



THE MT LAUREL CONNECTION

A newsletter for and about the Town of Mt Laurel

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

SUMMER DAYS AND NIGHTS IN MT LAUREL



Summer days were happy days in Mt Laurel. Lots of rain brought cooler temperatures, but there was still sun for the farmers market, the lake and pool. Pictured top, left to right: abundant veggies at the market, Mt Laurel Library's outdoor movie night, picking blackberries, full-force falls at Spoonwood Lake. Pictured bottom: Sippin' Seniors cookout committee, fun at the pool, big catch by Reid Mays, and sand play at the lake.

PICNIC AND FIREWORKS AT SPOONWOOD LAKE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 5:30 PM



Mt Laurel residents and their guests are invited to come to the lake at 5:30 p.m. on September 1 to enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cold beverages and treats. Stay for a spectacular array of fireworks at dark. *RSVP to mllaurel_events@yahoo.com with the number attending from your family and if you would like to help with grilling (30 minute shifts) and the food table. Volunteers are also needed for set-up at 3:00 p.m.*



MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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

Neighbors, instead of my usual message to the town, I've asked Traci and Scott Griffin, co-owners of The Red Shanrock Irish Pub, to tell you about "Hope for Gabe." Here is their story in their own words.

"With one phone call on June 6, 2008, our hopes, plans, and dreams changed forever. Our beautiful three-year-old twin boy, Gabe Griffin, was diagnosed with a terminal disease called Duchenne. We did not realize it at the time, but this disease has no cure and is tremendously under funded. Outside of the Jerry Lewis Telethon, there is hardly any funding going to this number one genetic killer of all boys in the world. One in every 3500 boys are born with this disease and because of such little funding, they have become known as "The Lost Boys."

We decided that while we are embarking on this new journey of life as a family, we are going to make the most of it! We wanted to create a legacy for our son no matter what happens down the road. That legacy came to be the Hope for Gabe Foundation (Hope for Gabe, Inc.). We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

It is the mission of Hope for Gabe (H4G) to ensure a cure for Duchenne is found in time for this and all future generations of boys inflicted with this horrible disease. Our number one goal is simple – to eradicate this disease! We will do this by directing all fundraising dollars into the hands of lab researchers or other organizations that are determined to find a cure. Hope for Gabe will raise these research dollars by organizing and developing creative fundraising efforts among friends, family, and concerned volunteers, while at the same time, serving as an information database for the most current clinical trials and research programs taking place. To learn more about H4G and Duchenne, visit hopeforgabe.org."

Traci and Scott Griffin



A message from the Lake Committee:

SPoonWOOD LAKE: SUMMER STATUS

The old saying "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" applies to most things in life including a managed lake like Spoonwood. In early May, the residents of Mt Laurel were abuzz that the lake had become as pretty and clear as it had ever been, but this really was a signal that the lake needed help. Clear water is cherished at the beach and deep-water reservoirs like Lewis Smith Lake, but adequate water clarity for a body of water like Spoonwood is only two to three feet. The root cause was the lake was suffering from a pH imbalance. A pH imbalance results in an ecosystem disruption that negatively impacts all the organisms in the lake.

The Lake Committee and I solicited help from Southeastern Pond Management and together presented an action plan to EBSCO who immediately gave us the green light to do two things. The first was to apply a safe herbicide that would eradicate the rapidly growing pondweed (filamentous algae) which grows from the lake bottom and had just begun to break the water's surface. (Excessive water clarity provides adequate sunlight for the undesirable weed to grow, well, like a weed.) The herbicide was applied in mid-June and appears to have eliminated the weeds.

The second was authorization to apply 50 tons of agricultural lime. Lime is a common element lakes require when built on highly acidic soil like Spoonwood. It was applied in mid-July and the pH is rising. A special thanks goes to EBSCO and Mr. Freeman for investing in our fabulous amenity. *Submitted by Chad Eiler*



Let's keep the momentum going by adhering to the following rules:

- Practice CPR (Catch, Photograph, Release)
- Remove all bass 12" and under.
- Fishing with live minnows is strictly prohibited.
- No net fishing or casting nets allowed.
- Limit on Bluegill is 10 per person.
- Residents must accompany all guests while enjoying Mt Laurel amenities.
- Anglers should not attempt to stock Spoonwood Lake with undesirable species of fish such as spotted bass, crappie, or catfish.

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

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION NEWS: ALMOST THERE!



