



THE MT LAUREL CONNECTION

A newsletter for and about the Town of Mt Laurel

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014

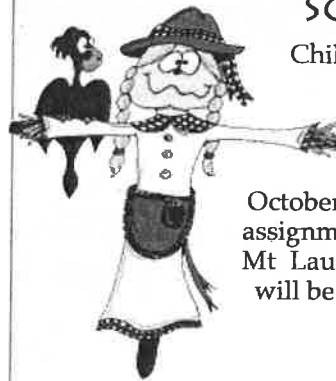


CRAFTS, FARMERS MARKET, MUSIC, PONIES, HAYRIDES, FOOD & FUN

Mt Laurel will be filled with fun for the annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The farmers market and craft fair promise to be one of the best ever. Music, food and a wide selection of creative goods will line the streets. Hayrides through the neighborhood will run all day, and there will be pony rides and a petting zoo for all the children to enjoy. Special guests will be Cinderella, Harry Potter, and the Ghostbusters.

The craft fair will offer a wide array of items, including jewelry, pottery, children's clothes, birdhouses, puppets and much more. The farmers market will have produce, and quality used books will be on sale at the Mt Laurel Library booth. The Mt Laurel shops will be open as well as all the restaurants in town.

SCARECROW CONTEST



Children, adults, clubs and groups are invited to enter a scarecrow in the Mt Laurel Scarecrow Contest. To enter, call Marie Freeman at 337-4816 or email refree143@aol.com by October 8 to get a space and number assignment. The scarecrow trail will be at the Mt Laurel Avenue entrance. Great prizes will be awarded!



BOOKS IN A BAG, BRICKS AND BARBECUE

Quality used books will be on sale on Bryson Square at bargain prices. Bag some books and keep the bag with a \$10 donation to the Mt Laurel Library. In other words, donate \$10 and get all the books you can fit into the green tote bag and keep the bag!

Library bricks will be on sale at the festival, so you can still buy a brick for the entryway of the Mt Laurel Public Library and invest in your community and pay a lasting tribute to your family or friends. The bricks are 4" x 8" for \$100 and 8" x 8" for \$250 (tax deductible).

Jim 'N Nick's will be serving up the "world's best barbecue" and giving proceeds to the Mt Laurel Library.

USED BOOK SALE: A FESTIVAL TRADITION



The Friends of the Mt Laurel Public Library Used Book Sale has become a tradition at the Mt Laurel festivals. Proceeds from the sale benefit the library's programs and needs.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

I am very pleased to report that the Greater Birmingham Association of Home Builders has awarded the Town of Mt Laurel the top award in six categories. Our community will be featured in the BAHB's Fall Community Showcase event. The awards are as follows:



- Best Community in Highway 280/Chelsea area
- Best Entrance – Large Community
- Best Use of Natural Space – Large Community
- Most Family-Friendly Community – Large Community
- Most Pet-Friendly Community – Large Community

I am looking forward to another beautiful fall season in Mt Laurel. I hope to see you all at the Fall Festival on Saturday, October. 11.

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

IMPORTANT NOTE TO MT LAUREL RESIDENTS:



In an effort to keep Mt Laurel in compliance with the CCRs that were drafted in the planning of Mt Laurel, we have been reviewing the neighborhood, with the help of a registered landscape architect, for landscape violations in the yards and common areas. The regulation reads as follows:

"All front and side yards of any lot which are visible from any common roads (other than alleyways) or walkways (sidewalks) adjacent to any common roads shall be landscaped in accordance with the Landscaping Regulations for Mt Laurel. All such front and side yard landscaping shall be completed no later than the date of occupancy of any building situated on such lot and shall thereafter be maintained in accordance with the Landscaping Regulations for Mt Laurel."

The homeowner of any residence with a violation will receive a letter of notification of non-compliance. The CCRs and a list of native plants are available at the Mt Laurel Sales Office.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Long-time Mt Laurel resident, Richard "Rick" Gilley, passed away in late August after a short illness. Rick and his wife, Sybil, moved to Mt Laurel in 2002 from Mountain Brook. He later moved his business, Bio Release Technologies, to Mt Laurel Avenue.

Rick was born in Quantico, VA., and grew up in McDonald Chapel, AL. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama and served in the U.S. Army. He was formerly with Southern Research Institute in Birmingham.

