



THE MT LAUREL CONNECTION

A newsletter for and about the Town of Mt Laurel

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014

FROM DREAM TO REALITY...

MT LAUREL LIBRARY BREAKS GROUND



The Friends of Mt Laurel Library and EBSCO's John Freeman, along with Shelby County Commissioners, break ground for the new library.



Cindy Prickett and Anne Sturm help the area children celebrate the groundbreaking with miniature hard hats.

Photos by Mt Laurel resident, Jennifer Jones, Heart Smile Photography

Residents of the Town of Mt Laurel and the greater Dunning Valley area gathered on Thursday, January 9, to break ground and celebrate the beginning of construction of a permanent library in Mt Laurel. The celebration follows the announcement by the Friends of Mt Laurel Library organization that sufficient funds have been raised to begin construction. Fundraising efforts will continue throughout the construction phase to complete and furnish the new library.

The property for the new library is a gift to the Friends organization and North Shelby Library from EBSCO Industries. Moss Rock Building Company, Inc., a division of EBSCO, will construct the library on a no-profit basis. The Mt Laurel Library, a branch of the North Shelby Library, is currently operating in a temporary location on Olmsted Street in a storefront space first provided by EBSCO in 2010.

"A library in Mt Laurel has been a dream for the community for a number of years, and EBSCO has shared this vision with the Friends of the Library on so many levels from the beginning. Providing space for a temporary branch library to operate was a significant early step in moving our fundraising forward," according to Ann Price, chairman of the Friends group. "The temporary space gave people a taste of what it would be like to have a community library, and it energized our fund drive. Knowing that EBSCO would have the land ready to donate when the funds were raised was another wonderful incentive and a very special gift to the community."

The new building will be located on Olmsted Street, just down the street from the temporary location. The new library will offer a more extensive library collection and services than are currently offered at the temporary location. Opening is expected to be in the spring. After construction, the Mt Laurel Library will continue to be staffed, maintained and operated by the North Shelby Library.

Fundraising will continue through the Friends organization's "Circle of Friends" program, the sale of commemorative bricks for the library's entryway, used book sales and the "wish list" for furnishing the building and landscaping.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Greetings to all in the New Year! This year is going to be a memorable time for Mt Laurel. After many years of fundraising, we've finally broken ground for the construction of a permanent library building in Mt Laurel. Thanks to the endless energy and perseverance of the Friends of the Mt Laurel Library organization for this gift to the community and to EBSCO for donating the land for the building. We are also grateful to the North Shelby Library who will staff, maintain and operate the library branch.



We have three homes currently under construction and several more in the planning stages. I would like to officially welcome our newest neighbors John and Kathy Redd, Greg and Beverly Nichols, and Phil and Gail Chandler. Also, new to the neighborhood are Mike and Sabina Mann, Steven Newton, Jane Williams, and Gary and Judith Lunsford. They all are such wonderful people who I consider to be a blessing to our growing community. We have a number of events and activities to look forward to in the spring. Details will come soon regarding our Spring Festival and the Community Garage Sale. Favorite Laundry and the Red Shamrock Pub have new owners, so make sure you stop by and welcome them.

One of the best features of living in Mt Laurel is the sense of community we have here. If you want to get involved, I encourage you and your family to participate in all that's offered here, including the monthly Ladies Lunch, Sippin' Seniors on Mondays, Mt Laurel Book Club, The Garden Group, and storytime and crafts at the library. I'm sure as spring approaches a lot of folks will be enjoying fishing at the lake, visiting the dog park and using our wonderful lake exercise trail.

I'm anxiously awaiting the blooming of the spring plants and flowers. I truly believe we live in one of the best neighborhoods in Alabama. Thank you all for your part in making it special.

John O. Freeman, Sr.
Vice President & General Manager
EBSCO Development Company

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP FINISH AND FURNISH THE NEW MT LAUREL LIBRARY

Make a tax-deductible donation in any amount. Those giving \$500 or more will be recognized as the "Circle of Friends" contributors on the wall of the community room in the new library. However, any contribution is appreciated.

Purchase a commemorative brick to honor your family or a loved one as a lasting tribute to be placed at the library's entryway or walk. Bricks are \$100 for three lines of text, and \$250 for six lines of text. (Also tax deductible.)

