



THE MT LAUREL CONNECTION

A newsletter for and about the Town of Mt Laurel

APRIL/MAY 2014

IT'S HAPPENING...

CONSTRUCTION MOVES AHEAD ON THE NEW MT LAUREL LIBRARY

Several years of fundraising and hard work have finally made the building of a permanent library in Mt Laurel a reality. Construction is moving along quickly with an anticipated opening in June. The property for the new building is a gift to the Friends of the Mt Laurel Library organization and the North Shelby Library from EBSCO. Moss Rock Building Company, Inc., a division of EBSCO, is building the library on a no-profit basis. Fundraising efforts will continue throughout the construction phase to complete and furnish the new library. A floor plan of the new building is on display at the current library location at 33 Olmsted Street.

Residents and friends of the community are encouraged to help with the final fundraising efforts by joining the library's "Circle of Friends," by purchasing a commemorative brick for the entryway, and by purchasing an item of furniture from the wish list. A special display will be set up at the library's book sale area at the Spring Festival to give everyone an opportunity to contribute. Circle of Friends forms, brick forms, and the wish list order sheets are also available at the current library location.

The new library, which is a branch of the North Shelby Library, will offer a more extensive collection and services than currently offered at the temporary location. Plans are underway for the summer reading program, which will include weekly movies and activities. See details on page five of this newsletter. For up-to-date photos and information, "Like" Mt Laurel Public Library on Facebook. Questions? mtlaurellibraryfriends@gmail.com



FOUR GENERATIONS PLUS CALL MT LAUREL HOME



Pictured above: Nancy and Chris Ladshaw, Billy and Malinda Karr, Jesse and Chad Williams with baby Karr, and Jane Williams.

Four generations, plus a great aunt and a new husband and his mom give new meaning to Mt Laurel as a family-oriented neighborhood. That would be the Karrs, the Ladshaws and the Williams.

When Karr Williams was born in November, to Mt Laurel residents Jesse and Chad Williams, who live at 99 Hawthorn Street, he was welcomed by his grandparents, Malinda and Billy Karr, who live at 83 Hawthorn Street; his great grandmother, Chris Ladshaw and his great aunt, Nancy Ladshaw. Nancy and Chris live together at 205 Hawthorn Street. Soon after baby Karr was born, Chad's mom, Jane Williams, joined the Mt Laurel contingency and moved to 266 Hawthorn Street.



Pictured above: Jesse Karr Williams, Chris Ladshaw with baby Karr, and Malinda Karr.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Spring has arrived in Mt Laurel. What a great time to come down to the Town Center and support our local businesses! Walk, ride, or golf cart to town to take advantage of all the shops, restaurants, and services available in Mt Laurel. We have great options for dining outside in the perfect weather, and Mt Laurel Grocery has its spring array of plants and flowers decorating the sidewalks making everything look wonderful.

We're looking forward to another Spring Festival on April 12. We hope it will be our biggest crowd to date. It's a great time to invite friends and family back out to Mt Laurel. The streets will be full of new vendors and old vendors, great music, a variety of things to eat and folks visiting with neighbors and friends.

Mt Laurel has a new business in town, so make sure you stop by and say hello to Dr. Matthew Parker with Heritage Medicine. Soon we'll have a new library, too. Since the weather has cleared, construction is moving along nicely. Funds are still needed to complete and furnish the new library, so stop by the library's booth at the Spring Festival to purchase books and a commemorative brick for the entryway or choose an item to purchase from the wish list.

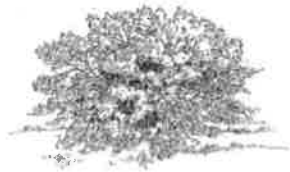
We have completed construction on two custom homes. Please welcome Andy and Beth Price who moved from Greystone and Tim and Ashley Mosko who are not new to Mt Laurel. However, they have moved into their new custom home. Our residents are our best sales people! Continue to tell friends and family how wonderful it is to live in this unique community, and we'll be happy to build a dream home for them too.

John O. Freeman, Sr.