Sybil reports that Rick was an avid Alabama fan and a proud supporter of the Mt Laurel Library where he often took his great granddaughter to visit. The family asks that any memorials be made to the Mt Laurel Library.

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.

*Editor Ann Price Contributor and Copy Editor Jill Walton
Home Delivery Vicki Balogh, Lana Johnson, Chris Ladshaw, Nancy Ladshaw*

SPOONWOOD LAKE BECAME A CLASSROOM FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LAST MONTH



Mt Laurel Elementary School's Gifted Resource Class students recently took a field trip to Spoonwood Lake to take part in GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment). Mt Laurel Elementary School was lucky to have AMSTI (Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative) science specialists there to assist with the observation. The students that live in Mt Laurel who participated were Tejh Hardin, Ava McCartha, Joss O'Kelley and Max Scroggins.

GARDEN GROUP VISITS RUFFNER MOUNTAIN



The Mt Laurel Garden Group toured Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve for the September meeting, followed by lunch at the Irondale Café.

The Group's October 7 meeting will be a tour of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens with lunch at the Garden Café. The November 4 meeting will be a wreath making session with Gwynne Sams.

Anyone interested in learning about native plants and natural landscaping is invited to attend the meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

STORYTIME AND CRAFTY SATURDAY AT MT LAUREL LIBRARY



Need a good book?
Read a Nook
Check out a Nook today!

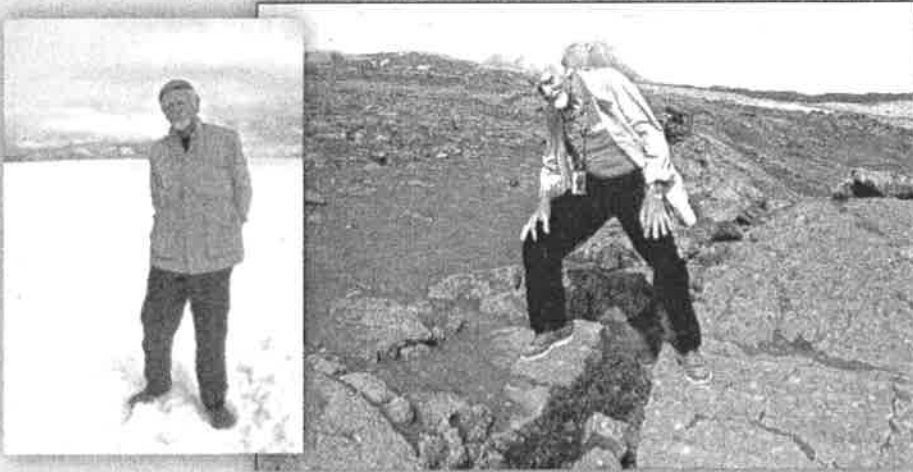
MT LAUREL
LIBRARY

MONDAY
THURSDAY 10-7
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY 10-6
SATURDAY 10-2

AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND

ICELANDIC ADVENTURER

Ted Kluz recently visited Iceland on a National Geographic Tour. In addition to standing on the fault line between Europe and North America and standing on a glacier, Ted saw volcanoes, the great Icelandic Geyser, gardens, and much more.



LONG-TIME TRAVEL BUDDIES





Cathy Murphy, second from left, and her friends from Sacramento have traveled the world together, and they still take several trips a year together. They attended the Pageant of the Masters art festival in Laguna Beach, CA this summer. Cathy then traveled to Santa Barbara for a family reunion.

OVERSEAS TRAVELERS



Cherie and Sienna Stine traveled to the Czech Republic and Austria this summer for their vacation in August. This is a picture of Sienna in Cesky Krumlov, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Czech Republic.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK AND A GRANDMOTHER'S DREAM

Vicki Balogh's dream is to show all nine of her grandchildren the beauty of Yellowstone National Park where she worked one summer and fell in love with that part of the country. She has made the trip five times so far. This year Vicki took Virginia and Martha, both ten years old. Bryan, Vicki's son and Martha's father, went with them as well. Now seven of her grandchildren have seen and experienced Yellowstone. Next year, she will take the eighth and ninth grandchildren, Bobby and Jeb, both nine years old, and it will be a dream fulfilled.

Send News and Photos to
mtlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND

NEW YORK, NEW YORK!