Mt Laurel residents gather 'round. It's time to build a library! The Friends of the Mt Laurel Library Board of Directors report that a final push to raise funds to build and furnish a permanent library in Mt Laurel is underway. Residents are

urged to join the library's Circle of Friends of major donors or to give whatever they can, so that the new library can be built and outfitted by the end of the year. There's also a final call for those who wish to purchase commemorative bricks that will be placed at the library's entryway and walk.

Here are the ways you can help build the 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 or recognize 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's wish list (coming soon) that you would like to purchase for the library.

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 information or questions, email mtlaurellibraryfriends@gmail.com.

SUMMER WINES AT THE LIBRARY



The Mt Laurel Library sponsored a "Taste and Value in Summer Whites" wine tasting and discussion in July as part of the library's summer programming. The tasting was led by Mt Laurel resident and wine enthusiast, Jay Price. Here's the wine list:

Geyser Peak, 2012 Sauvignon Blanc
 Chateau La Graviere, Entre-Deux-Mers 2012
 La Crema, 2012 Pinot Gris
 Maso Canali, 2012 Pinot Grigio Trentino
 McManis Viognier 2011
 Pine Ridge, 2012 Chenin Blanc + Viognier
 Lioco, 2011 Sonoma County Chardonnay

MT LAUREL'S GARDEN GROUP WILL BE ON THE ROAD THIS FALL

Garden Group Program Chairman, Cindy Prickett, has the group on the move this fall with a number of fun and informative meetings planned. The group, which is open to all residents of Mt Laurel, meets on the first Tuesday of the month, and visitors are welcome. For car pool information, contact Cathy Murphy at cathlourmur@aol.com.

August 6 10:00 AM	Aldridge Gardens Rip Weaver, original Mt Laurel Town Landscape Architect, speaker
September 3 10:00 AM	Morgan Creek Winery, Harpersville fall crushing, box lunch
October 1 10 AM	Botanical Tour of the Birmingham Zoo

ALDRIDGE
GARDENS
NATURE AND ART IN BALANCE

MORGAN CREEK
Winery



The Mt Laurel Garden Group is dedicated to learning about native plants and sharing that information with residents in order to help keep the landscape of our neighborhood native, as the Mt Laurel covenants require, and in keeping with the founders' vision of a community "in concert with nature."

YOGA IN MT LAUREL WITH MARSHA



Yoga is alive and well in Mt Laurel, thanks to certified instructor Marsha Floyd, who conducts Yoga sessions in her carriage house on Mt Laurel Avenue. The class schedules this summer have been varied and relaxed, but Marsha plans to take the class to Double Oak Community Church's Community Life Center this fall. At this time the cost is \$15 per session per person. Marsha

also works one-on-one with individuals, from tri-athletes to novices and with individuals who have specific physical issues such as neck, hip, back and shoulder problems. Marsha reports that she enjoys watching an individual develop flexibility and strength, and says that is her true reward, along with hearing someone say "I can't believe my hip did not hurt after Yoga. It felt great and I didn't even have to take anything for pain." For more information, contact Marsha at marshamfloyd@gmail.com.

It's summer and children are still out of school and playing all around. Please observe speed limits, stop signs and parking regulations!



AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND



John Price, son of Ann and Jay Price, and Megan Collis were recently married at Rancho Bernardo Winery near San Diego. John is a Lt. Commander in the Navy stationed at Coronado, and Megan is a pediatric nurse.



Bobby and Diane McDaniel vacationed in San Francisco in July with their grandsons, Jack Renfroe and Mac Grice of Macon, Georgia.



Mica Cuellar, eight months, and her parents, Teal and Christian Cuellar, and her two older brothers, visited their grandparents, Susan and Stan Bradley, for a month this summer. Mica particularly loved the park and swings! The Cuellars live in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



David, Elizabeth and Solomon Owens vacationed in Hawaii this summer. In addition to lounging on the beach and a catamaran sunset sail, they took a helicopter tour.



Vicki Balogh spent a week in Montana and Wyoming with her son, Brook, and her 11-year old granddaughters, Lillian and Allison. They all enjoyed white water rafting, kayaking, hiking, and horseback and trail bike riding in Yellowstone and the Gallatin National Forest. Vicki says that this Road Scholar trip was both fun and educational.



Meredith and Sawyer Adams, daughter and son of Michelle and Stephen Adams, and grandchildren of Lu and Jim Adams, recently enjoyed a trip to Orange Beach.



Tripp Gartrell and his cousin Luke McEwen enjoyed the beach at Hilton Head Island this summer.