Vice President & General Manager, EBSCO Development Company

KEEP MT LAUREL SPECIAL: KNOW YOUR CCRs

Beautiful communities don't just happen. They are the direct result of thoughtful planning and a conscientious effort to maintain a neighborhood's design principles. The Mt Laurel Codes, Covenants and Restrictions were established by our founders to protect the original design principles and keep Mt Laurel's natural beauty in the forefront. This is the first of a series of articles focusing on the "CCRs" and how they help make Mt Laurel a special place to live, work and play.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN The landscape design of Mt Laurel is reminiscent of the less formal landscapes of the English countryside where emphasis is on blending the "lawn" with the forest. Rather than have formal rows of shrubs that are the norm for suburban neighborhoods, Mt Laurel's ground covers were designed to make a seamless blend with smaller shrub masses. This adds instant age to the landscape, allowing trees of all sizes to blend with the plantings. Plantings come from the native species found here in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, and are

intended to be cultivated in a manner similar to their natural occurrence. This gives Mt Laurel a more casual feel while retaining the authentic beauty of the surrounding scenery.

All front and side yards of any lot that are visible from any Common Roads (other than alleyways) or sidewalks adjacent to any Common Roads shall be landscaped in accordance with the Landscaping Regulations for Mt Laurel. A good rule of thumb is that if it is not a native plant, it is probably not allowed in the front or side yard that is visible from the street (other than alleyways). No vegetable, herb or similar gardens or plants shall be planted or maintained in the front or side yards of any lot if the same would be visible from any Common Roads (other than alleyways).

A list of native trees and shrubs is available at the sales office, as well as the book of Mt Laurel Codes, Covenants and Restrictions. See the back page of this newsletter for this issue's "In Concert with Nature" which features native shrub selections for Mt Laurel.



VEHICLE PARKING Mt Laurel Residential Covenants, Codes and Restrictions prohibit the parking or storing of trailers of any kind, boats, commercial machinery or equipment of any nature on any lot unless placed in a wholly enclosed structure approved by the Mt Laurel Design Review Board. Parking of vehicles used primarily for commercial purposes and vehicles with commercial writings on their exteriors is also prohibited. If you have a vehicle that needs storage, contact the Mt Laurel sales office for alternative suggestions. *For more details on vehicles, machinery, and commercial vehicle restrictions in Mt Laurel, see CCR #15a and #15d.*

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 Photography Kristie Arvin, Ann Price
Home Delivery Vicki Balogh, Lana Johnson, Chris Ladshaw, Nancy Ladshaw*



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

Phil and Gail Chandler recently moved to 111 Perry Place from Rancho Margarita, CA. Phil graduated from Auburn University and spent 29 years in the Marine Corps, retiring as a Colonel last November. Gail is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, and works as a consultant providing paralegal, regulatory and contract administration services for a large independent power producer and marketer.



Gail reports that they visited Birmingham several times and loved it. "We explored many communities in Birmingham and especially fell in love with Mt Laurel for its charm and trees! It gave us the feeling we could live in a home nestled in the middle of nature, while still having many conveniences within walking distance. We loved every single house in this community." The Chandlers both love running, hiking, reading, nature and animals - especially their cats, otherwise known as our "kiddens." Gail and Phil are so happy to be a part of such a special community and look forward to getting to know more of their neighbors.

BOOKS IN A BAG, BRICKS AND BARBECUE



Quality used books will be on sale at the spring festival at bargain prices. Bag some books and keep the bag with a \$10 donation to the Mt Laurel Library building fund. Donate \$10 and get all the books you can fit into the green tote bag and keep the bag!

Also at the festival, buy a brick for the entryway at the new Mt Laurel Public Library. Invest in your community and pay a lasting tribute to your family or friends. 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 building fund.