Jim and Anne Summers, along with their daughter Suzan's family spent a week touring New York City to celebrate Anne's Birthday and Suzan and John's anniversary. They rode the Amtrak Crescent on the way up and flew back.

RELOCATED TIMES TWO (SISTERS)!



Congratulations to **April Mraz** and her son, **Martin Vizzina**, on their new home. They have moved from 87 Hawthorn Street to 100 Burnham Street.

Welcome, **Tammy Martin** (April's sister) and **Chris Lipski** (her brother-in-law) who recently moved to 87 Hawthorn Street. Tammy and Chris moved to Mt Laurel from Atlanta after taking early retirement from their jobs as a corporate attorney and management consultant. Their plan is to spend six months of each of the next few years traveling the world. They just returned from spending the summer in different parts of Mexico.

They were looking for a convenient US "home base" that was close to family. With Tammy's sister, April, and nephew, Martin, already in Mt Laurel and her mom and another sister living nearby, Mt Laurel was a perfect choice. Tammy and Chris are in the process of renovating their Hawthorn Street home and should be officially moved in by mid-October. "We are very excited about living in Mt Laurel which is so charming and with such nice and friendly people as our new neighbors!"



TENNIS ANYONE?

Mark and Laura Partain will compete on their respective teams at the Southern United States Tennis Association's Alabama State Championships in November.



GUARCH FAMILY

Janet and Guy Guarch of 77 Burnham Street enjoyed a great weekend at the Willow Point Country Club with their grandchildren. The entire family attended the first Auburn football game of the season on that Saturday. Their granddaughter, Allie, is a freshman at Auburn University.

NEW ARRIVALS IN AUGUST



Jennifer and Anthony Gartrell proudly announce the arrival of **McCarley Rose** who was born on August 13. She weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces. Tripp is the proud big brother.



Ann and Jay Price welcomed the arrival of their new granddaughter, **Kate Hendon Minor**, on August 13. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Proud parents are their daughter, Sarah, and husband Steve.

DUNNAVANT VALLEY SMALL AREA PLAN

A four-year study to determine the wishes of people living in Dunnavant Valley on a number of environmental and community issues was recently completed by the Shelby County Planning Commission. The area includes the Highway 41 corridor and Dunnavant Valley extending between Oak Ridge and Double Oak Mountains. During this time, the Commission worked with a steering committee of representatives selected from throughout the valley and hosted several public workshops. The study resulted in the creation of The Dunnavant Valley Small Area Plan that was recently approved by the Shelby County Commission. This plan addresses current and foreseeable issues facing the valley by formulating a vision, a list of goals, objectives and implementation strategies. The plan should provide a guide for future growth and development of the valley. Below are some of the highlights and immediate objectives of the plan. The complete plan may be found at the Mt Laurel Library.