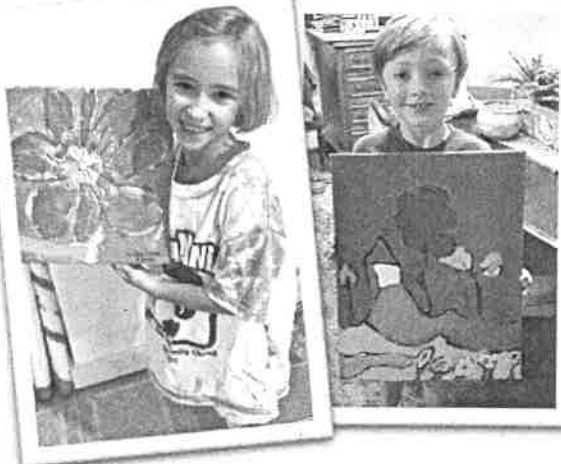


Bay Brush, left, and Michael Suco, right, along with a friend, enjoyed their first camp experience this summer at Camp Winnataska.



Corey Davis and Chelsea Burns attended a UGA FCA Fundraiser and sat with Mark Richt, head coach of the football team.

AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND



Children of all ages got creative this summer while attending one-day art camps with **Rorie Scroggins**, held in the carriage house-turned craft room of mother-in-law Carol Scroggins. From painting masterpieces to creating sun catchers, the children outdid themselves with their creations, according to Rorie.



The **McCoy family** recently traveled to Northern Ireland to visit grandparents and cousins. While there, they went to the new Titanic Exhibit and stood on the dock where the Titanic was built. They also went to 12th of July parades and celebrations, explored the Ulster American Folk Park, helped put 20,000 baby chicks in the chicken house and enjoyed the family farm.



Noah Walton, shown on the left in the photo, has been learning to scuba dive this summer. He recently had his certification dives in Florida.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS



Jennifer and Daniel Jones and four-year-old son **Christian** recently moved to 60 Hawthorn Street in Mt Laurel from Hoover. Jennifer is originally from New England, and Daniel is from Washington, D.C.

Daniel is an engineer with Ericsson and has a passion for Solar Technology, and Jennifer is a business owner with Heart Smile Photography. Christian is a student at Hilltop Montessori and loves being closer to his friends, the pool and the parks.



Jennifer and Craig Zickos live at 43 Hawthorn Street. They recently moved from New Jersey to be closer to family in the Birmingham area in time for the birth of their daughter, **Abigail Hope**, who was born on July 15. Craig is from Sheffield, AL and graduated from Mississippi State. He works from home for The Hartford as a Business Intelligence Manager. Jennifer, who is an Auburn graduate, is from Mobile. She is now a stay-at-home mom but was formerly a fashion designer for Macy's and designed the women's Karen Scott label. She also designs and makes jewelry as a hobby.

The **Ten Berge family**, **Leigh, Ron, Kyle and Megan**, along with their dog, Pilot Joe, are new neighbors at 52 Nolen Street. They moved to Mt Laurel from Lake Oswego, Oregon, which is in the Portland area. Ron is with Pradco Outdoor Brands, a division of EBSCO. Leigh is a homemaker. Their son Kyle, age 20, is a Combat Medic in US Army, assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 515th Sapper Company, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Daughter Megan, age 17, will be a freshman at the University of Alabama Honors College (Nursing) this fall. Pilot Joe is a Labradoodle who so far is most interested in the large frog population here in Mt Laurel.



NOTEWORTHY



Abbey Wright, daughter of **Carol and Tony Wright**, recently graduated from Auburn University. She is shadowing doctors and physician assistants this summer and will work as a medical assistant in the fall. She is also recently engaged and plans a spring wedding.



Sienna Stine recently performed in a dance recital at the BJCC. She is a member of the dance company at Dance South in Chelsea.

Lissy O'Kelley performed two dance numbers at the Dance South 2013 summer ballet recital.

Adair Tishler, granddaughter of **Ward and Anne Tishler**, was recently selected Distinguished Young Woman 2013 for Music City (Nashville, TN). Selection is based on scholarship, talent (singing in Adair's case), and interviews. Adair will be a senior in high school this fall.



Reaves Childress won second place for this Spanish mackerel in the Junior Angler Mobile Big Game Fishing Tournament out of Orange Beach Marina.