Ramona Rhodes is a new neighbor at 27 Parsons Street. Ramona says she is thrilled to be living in the beautiful community of Mt Laurel. "In fact, my locating here is the fulfillment of a four-year dream that began when my grandchildren started attending Hilltop Montessori School. I recently retired from teaching speech and English at

Wallace Community College in Selma. Although I miss my job, friends and home city, seeing my family daily is awesome! My daughter, Avery Rhodes, and her husband, Chris Akins, live in nearby Columbiana with my three precious grandchildren: Willa Rose (7), Hopper (6), and Walton (2). Chris and Avery are the owners of Alabama Furniture Market in Calera. I enjoy being outside, walking, shopping, and reading. My family, my collie, Truman, and I look forward to meeting our new neighbors soon!"

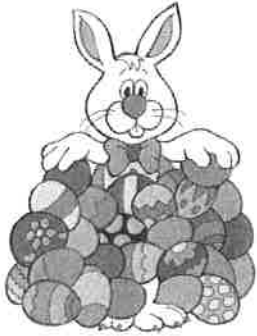
Ron and Anna Carroll moved to 100 Hawthorn Street in November. Ron owns a business in Childersburg (State Farm Agency), and Anna works in Birmingham, with State Farm (corporate.) Anna is originally from Georgia, and Ron is from south Alabama. They have two "kids"- our Boston terrier, Diesel, and cat, Boots. Ron and Anna both enjoy outdoor activities, fitness, cooking and traveling.



Got News?
 Send news and photos to
mtlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com

SNOW DAYS IN MT LAUREL 2014





You're Invited
EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

OLMSTED "TOT" PARK

10 A.M.

STAY COOL AT THE POOL IN MAY

Opening day at the pool will be Wednesday, May 21. The pool is open to Mt Laurel residents and their accompanied guests only and may be accessed by the key that has been issued to each household. Pool hours will be 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Pool rules will be posted on the bulletin board just inside the gate, along with contact numbers to report any maintenance issues.



LADIES LUNCH AND NIGHT OUT

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 April 23 and May 28. No reservation is necessary. Ladies Night Out will be April 17 and May 15. Watch the Google Group for details.

HERITAGE MEDICINE

Please welcome Dr. Matthew Parker with Heritage Medicine to the town center at 50 Manning Place. The office is located in the former Johns Family Chiropractic space. Hours are 9-5 Monday thru Friday. Contact Dr. Parker at 995-4690 or at info@heritagemedicine.net.

POWER WASHING IN MT LAUREL



Mt Laurel resident Jeff Breeden and his partner, Josh Brasher, opened a pressure washing business that is offering special pricing for Mt Laurel neighbors. Jeff may be reached at 234-3529.

A NOTE FROM PURE BLISS



Pure Bliss Salon Spa is celebrating its first anniversary. We want to thank you for your continued support. The Mt Laurel community has been very supportive with the changes that have taken place. We thank you for

everything as we grow to meet the needs of the community. If you have not had the chance, stop in and discover what Pure Bliss is all about. From professional hair services to spa pedicures, I'm sure we have something that will allow you to discover your Pure Bliss.

Julie Hunsaker

FIZZ BOOM READ
IS COMING TO A LIBRARY NEAR YOU!

Summertime is fun time for readers of all ages. Join in the fun at the new Mt Laurel Library with the "Fizz Boom Read" Summer Reading Program. Family movies on Tuesday afternoons, special programs on Thursday afternoons, and crafts available for pick up throughout the week will make a fun-filled summer at the library.



Registration will start Monday, May 19 online and at Mt Laurel Library on Tuesday, May 20. Adults will be invited to attend a beekeeping program and a paint-it-yourself program.

Keep up with the latest activities at the library at mtlaurellibrary.org and on Facebook: Mt Laurel Public Library.

SAVE THESE DATES

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| April 1 | Garden Group |
| April 2 | Storytime at the library |
| April 3 | Book Club |
| April 12 | Spring Festival |
| April 12 | Crafty Saturday at the library |
| April 16 | Storytime at the library |
| April 17 | Ladies Night Out |
| April 19 | Easter Egg Hunt |
| April 23 | Ladies Lunch |
| May 6 | Garden Group |
| May 7 | Storytime at the library |
| May 8 | Book Club |
| May 15 | Ladies Night Out |
| May 17 | Crafty Saturday at the library |
| May 20 | Summer Reading Registration begins |
| May 21 | Storytime at the library |
| May 21 | Pool Opens |
| May 28 | Ladies Lunch |

YOU'RE INVITED

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Mondays 9:00 a.m. | Sippin' Seniors |
| First Thursdays 7:00 p.m. | Book Club |
| Fourth Wednesdays | Ladies Lunch |

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

AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND



Congratulations to **Kirk Naugher** who received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from the University of Alabama in December. He is pictured at graduation with his parents, **Cheryl and Bill Naugher**.