Select an item from the library wish list (at the library or request a list at mtlaurellibraryfriends@gmail.com) that you would like to purchase for the library.

For more information, stop by the library's temporary location, visit www.mtlaurellibrary.org, or email mtlaurellibraryfriends@gmail.com.

LIBRARY FLOOR PLAN ON DISPLAY

The floor plan for the new building, which will be built between the grocery and Double Oak Community Church, is posted at the current library. Donor forms and brick order forms are available at the library and at www.mtlaurellibrary.org. For more information or questions, email mtlaurellibraryfriends@gmail.com.

The Mt Laurel Connection is published every other month to provide frequent communication about the Town of Mt Laurel and its residents and to foster a strong sense of community. Residents are invited to send information, news and suggestions for articles to mtlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com or call Ann Price at 981-9772.

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MT LAUREL CHRISTMAS 2013

Photos by Jimmy Summers and Marie Freeman



GARDEN GROUP SETS SPRING SCHEDULE



The Mt Laurel Garden Group invites all Mt Laurel residents to participate in the monthly meetings. Here are the spring meeting details:

February 4, 10 a.m.
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Wildflowers with Arnie Rutkis
Lunch at the Gardens Cafe

March 11, 10 a.m.
Shelby County Extension Office, Columbiana
Invasive Plants with Sallie Lee of Auburn Univ.
Lunch at Bernie's

April 1, 10 a.m.
Gina's Greenhouse and Nursery, Childersburg
Native plant sale and induction of new officers
Lunch at Old Town Grille

MYSTERY DONOR GIVES DOG AGILITY STATION



Someone has gifted the Dog Park with a superb wooden agility station. The dogs will love it, and dog owners will learn training protocols. We of the Dog Park Committee are thrilled and want to convey our thanks.

Ted Kluz, chairman

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR WITH MT LAUREL BUSINESSES



FAVORITE LAUNDRY HAS NEW OWNERS

Meet Kim and Jason Anderson who recently purchased Favorite Laundry, along with Blessed Be The Name and Between Collection clothing lines from Mt Laurel's Ashley Eiler. The sale and purchase of the business came as a bit of a surprise to both the old and new owners. Kim, a regular customer at Favorite Laundry and an experienced seamstress with appliques and monograms, had approached Ashley for advice on expanding her home business. At the time, Ashley had been thinking of selling her business to pursue a photography career. It was instant chemistry when they discussed the possibilities, and the sale and purchase followed soon after, according to Jason.

Kim will manage the business with help from Jason who is employed by General Electric. They plan to keep the shop mostly the same with Kim adding her own designs and creative touches. One addition will be "The Laundry Basket," an upscale children's consignment shop that will open in a portion of their space. They are now accepting spring and summer items for the consignment area.

Ashley says she will miss her job and all that was involved, but she is excited to see what ideas Kim has and how and where she will take the companies individually.

Pictured above: Kim and Jason Anderson in Favorite Laundry. They live in Chelsea and are parents of a six-year-old girl and eight-year-old boy.

A NOTE FROM ASHLEY

I have enjoyed serving you in the store for these years, but it is time to move into a new season of life that will give me more time to serve my family during a busy time with sports and family activities. Favorite Laundry will remain the same with Kim's new ideas. I love what she picks out, and you all are in great hands. I am excited to continue being your neighbor. My new jobs include working as a contract photographer for Brookwood Hospital and Smockadot Children's Clothing as well as doing family and newborn sessions. Thank you for loving Favorite Laundry for these years and being so loyal to the businesses in the town.

THE RED SHAMROCK PUB IS PURCHASED BY THE DAILEY FAMILY

The Red Shamrock Irish Pub also has new owners: Kay and Chuck Dailey and their son, Henry. Renovations have already been underway for painting, new furniture, new TVs and the expansion of the upstairs kitchen. They plan to make the pub a favorite spot for watching major sporting events and having private parties, while remaining family and dog friendly.

The Daileys plan to continue the tradition of ShamFest, a special Saint Patrick's Day celebration that was initiated by the previous owners. Watch the Google Group emails for more details as the plans are made.



SABINA'S OPENS A SECOND LOCATION IN MT LAUREL

Although they call it their "warehouse," Mike and Sabina Mann have opened a second location of Sabina's on Mt Laurel Avenue which showcases their furniture and art merchandise. The shop, formerly occupied by PharmSouth, is open during regular business hours. The main shop on Croft Street opened in October of 2012 and features furniture, diamonds and gifts. Sabina and Mike became official Mt Laurel residents with their recent purchase of a home on Hawthorn Street.