Drew Fetterolf, daughter of **Pam and David Fetterolf**, participated in the Jr. Pre-Teen Miss Alabama pageant June 6-8. She placed in the top 10, was second runner-up Miss Photogenic and won the Top Model event. Because she won an individual event competition, she received a bid to compete in the Jr. Pre-Teen Miss America Pageant to be held in Hollywood, CA in November. She is pictured with her dad while waiting to walk down the runway.



Laura Partain and her partner recently won a Ladies Doubles Tournament at Hoover Country Club. **Mark Partain**, pictured far right, is captain of his men's tennis team that recently won the USTA 2.5 Southern Sectional tournament.



Alastair Harris and his Bamalax lacrosse teammates won the U11 division at The Georgia Southern Shootout held in Gainesville, GA July 14. This qualifies them for the Dick's Tournament of Champions held in Tampa, FL at the end of the year.

**DUNNAVANT VALLEY SMALL AREA PLAN COMMUNITY PRESENTATION
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
MT LAUREL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Shelby County Development Services staff will conduct a Dunnavant Valley Small Area Plan Community Presentation from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Mt Laurel Elementary School Cafeteria on Thursday, August 8. Residents and stakeholders of the Dunnavant Valley are invited to attend this community presentation. County staff will discuss their draft plan prepared from a combination of four community workshops and guidance from the Dunnavant Valley SAP Steering Committee. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. Feedback regarding the proposed plan is encouraged and will be accepted through the end of August.

A presentation of the amended draft plan will be made to the Shelby County Planning Commission in October. The Shelby County Planning Commission is the final authority on the adoption of the plan. A digital copy of the draft of the area plan may be found on the Shelby County Development Services' webpage at www.shelbyal.com. Hard copies may be viewed, but not checked out, at the Mt Laurel Library at 33 Olmsted Street during normal business hours (www.mtlaurellibrary.org). If you have any questions or feedback, contact Development Services staff – Eric Womack at ewomack@shelbyal.com or 620-6629; or Kristine Goddard at kgoddard@shelbyal.com or 620-6612.



**PRINCESS CAMP AND
ROYAL TEA CELEBRATION**

August 6-7 is a perfect opportunity for girls to brush up on their princess skill set at Princess Camp at Tea Party Castle on Olmsted Street. Call 529-0081 for more information about these fun days of learning light etiquette skills, crafts and lots of princess time.

August 13 and September 13 are the Royal Tea Celebration evenings. In September, the Tea Shoppe will be commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the legacy of Princess Diana and the birth of the newborn king-in-waiting with great food, a smattering of history and great tea. Rebekah and Darlene will serve teas blended especially for the queen, Princess Diana, Kate and William and the baby.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS ORIENTATION

Each Monday night at 6:30 PM Johns Family Chiropractic hosts a Health and Wellness Orientation. In August, the focus will be on problematic children's issues like ADHD, headaches, immunity and asthma.

September's meeting will cover questioning artificial immunity, discussing recent reports about HPV and flu vaccines, and tackling antibiotics and drug side effects as a way to appreciate the pros and the cons of these choices. Keep up to date with the facts and weekly topics at www.facebook.com/bamachiro.

SAVE THESE DATES

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|--------------|--------------------------------|
| August 1 | Book Club |
| August 6 | Garden Group |
| August 8 | Area Plan Presentation |
| August 13 | Bunco Group |
| August 28 | Ladies Lunch |
| September 1 | Cookout and Fireworks |
| September 3 | Garden Group |
| September 4 | Storytime at the Library |
| September 5 | Book Club |
| September 10 | Bunco Group |
| September 14 | Crafty Saturday at the Library |
| September 18 | Storytime at the Library |
| September 25 | Ladies Lunch |
| October 12 | Harvest Festival |

YOU'RE INVITED

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mondays 9:00 a.m. | Sippin' Seniors |
| First Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. | Garden Group |
| Second Tuesdays | Bunco Group |
| First Thursdays 7:00 p.m. | Book Club |
| Fourth Wednesdays | Ladies Lunch |
| Saturday mornings | Round Robin Tennis
Farmers Markets |

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



Misty Phillips sends a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone in Mt Laurel that donated and/or bought items for the dream bags that were given to the girls at King's Home on July 13. Thanks specifically to the known donors and to the unknown contributors who brought bags to her porch.

Misty reports that the girls were full of gratitude and tears of joy. "We also basically created a mall in their common area space for them to shop till they dropped. Some were too overwhelmed, and some went bananas loving everything and screaming nonstop like only teenage girls can do! Needs and wants were met also for the house parents and their three children."