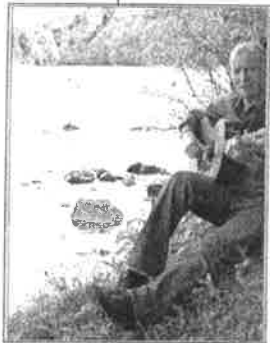


- ∞ Establish a Shelby County or Non-profit Dunnavant Valley (DV) Land Trust. This would be a non-profit trust organized to develop working relationships with local, regional and other conservation trusts with common interests. The Trust would accept federal, private and state grants and donations to purchase, conserve and maintain DV's green infrastructure. (8.1.8)
- ∞ Organize a Citizen Education Committee to study feasibility of developing another elementary school or a middle school. Initiate discussions among residents, stakeholders, developers, and county school board officials concerning a long-term strategy to form DV Attendance Zone within the Shelby County School System and separating from the Chelsea Attendance Zone. (4.1.1)
- ∞ Establish County Road 41 as a Scenic Corridor Overlay District By-Way that includes a 120-foot set back from CR 41 centerline and limit maximum building heights to 30 feet. (8.1.4) (8.2.2).
- ∞ Continue work on the DV Greenway as a multipurpose byway. Connect Mt Laurel Elementary School to neighborhoods, providing alternative connector with destinations to commercial, educational and recreational facilities and fields in the valley. Complete DV Greenway Phases II and III. Plan route to Stone Gate Farms and determine route to the town of Dunnavant. (5.1.1,2,3)
- ∞ Improve CR 41 by widening shoulders, adding bike lanes and share-the-road signs. (1.4.1) (5.2.1).
- ∞ Establish a Citizens Park and Recreation Board for the DV. Consider constructing a regional active park, a passive community park and identify potential building sites in Dunnavant Valley. (6.1.1,2) (6.2.1).
- ∞ Include Ridges Overlay District in county zoning ordinance with limitations on grading, clearing and height restrictions. Enact law to regulate wind-generated energy production in Shelby County. (8.1.2)
- ∞ Improve Public Safety by reducing speed on CR 41. Establish or enhance neighborhood watch programs, work with sheriff to set up/enhance these programs. Set up a Linked Notification network/email/text alert system. (2.1.1) (2.2.2).
- ∞ Meet with sheriff's staff to discuss concerns related to speeding and other law enforcement issues. Request two patrol deputies during rush hours and school departure, unmanned patrol vehicle decoy, create one DV beat, add additional patrol deputy, set up domestic violence and prevention programs and improve public relations with sheriff and patrol officers. (2.1.1.) (2.2.3).
- ∞ At the intersection of Hugh Daniel Drive and County Road 41 install area lights, turn lanes and warning lights. (1.2.1) (1.2.2) (1.2.3.).
- ∞ Reduce traffic speed on CR 41 with addition of roundabouts at high traffic intersections. (1.3.3).
- ∞ Encourage the growth and propagation of native and acceptable wildflowers in road rights-of-way to coincide with the natural reseeding cycles. Form citizens group to promote growth and maintenance of wildflowers. Adopt the minimal use of herbicides. Reestablish the Adopt-A-Mile and Adopt-A-Stream programs. (8.2.2,3,4).
- ∞ Work with schools to introduce formal Conservation Educational programs. (8.3.1.)
- ∞ Continue policy of No Speculative Rezoning specifically to avoid commercial sprawl. (7.1.2)
- ∞ Upgrade railroad crossing on Hwy 25 with an active warning device.

DINNER CONCERTS PLANNED AT TOWNHOUSE TEA SHOPPE

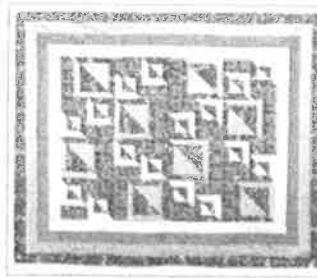


The TownHouse Tea Shoppe will host two dinner concerts this fall. Sarah McQuaid, traditional singer/songwriter will give a dinner concert on October 1. Sarah is a traditional singer in the best of the Celtic and 1930's Jazz traditions. Tickets are \$35 and include dinner, a free glass of wine, dessert, coffee bar and a full evening of music.



On Friday, November 7, Jim Malcolm will be at the Tea Shoppe for a November dinner concert. Jim is twice winner of Scots Trad awards and represents the ultimate in guitar, harmonica and voice performance of quintessential music of the Scottish tradition. Links to both of these artists' websites can be found at thetownhouseatmtlaurel.com. Make your reservations now by calling (205) 529-0081.

A QUILT RAFFLE AND CHRISTMAS SHOP WILL BENEFIT PROJECT NIGHT NIGHT



A group of local women have organized two fall fundraisers to benefit Project Night Night which provides age-appropriate comfort bags for abused, abandoned and homeless children.



A handmade quilt and five children's gift baskets containing stuffed animals, books and blankets will be raffled at the Mt Laurel Fall Festival on October 11.

The Christmas Shop will be on November 15 at Stone's Throw Bar and Grill and will feature gift items and Christmas décor.

Anyone who would like to donate new and newly made blankets and throws, new and gently used stuffed animals and books for the project may take them to the donation box at PharmSouth on Manning Place.

PURE BLISS SALON INTRODUCES A NEW SKIN CARE LINE



Skin Therapy at Pure Bliss Salon Spa is now offering a new organic skin care line, Eminence Organics of Hungary, for treatments in the spa and for at-home care.

The new products are the most unique and effective line of natural and organic skin care products on the market today, according to the salon's esthetician Julie Moss. Julie invites residents to come by the salon's tester bar for a sample.