The Summers family, **Jimmy, Melissa and Lucy**, celebrated the arrival of **Helen Grace** on March 2. She weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. **Anne and Jim Summers** are the proud grandparents.



Sienna Stine, who dances on the Competition Team for Dance South in Chelsea, received two platinum ribbons, the Best in Class award for her Jazz routine, and first and third place overall for her age category for Jazz and Tap at the Platinum National Dance Competition in Montgomery on March 15.



Virginia Kate Brandt won third place in video production for grades 4-6, and **Jack Brandt** won second place and honorable mention in photography for grades k-3 in the Expressions Art Contest at Cherokee Bend School. They are the grandchildren of **Anne and Jim Summers**.



Evie Childress, Gabby Gonzalez and Claire McCoy recently received ribbons at His Kids Academy Gymnastics.



Liam Partain is on the Briarwood tennis team and is 2-0.



Grace Flowers and Seth Walton spent a week in March at Space Camp in Huntsville with Hilltop Montessori's Upper Elementary School.



AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND



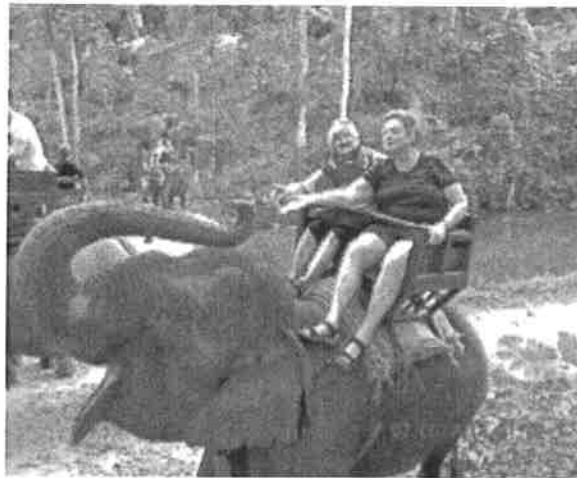
Anne Sturm and Vicki Balogh recently returned from a trip with Road Scholar. From the sand dunes and stone of Death Valley National Park to the shores of the Colorado River, they walked, hiked, and floated through some of the most remarkable landscapes in the United States. With a geologist to guide them, they discovered the forces at work in these starkly contrasting environments.



Shelley and Bella Suco, Kevin and Alastair Harris, Mel and Maggie McCoy, Amory and Caroline Mays visited Colonial Williamsburg and Washington, DC in March with Briarwood Christian School's fifth grade.



Mike Scroggins won the "Big Fish" prize at the Alabama Bass Nation Qualifying Tournament at Miller's Ferry on the Alabama River on March 8. The bass weighed 6.98 pounds. The fish was released back into the water after weigh-in. Mike won a cash prize and gift certificate.



Nancy Ladshaw, shown above riding an elephant in Thailand with a friend, recently spent 35 days touring Viet Nam, Thailand and Cambodia.

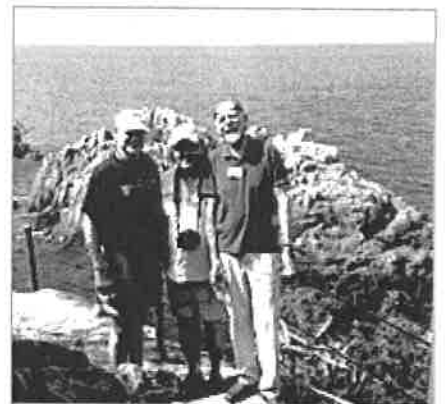
In Thailand she visited Bangkok and the Kanchanaburi Province where she walked along the River Kwai Railway. Her group also visited 13th century historic ruins in Sukhothai, Chiang Rai, and Chiang Mai (where she rode the elephants and attended a cooking class).

