The following students have a qualifying

PSAT/NMSQT score and are being considered as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

First Row (L-R): Emmanuelle Lamontagne, Ann-Massey Bowman, Livy Holt, Emily Turner

Second Row (L-R): A.T. Moak, Anne Lichty, Mary Katherine Malone, Caitlin Speake

Third Row (L-R): Sam Holmes, Davis Till,

Kenneth Robinson, JK Roberts, Patton Hahn

Fourth Row (L-R): Ham Mandell, Jackson Short, Nate Hendrickson, Turner Holmes, Wells Finch

Fifth Row (L-R): William Stringfellow, Grant Cooper, Henry Stallcup, Nathan Allendorf, Branum Lloyd, Grayson Hydingler, and Will Lisenby

All In Mountain Brook

Your well-being. Our passion.

ALL IN Mountain Brook is a partnership among Mountain Brook families, schools, government, businesses, and worship communities. Our mission is to educate our community about the challenges facing our youth today. Our goal is to provide families factual information they may use to be safe, healthy, and happy. We strive to deliver content to help our community learn, grow, and prosper, focusing on personal safety, mental health, and overall wellness. Working together, we hope to be a trusted and positive source as we navigate the ever-changing world around us and promote a collectively successful future.

Program Schedule for 2023-2024

For more information and to register: www.allinmountainbrook.org

Speaker Series:

Highs Hidden in Plain Sight

Jermaine Galloway - The Tall Cop Monday, January 29th at 6:00 pm

MBHS Fine Arts Center

Lunch and Learn Series:

1. ADHD 101 with Dr. Dale Wisely (Hybrid)

Thursday, November 2nd at 12:00 pm or 6:00 pm at Board of Education (In-Person)

Thursday, November 9th at 6:00 pm (Virtual)

Thursday, November 16th at 6:00 pm (Virtual)

2. When Worry Becomes Anxiety with Carlton Cooper, LMFT-A

Wednesday, January 24th at 12:00 pm at O'Neal Library

3. Slacking on Sleep: Leveraging Childhood Sleep with Mary Halsey Maddox, MD

Wednesday, February 28th at 12:00 pm at Board of Education

Spring programming will be released in the next issue of The Reporter.

Community Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid: Community Training (2-day Training)

February 27th from 9:00 am-12:30 pm (In-Person/Virtual) at Board of Education



O'Neal Library News

**WE ARE
OPEN!**

The O'Neal Library Renews and Reopens

After four and a half long months the O'Neal Library is open again! Deeply missed programs, public services, and shelves upon shelves of books are back! The O'Neal Library staff celebrated its grand re-opening on Wednesday, September 20th and were excited to see the regulars, residents, and families of Mountain Brook return.

On the morning of Friday, May 5, a water

pipe to the fire suppression system in the Library burst releasing a large volume of water into the building. Thankfully the fire sprinkler system was not activated, and the collection did not sustain any damage. The first floor and basement were flooded. Fortunately, the City of Mountain Brook was able to help the O'Neal Library move to a temporary satellite location on Overton

Road for June and July to continue summer reading programs and a browsing collection. After leaving Overton Road, O'Neal Library staff worked diligently throughout August and September to provide curbside service for patrons and to prepare for re-opening, all while the library was under construction.

On September 20th to everyone's excitement and joy, the library was once

again filled with children's laughter and familiar faces. The O'Neal Library is extremely grateful for the patience, love, and support that overflowed from the hearts of patrons and the community of Mountain Brook.

Programs, story times, book clubs, and all of your other favorites will resume starting October 2nd!

Children's Department

Reading Buddies

New program alert! At the Reading Buddies gathering on the first Monday of each month, teen volunteers and Hand in Paw therapy dogs come to the Library to serve as encouraging, non-judgmental listeners for young readers practicing their new literacy skills. For kids, reading fluency is often tied to self-confidence and social aptitude. The best way to increase fluency? Practice reading, aloud and often! Parents and siblings make great audiences, but reading to someone new – especially if that someone is furry and has paws – can offer fresh motivation. Registration is not required, but human and canine buddies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Plan to take turns with other readers.

Pumpkin Houses

When your family is looking for a little something extra, try one of the Children's Department's Etc. programs. Celebrate fall on Wednesday, November 8, by creating a fantastical pumpkin house fit for a fairy, elf, or gnome. The Library will provide pumpkins and all other necessary craft materials. Just bring your imagination!

Holiday Specials

The ONL Salon returns in December to offer the tinsel treatment at the annual Fancy Nancy Holiday Hairdo Hullabaloo. Your child can step right up to the styling stool of an expert Library staff member, then leave with a splendiferous 'do! December also brings the month-long hunt for the Elf on the Shelf. That mischievous elf moves to a new spot in the Children's Department every day and finding him earns you a prize. If it's books you're after, you won't

want to miss the robust holiday displays offering Christmas, Hanukkah, winter, and snow books, as well as the usual curated selection of favorites from your Librarians.