NEXTDOOR/MT LAUREL



Over 100 Mt Laurel residents have joined a new free neighborhood website called Nextdoor, which is a social networking service for neighborhoods in the U.S. Any resident may post to it to

communicate with neighbors, ask questions, sell items, post pet information, obtain safety and security suggestions, and read recommendations for services. Free Android and iPhone apps are also available. Further information is available at nextdoor.com or call Syd Spain at 907-7518.

LADIES LUNCH

Mt Laurel ladies are invited to Ladies Lunch, which meets every fourth Wednesday at 11:30 at Stone's Throw Bar and Grill. The next lunch is October 22. No reservation is needed.

SAVE THESE DATES

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| October 2 | Book Club |
| October 3 | Storytime at the Library |
| October 7 | Garden Group |
| October 11 | Fall Festival |
| October 11 | Crafty Saturday at the Library |
| October 11 | Used Book Sale |
| October 17 | Storytime at the Library |
| October 22 | Ladies Lunch |
| | |
| November 4 | Garden Group |
| November 6 | Book Club |
| November 7 | Storytime at the Library |
| November 8 | Crafty Saturday at the Library |
| November 21 | Storytime at the Library |
| November 26 | Ladies Lunch |

Sippin' Seniors meet every Monday morning at 9 a.m. at the library unless otherwise announced.

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

Send News and Photos
to mtlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com

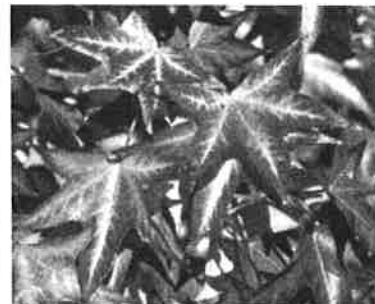


IN CONCERT WITH NATURE

"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 Gardener Certification.

THE THRILLS OF AUTUMN ARE UPON US

*"Listen! The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves!" —Humbert Wolfe*



Mt Laurel will soon be glowing with the glory of autumn's red, gold, orange and yellow hues. Every glance out your window will beckon you outside to enjoy the beauty with a stroll around the neighborhood or a hike through the woods.

Take the opportunity of the ideal tree planting time that is fall to add to the splendor of the season. Alabama's native trees offer a wide variety of choices that can do just that. A tree that will add a lovely autumn gold to your yard and still be interesting after those leaves have dropped can be gained by planting Shagbark Hickory with its attractive peeling bark. It's said to bear the tastiest of any of the hickory nut trees, which you can enjoy or leave for the wildlife to appreciate.

Another option for edible offerings as well as fall beauty is the Eastern (or Common) Persimmon, which is a native that was cultivated by Native Americans for its fruit and wood. Persimmons grow to approximately 60 feet and provide interest in multiple seasons with fragrant summer flowers and scarlet or orange leaves in fall. You will need both male and female plants to grow the fruit.

With its star shaped leaves that turn yellow, red and orange all on the same tree, an American Sweet Gum will definitely brighten your view. They produce prickly round fruits that can be considered a nuisance underfoot once they drop, but they can also add interest to wreaths and other fall and winter decorations.

If you'd like the brilliance of a Southern Sugar Maple in a smaller version, try the Chalk Maple. They typically grow 20-30 feet tall and are multi-trunked. While they will tolerate shade, faster growth, better form and stronger fall color will be the benefit of planting in a sunny spot.

Ironwood or American Hornbeam has smooth greenish-gray bark on a beautiful fluted and rippling trunk. Features also include interesting clusters of tan, papery nuts, and leaves that turn bright red, deep scarlet and orange in fall. These small trees do prefer moist soil.

Another smaller specimen with much to recommend it is the Parsley Hawthorn, which is a member of the rose family. This sometimes-thorny branched tree grows to 25 feet tall and produces dainty white spring blossoms, followed by long-lasting bright red fruits set among foliage that strongly resembles flat-leaf parsley in shape. The form can be that of a broad crowned small tree or, sometimes, a many branched shrub with those unusual leaves turning red and orange for autumn.

The six trees suggested here represent just a sampling of what's available to you among the Alabama natives that could fill your yard with beauty throughout the year.



Top row, pictured from left to right: Shagbark Hickory, Easter Persimmon, Chalk Maple, American Sweet Gum.

Second row, left to right: Parsley Hawthorn and American Hornbeam (Ironwood)