In Vietnam, Nancy visited Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue, Hoi An, Nha Trang for a day on the beach, Dalat, and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

In Cambodia, the tour went to Phnom Penh and the Killing Fields and Royal Palace, Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, and Angkor Thom temples.



Susan Ferguson Bradley has been visiting Bolivia for six weeks during Bolivia's summer (our winter). She is shown hiking with her daughter, Teal Cuellar, in mountains near Cochabamba, Bolivia.



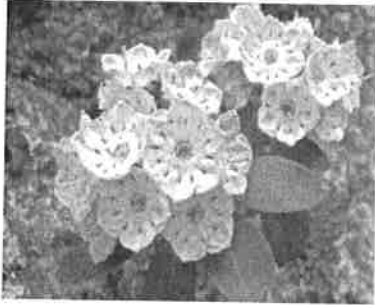
Ted Kluz recently traveled south to participate in a National Geographic ornithology tour in Costa Rica and then went to Panama to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal. He is pictured above with friends at a national park on the tip of Costa Rica that is reserved primarily for birds and fish.



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.

ALABAMA OFFERS BEAUTIFUL NATIVE SHRUBS



Above: Mountain laurel, native azalea, viburnum, Alabama croton

As the article regarding Mt Laurel's CCRs on page two explains, Mt Laurel was designed with a plan in mind for keeping the integrity of the natural landscape of this area intact. It may seem difficult to follow that plan when you are out shopping at large nurseries, ready to plant, but unsure of what to get. There are so many beautiful options, though, once you make yourself aware of Alabama's native shrubs and other plants and trees.

A perfect option, of course, would be the mountain laurel, which is a broadleaf evergreen shrub. In the late spring/early summer, these shrubs are covered with clusters of showy, bell-shaped flowers that are white to pink with deep pink spots inside. There are some nice, labeled specimens in the Bryson Square Arboretum, if you'd like to go get a closer look. Mountain laurels like to grow as an understory plant to wooded areas.

Two choices that would be happy alongside your mountain laurels would be native azaleas and viburnums. The deciduous native azaleas come in a variety of colors and are often much more fragrant than the evergreen, non-native types. Some examples of native azaleas are Alabama azalea, Admiral Semmes and Stonewall Jackson, which is available down at the Mt Laurel Grocery now. Native viburnums offer spring blossoms and nice fall color, as well as fruit that supplies a good food source for birds.

A popular shrub that you will find in many yards and common areas of Mt Laurel is the hydrangea. You don't want to buy the bigleaf Asian varieties of pink and blue, but instead look for the two Alabama native species, the oakleaf hydrangea and the smooth hydrangea, an example of which would be the cultivar "Annabelle." You might not have the brighter colors, but you will have impressive lacy flower clusters in the summer, great fall leaf color, and interesting winter stems gracing your yard across the seasons with these native shrubs.

You might also like to try something a little less common in your native plantings. A couple of natives with names specific to Alabama, *Neviusia alabamensis*/Alabama snow-wreath or *Croton alabamensis*/Alabama croton, are certainly worth a try. The Alabama snow-wreath resembles popular spireas to some degree with clusters of showy white, fluffy-looking stamens in the late spring. They colonize to form a nice area of shrubs once established. The semi-evergreen Alabama croton has clusters of yellow-green flowers in the spring, but the more striking feature is the silvery undersides of the leaves. These plants are not as easily found as many other natives, but are sometimes available online or through local plant sales. Luckily there are some sales coming soon where you might just find these plants available to purchase.



Above: Alabama snow wreath, oakleaf hydrangea, Annabelle hydrangea

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale will be open to the public April 11-13 in the former J.C. Penney at Century Plaza. Check out the website for more information at www.bbgardens.org. Aldridge Gardens' 12th Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held May 2-3. Visit www.aldridgegardens.com for details.