Santa's coming!

On November 29, the Junior Women's Committee of 100 will host a book donation party and Santa Claus meet-and-greet as a fundraiser for the Children's Department. Donors can designate an honoree – a child, teacher, or family member, for example – and the Library will put nameplates in new children's books with honorees' names. At the Book Buddies holiday party, kids have an opportunity to read and check out the book their family donated and to visit with Santa. This year's party is November 29 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.



O'Neal Library News

Adult Department

The O'Neal Library app is the best place to keep up with all the amazing programs being added all the time! Another great benefit is not having to carry your library card. The app saves your digital barcode, so it's ready when you need it! In addition to storing your library card for anytime access, you can easily request library material, access research databases, and tap the Events icon to display up-to-the-minute library programs you can register for right on your phone! Some of the exciting offerings coming up are listed below but we're always adding more. Download the app today, regularly check the events calendar online, or sign up for our weekly event e-newsletter to be notified about the latest and greatest additions! Registration is required for most of our programming, available on the website calendar at www.oneallibrary.org.

Visit the Makerspace on the 2nd floor on **November 1st from 4-5pm** and learn how to make your own cross stitch patterns using Pixelart software. Cross stitch supplies will be available to start your design. Want to use our Makerspace resources more often? Open Maker Labs will be held every week on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2-6pm. Use our equipment and workspace to tackle your own creative projects, or craft with supplies provided at our monthly Creation Station. No registration is required, and all ages are welcome. Creation Stations this season are Cross-Stitch (November), Gift-Wrapping (December), and Button Making (January).



Enjoy an Afternoon with the Author on Saturday, November 4th, 2-3pm, and hear Julie Buckner Armstrong speak about her book, *Learning from Birmingham: A Journey into History and Home*. Registration is available online. If you are an aspiring writer, you may want to register for Miriam Calleja's writer's workshops, which offer 90 minutes of writing prompts on select Tuesdays and Thursdays each month. Registration required.



Medicare can be confusing, but our Medicare Made Clear presentations can help! Join licensed United Healthcare agent Michael Wimberly for an informative presentation on **Wednesday, November 8th 10-11am**.

On November 12 at 7pm, the library's horror movie series **Under the Mountain** is partnering with the Substrate Radio program, Sleep In Cinema, to present the silent movie

nightmare, **A Page of Madness**, featuring a live score performed by Stehen McClurg and a panel discussion following the screening.

Join us for a **community clothing swap on Wednesday, November 15th from 6-8pm!** The goal of this swap is to provide a more eco-friendly way to "shop" outside of fast fashion. To participate, drop off five to ten items of clothing and/or accessories, clean and in good shape, to Amanda Westfall in the Adult Department before the event. All adult sizes are welcome! This event is for adults, so please no

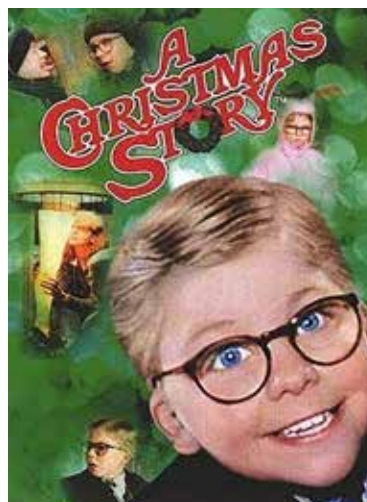


children's clothing. This year, we will also be swapping shoes! Have some extra hangers you don't need? We will also take them to use at the swap! To drop off your items ahead of time, please email Amanda at awestfall@oneallibrary.org to schedule a time.

Study for your exams at the O'Neal Library! Extra tables, chairs, and outlets will be available in December 2024 on the 2nd Floor of the library for teens in grades 7-12 and university students preparing for winter finals. Mark your calendars, because the library will provide free snacks and de-stressing activities **December 12-14** at our biannual Exam Breaks programs!

Renowned naturalist and writer Whit Gibbons will host a **nature journaling program on Saturday, Dec 2nd from 2-3:30pm**. Mr. Gibbons will discuss his memoir, *Salleyland*, before featuring some live specimens of reptiles and amphibians native to Alabama and leading an exercise in nature journaling. Register online.