SAVE THESE DATES

February 4	Garden Group
February 5	Storytime at the library
February 6	Book Club
February 15	Crafty Saturday at the library
February 19	Storytime at the library
February 26	Ladies Lunch
March 5	Storytime at the library
March 6	Book Club
March 11	Garden Group
March 15	Crafty Saturday at the library
March 19	Storytime at the library
March 26	Ladies Lunch
April 12	Mt Laurel Spring Festival

YOU'RE INVITED

Mondays 9:00 a.m.	Sippin' Seniors
Second Tuesdays	Bunco Group
First Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Fourth Wednesdays	Ladies Lunch
Saturday mornings	Round Robin Tennis

To receive email reminders of activities, join the Mt Laurel Google Group. Contact the Mt Laurel Sales Office for more information on joining.

LOCAL COOSA RIVERKEEPER EVENTS
PLANNED FOR MT LAUREL

TERRAPIN BEER COMPANY SPECIALS

From February 21 until March 1, celebrate our state's amazing biodiversity at Area 41 Pizza with Coosa Riverkeeper and Terrapin Beer Company. One dollar from every Terrapin Beer purchase will go to Coosa Riverkeeper's river conservation work which helps protect the drinking water source for Mt Laurel.

CHEERS TO THE COOSA
AT STONE'S THROW IN MARCH

Coosa Riverkeeper is hosting "Cheers to the Coosa: Wild & Foraged," a four-course dinner featuring wild game, including Alabama whitetail deer and alligator and locally foraged edibles from Chris Bennett, a well-known local forager. Virginia pine needles will be paired with wine and craft beer at Stone's Throw Bar & Grill on March 6. Tickets and more information are available at www.coosariver.org. Proceeds benefit river conservation work of Coosa Riverkeeper.

VALENTINE'S AT
TOWNHOUSE TEA SHOPPE
AND TEA PARTY CASTLE

The TownHouse Tea Shoppe will host an evening of beautiful music from "Fiddlin' in the Parlor" and great food on February 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cost for the dinner will be \$30 per person.



Tea Party Castle announces its annual Valentine's Royal Tea Celebration on February 7 at 6:00 p.m. This is a very popular venue for dads to treat their daughters to a unique experience for Valentine's Day.



Make reservations for each event at 529-0081.

MARCH ROYAL TEA

The TownHouse Tea Shoppe March Royal Tea will be held on March 14 at 6:00 p.m. These particular Royal Teas tend to sell out earlier than some, so make your reservation early at 529-0081.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Townhouse Tea Shoppe celebrates its fourth anniversary the week of March 12. As always, the week will be filled with authentic Irish food and music. The celebration will end with an evening of music and celebration on Saturday, March 15.

LADIES LUNCH

Ladies in Mt Laurel are invited to come to Ladies Lunch on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at Stone's Throw Bar and Grill. The upcoming dates are February 26 and March 26. No reservation is necessary.

TENNIS LESSONS OFFERED

If you would like to learn to play tennis or brush up on your game, tennis lessons are available from Pat Morgan. Pat, who lives in Greystone Farms, was a MVP tennis player all her years at the University of Alabama and has been director of tennis at Vestavia Country Club and Greystone Club. She teaches private, semi-private, and group lessons. Contact her at tpropat@bellsouth.net or call 451-8566.

Got News?

Send news and photos to
mtlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND



Mike and Becky Davis were recently skiing in Breckenridge CO while supporting one of their favorite charities, the EOD Warrior Foundation.



Reaves Childress, Parrish Prickett, Max Scroggins, Dylan David, and Davis Cash had a great time at the Lego Expo.



Trent and Marina Nessler were invited to Rio De Janeiro, so Trent could certify the Brazilian Navy and Olympic Physical Therapists in the Dynamic Movement Assessment.



Della Pender spoke to the Sippin' Seniors group in November regarding how the individuals in the group could participate in the God's Outreach ministry she operates in Harpersville.



Mark Partain's tennis team recently placed second in the USTA League's 2013 National Championship.



Susan and Stan Bradley made a road trip to Seattle to meet their newest grandson Carver Alan Perry born January 3. Carver is the son of Susan's son Alexander Perry and Erin Brady.