LIBRARY NOTE

There will be no Storytime or Crafty Saturday during August. Ms. Kristy is taking a vacation! Programming will resume in September.





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. This month's feature is written by Mt Laurel resident Frank Chitworth who works for Coosa Riverkeeper.

MT LAUREL'S COOSA CONNECTION

In nature, everything is connected in some way. And as people, we're more connected to nature than we are to social networking websites. Rivers and streams are the most popular members of the social network of the outside world. Our connections to rivers and streams in Mt Laurel are hard to overlook and, for some people like me, it's why we moved here.

Many of you may have noticed that I spend a good three to four days a week fly fishing on Spoonwood Lake when I get off work at Coosa Riverkeeper, a river conservation group where my job is to ensure the streams of the Coosa Valley are swimmable, drinkable and fishable. Spoonwood Lake is at the very headwaters of the North Fork of Yellowleaf Creek. That creek flows right past my office at The Narrows on Hwy 280 and then flows on to Lay Lake of the Coosa River in Wilsonville. Along the way are many important connections that help make the great quality of life in Mt Laurel possible.

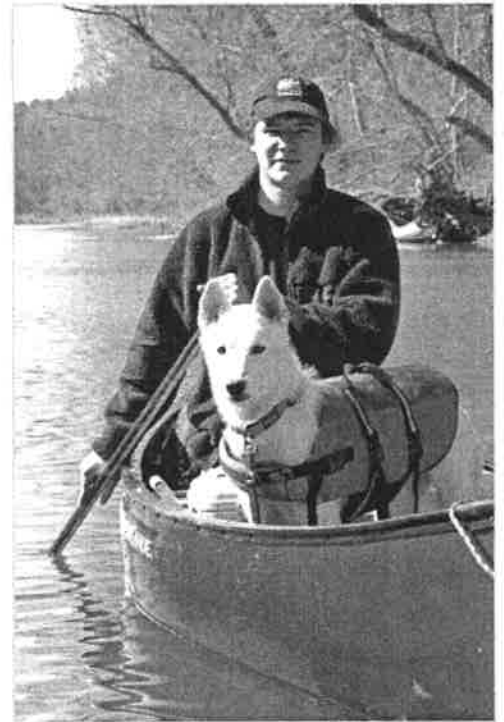
When I'm done fishing on Spoonwood Lake, I head back home to Mt. Laurel Avenue, flip on my lights and cook dinner. I often start my dinner with a salad; I get my greens (and eggs) from the Mt Laurel Farm when they're available because they are local, fresh, organic and grown on a tributary to Yellowleaf Creek. As I am preparing my food, the water that goes down my kitchen sink (and indeed all the drains and toilets in Mt Laurel), goes to Double Oak Water Reclamation facility which, after treating the waste, discharges it to Yellowleaf Creek right by my office where the creek meets Old Hwy 280.

At the mouth of Yellowleaf Creek on Lay Lake, Alabama Power Company sucks up massive amounts of water to generate electricity at the Ernest C. Gaston Steam Plant which powers our homes. That coal-burning plant is backed up with hydropower from Lay Dam and six other hydropower operations just on the Coosa River. Without Yellowleaf Creek and the Coosa River, not only would I have nowhere to fish after work, but we'd also have to search elsewhere for a place to dump our wastewater and get an abundant supply of water for electricity generation.

Finally, there is the one use of our rivers that is more important than any other: drinking water. Mt Laurel, along with much of the Hwy 280 Corridor to Childersburg, is connected to the Talladega/Shelby Water Treatment Plant. This plant takes river water directly from the Coosa on Lay Lake upstream of Hwy 280 and treats it before sending it to many homes in north Shelby County, including Mt Laurel. South Shelby County also gets their drinking water from the Coosa, like so many other cities in the Coosa Valley like Gadsden, Pell City, Springville, Odenville and others.

So that's the great big cycle of our Coosa Connection: we bring water from Lay Lake to our homes in Mt Laurel to drink, much of it ends up going down the drain in one way or another, after which it is put back into Yellowleaf Creek where it will later be sucked up to generate power, then discharged back to Lay Lake where the cycle can begin again downstream with other communities, just as it had happened several times upstream before reaching us.

Frank Chitworth



To learn more about our connections with our waterways, why it is important that we conserve our rivers and streams for now and future generations and what Coosa Riverkeeper is doing to protect our waterways, visit coosariver.org. Also, join us at Stone's Throw Bar & Grill for a neighborly gathering to introduce ourselves on August 29 from 5:30-7pm for a few hors d'oeuvres and drinks.