Enjoy some seasonal treats! On **Sunday, December 3rd at 3pm**, the Short Story Matinee film is the 1983 movie **A Christmas Story**, adapted from the humorous writings of Jean Shepherd. On **Monday, December 11th at 6:30pm**, The Great Short Stories book group will be discussing one of the stories that served as inspiration, **Red Ryder Nails the Hammond Kid** by Jean Shepherd. On **Sunday, December 10th at 7pm**, award-winning voice actor



Matt Godrey returns for another **Under the Mountain performance of two modern ghost stories. The Samford String Quartet** returns for one of their ever-popular Holiday Concerts from **11am-noon on Wednesday, December 6th**. Add a touch of nostalgia to your holiday décor with a wintry **Winecraft event making Midcentury Christmas houses on Wednesday, December 13 at 6pm**, ages 21+ only and registration required.

A new year means a new start! Jump start yours with **feng shui consultant and teacher Katie Rogers to talk about decluttering on Thursday, January 4th at 6:30pm**. Go further and learn a new language by registering for the next session of online American Sign Language classes on Zoom beginning Tuesday, January 9th. There is no in-person component to this class. Program and registration information is available at <https://www.oneallibrary.org/asl>. If the January class is full, never fear! Another session begins in March, so check the calendar.



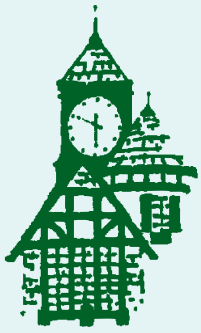
Get moving this year with **Yoga with Marie Blair**. Join Marie on **Tuesdays at 10am each week**, with a once-a-month Yoga 101 class on select Thursdays. Space is limited so all classes require registration.



On January 14 at 7pm Under the Mountain celebrates its 2nd birthday with a screening of visionary director Alejandro Jodorowsky's carnivalesque slasher **Santa Sangre!**

ONL offers three book groups:
The Bookies meet on 2nd Tuesdays at 10am,
Great Short Stories meets on 2nd Mondays at 6:30pm (Zoom available), and **Books & Beyond meets on last Tuesdays at 6:30pm** (Zoom available). For more information, staff contact information, and group reading lists, visit the Adults tab at www.oneallibrary.org and select Book Clubs.





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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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THE VILLAGES OF

MOUNTAIN BROOK

MERRY & BRIGHT
in Mountain Brook

CRESTLINE VILLAGE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
November 16th

MOUNTAIN BROOK VILLAGE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
November 30th

MOUNTAIN BROOK HOLIDAY PARADE
December 3rd

ENGLISH VILLAGE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
December 7th

MTNBROOKCHAMBER.ORG

New Members

- Graceful Aging
- Mae Davis Interiors
- The Exercise Coach
- Condado Tacos
- Hill Media Productions
- Ellie Mental Health
- Ultra Motorcars
- Stretch Zone
- South Mountain Dental Care
- Idyllo
- Crawford Square Real Estate Advisors
- Equitable Advisors
- Stark Exterminators

Ex Voto Wins Alabama Retailer of the Year

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Adams** with **Ex Voto Vintage** on winning the **Alabama Retail Association Alabama Retailer of the Year award!** This award is given to a retailer that has demonstrated a blend of sound business practices along with commitment to their communities, customers and employees. Ex Voto was one of seven nominees from the Mountain Brook community.

HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVE FORUM LUNCHEON

The Mountain Brook Chamber hosted our quarterly luncheon on August 16th and featured a panel discussion on the healthcare industry with executive leadership from St.Vincent's Health, UAB Hospital, Grandview Medical Center, and Brookwood Baptist Health.

Pictured are: Brenda Carlisle - CEO of UAB Hospital, Daniel McKinney - CEO of Grandview Medical Center, Tim Puthoff - COO of Ascension St. Vincent's, Jeremy Clark - CEO of Brookwood Baptist Health. Paul DeMarco, Millie Rudder, and Emily Jensen are also pictured.

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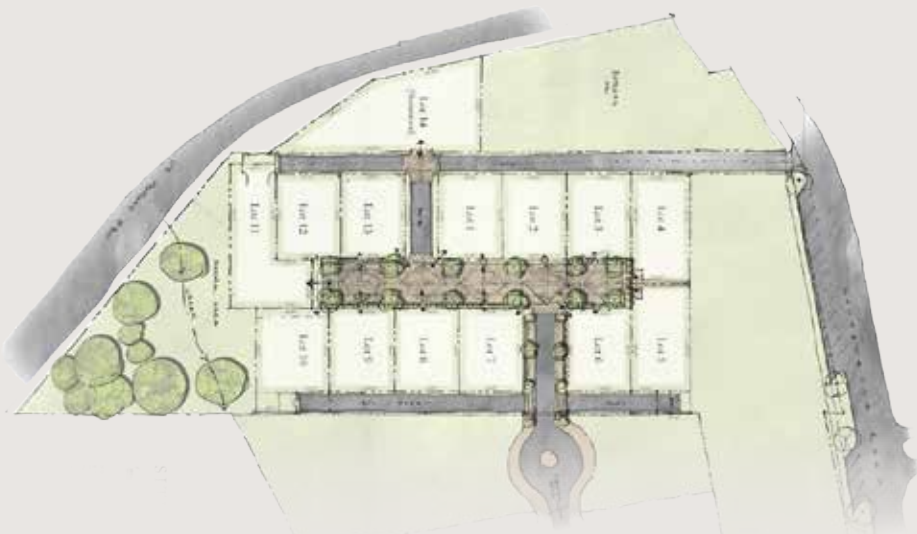
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Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce
Annual Luncheon
January 31, 2024
11:00 am