Jay Price and son John enjoyed lunch this fall at the Del Coronado Hotel in San Diego. John is currently serving as a psychologist with the Navy.

MT LAUREL'S GOT TALENT

CONGRATULATIONS DREW



Many congratulations are in order for Mt Laurel's Drew Fetterolf, daughter of Pam and David Fetterolf. Drew was crowned Shelby County's 2013 Miss Merry Christmas in the third to fifth grade category. She also took honors in the 2014 International Model, Talent and Acting competition held in Los Angeles in January. Drew placed in the top ten in swimsuit, runway, commercial print, fashion, print and screen test and was second runner up in TV beauty. In

addition, she was also in the top ten in the overall Model of the Year category and received an acting scholarship and an invitation to audition with several modeling and acting agencies in February.

SEVEN YEARS OF NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCES

In the Alabama Youth Ballet's Nutcracker, she has been a candy cane, soldier, mouse, doll, party girl, and Clara. She has danced in the Nutcracker corp de ballet in snow and flowers and danced pas de deux as a Mirliton and soloed in the Spanish dance...and she's only 16! Congratulations to Abbey Macklin for another great Youth Ballet performance and turning 16.



SHOW STOPPING GRACIE



Gracie Cash recently participated in her first "Show Stoppers" performance at Mt Laurel Elementary School. The Show Stoppers is an after school singing and dancing program for kindergarteners and first graders.

SONGS OF CHILDHOOD MOVIES AT BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN



Collier and Katherine Kauffman, grandchildren of Mary and the late Collier Ayers, recently appeared in "A Dream is a Wish" at Briarwood Christian High School. The performance was a musical revue of favorite songs of childhood movies. Collier was "Gaston" from Beauty and the Beast, and Katherine was "Nala" from The Lion King. Katherine designed and made both her costume and the lion's. Collier is a senior and Katherine is a sophomore at Briarwood Christian High School.



Pictured above: Collier and Katherine in costume.

Pictured left: Katherine with the "lion." Katherine designed and made both costumes.

Send News and Photos
to mlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com

IN CONCERT WITH NATURE



"In Concert with Nature" is a regular newsletter section that features topics about the landscape and design concept of Mt Laurel and also items of seasonal interest for homeowners, contributed by Jill Walton. Jill is a Mt Laurel resident and holds the Master

FOR THE LOVE OF SPRING

Most folks might not immediately claim late winter/early spring to be an exciting time of year. After all it's cold and sometimes dreary; college football is over; the big holidays are past; and summer's still a ways off. But if you pay attention and look closely, you'll start spotting that most inspiring of colors in the landscape: spring green. The earliest of shoots and buds are starting to appear. If they are already getting to work in your yard, you might as well join them.

There are plenty of tasks you can and should attend to outside in February and March. Here's a quick rundown of some of them. Do be careful not to tread around in your beds if they are wet. You don't want to compact the soil.

For your garden:

- Start seeds for the plants you'd like to grow entirely "from scratch" for your garden that would benefit from an early start.
- Plant cold-hardy plants like lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, onions and Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, spinach, beets, radishes. After the danger of frost has passed, tender varieties can go in. In Birmingham, our average risk of frost runs through the first week of April.

For your yard:

- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees. They need time to become established.
- Prune trees and shrubs – but wait to prune early blooming shrubs until after they have bloomed.
- You can cut some branches off your early bloomers to force blooms inside your house, though, for a beautiful natural bouquet.
- Freshen your yard's pine straw mulch.

Miscellaneous:

- Fill your porch pots with a variety of cool-weather-loving flowers that will be available at garden centers, like pansies, violas, snapdragons, nemesia and alyssum.
- Check and repair your gardening and yard tools.
- Keep up with filling your birdfeeders.
- Clean water features/fountains.
- It's a good time to give your houseplants (except for fuzzy leafed ones like African violets) a gentle shower in the sink.
- Now's a good time to start a gardening journal. Get an outdoor thermometer and rain gauge, too. Keep up with what's happening in your yard and garden.

With Valentine's Day, Easter and Mother's Day on the horizon, it's a perfect time to gift someone you love with plants, cool pots or garden supplies that they will be able to enjoy for a long time to come. Enjoy this time of transition and awakening.