Please Join Us as We Honor the
2024 Jemison Visionary Award Recipient
O'Neal Library Tynes Award Recipient
City of Mountain Brook Employee of the Year

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Birmingham Has More
A Conversation with the Birmingham Business Alliance
Steve Ammons, BBA CEO & Karla Khodanian, BBA COO



MOUNTAIN BROOK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Mountain Brook Chamber Quarterly Luncheon
November 8th | 11 am



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The Official Guide to Mountain Brook
Advertising Opportunities Available

The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our continued partnership with Alliance Publishing for the 2024 edition of *The Official Guide to Mountain Brook*. As the premier marketing publication of the Mountain Brook Chamber and the City of Mountain Brook, this high-quality guide will include our full member directory, while also highlighting our distinctive Villages, city information, and informative destination maps, making it perfect for residents and visitors alike!

For more information, and to reserve your advertisement for 2024, contact Lisa Christopher with Alliance Publishing here.

Glory Angel Collection

Our exclusive luxury candle collaboration with Lauren Dunn Art and Crave Candle Company.



Our four candles are adorned with a colorful, organically painted angel by Lauren Dunn.

Each candle has a different scent and is hand poured in a beautiful iridescent taupe glass vessel by Crave Candle Company.

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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Onward Reserve - July 11th



Snoozy's Kids 35th Anniversary - August 4th



Village Dermatology 15th Anniversary - August 22nd



The Exercise Coach - August 29th



Stretch Zone - September 13th



Ellie Mental Health - September 18th



Condado Tacos - September 20th



O'Neal Library Re-Opening - September 21st



The Fitness Center's 30th Anniversary - October 4th



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

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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 2023-2024

The Foundation will kick off this year's Grandparents Club Campaign in October. The 2023-2024 chairs are **Diana and Gray Plosser**, and their committee members are **Leslie and Bibb Allen, Maggie and Will Brooke, Kathy and Jack Echols, Gillian and Mike Goodrich, Sallie and Jim Johnson, Mary Louise and Chris King, Gwaltney and Libbo McCollum, Kathy and Jim Miller, Allene and Leighton Parnell, Diane and Jim Richardson, Laura Susan and Tommy Roberts, Susan and David Silverstein, Lyda White and Sally Worthen**. 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. **Donations can be made at MBGives.org or by mailing a check to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation at 32 Vine Street, 35213.**

Become A Give180 Family Today!

The goal with the Give180 campaign is 100% participation from Mountain Brook Schools families. This annual campaign asks each family to give \$1 or more for every day their student is learning through Mountain Brook Schools. It is not too late to join the 700 donors who have already given to this fundraising effort. **Please visit MBGives.org or mail a check to Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation at 32 Vine Street, 35213 to give today.**

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MORE RESOURCES**

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180**

**\$1 x 180
SCHOOL DAYS
MBGIVES.ORG**



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 2023-2024 campaign kicks off this month, and the campaign chairs are: **Kelsey Frey (Mountain Brook Elementary)** and **Perry Wright (Brookwood Forest)**. Campaign committee members are **Katie Seeger (Brookwood Forest), Kristi Moncrief (Brookwood Forest), Barbara Parker (Cherokee Bend), Jill Sims (Cherokee Bend), Katie Meyerpeter (Crestline), Akasha Jackson (Crestline), Cynthia Hicks (Mountain Brook Elementary), Adam Johnson (Mountain Brook Junior High)** and **Drew Jackson (Mountain Brook High School)**. The Foundation is grateful for Mountain Brook teachers' support!



Foundation Board Approves 2023-2024 Annual Grant to Schools

The Foundation's Board of Directors has approved a grant of \$549,440 to the school system for the 2023-2024 school year. Projects funded with this gift include:

- \$235,000 for learning tools such as **Chromebooks** for all Mountain Brook teachers and students at each of the six schools as well as **Google Suite** and a new **website** for the district.
- \$66,497 toward **technology for math educational resources** at the newly renovated Mountain Brook Junior High and Mountain Brook High School.
- \$235,943 for **professional learning stipends for Mountain Brook teachers** and the **MBS summer learning conference** (which teachers attend at no personal cost).
- \$12,000 to **enhance each school's library** including new books and magazine subscriptions.