



THE MT LAUREL CONNECTION

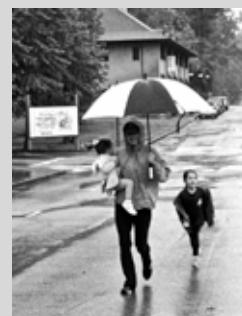
A newsletter for and about the Town of Mt Laurel

JUNE/JULY 2013

NOTES ON A COMMUNITY SPIRIT

This issue of The Mt Laurel Connection has a bit of a different personality from past issues. It's mostly photos, but that doesn't mean there's not a story to publish. The story is in the people and their lives inside the community and beyond its boundaries, who they are and what they do.

This issue is about celebrations, trips and community projects. It's about parents and children showing up to run in the rain to make a final push to build a library building here. It's about the Garden Group working and digging all over the place to preserve the nature and character that the Mt Laurel founders established. It's about Easter egg hunts, the Common Ground garden, playing in the alley, fishing and boating on the lake, going to the library, eating breakfast at Jimbo's and visiting with neighbors at our restaurants. It's about golf carts and bicycles, the parks and the pool and Saturday farmers markets.



MT LAUREL'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION THURSDAY JULY 4



PARADE 10 AM

Decorate your bikes, strollers and golf carts, or simply don your celebration attire to join in the parade. Meet at Olmsted Park to march through town.

WATERMELON IN THE PARK

Immediately following the parade at Olmsted Park.

PICNIC AT SPOONWOOD LAKE 6 PM

Enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cold beverages and ice cream. Mt Laurel residents and their invited guests are welcome. Please RSVP with the number of residents and guests who will attend to mtlaurel_events@yahoo.com.

FIREWORKS AT DUSK

Stay for a spectacular array of fireworks.



MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



It's summer in Mt Laurel, and the town is alive with activity as the pool is open, the Farmers' Market and Crafts Fair is here on Saturday, the Mt Laurel Library's Summer Reading Program has begun and various Vacation Bible School activities are scheduled.

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, story time and crafts at the library. I'm sure a lot of folks will be enjoying fishing at the lake, enjoying the dog park and our wonderful lake exercise trail.

We are so grateful for the efforts of the pool committee to get our pool in top shape for another swimming season. Many thanks to George Meighen and his crew for their hard work! We owe our thanks, also, to Kelley Burley for once again coordinating the Mt Laurel Farmers' Market and to Chris and Scott Stone who are planning another Independence Day event for us all to enjoy. And last but not least all of the hard work Monie Allen, Cindy Prickett, Ann Sturm, Alice Perkins and the Garden Group have put in to the planting of many beautiful flowers and plants throughout our community.

We would like to take time and welcome Julie Hunsaker and her team to Mt Laurel. She is the new owner of our hair and nail salon. Please stop by Pure Bliss Hair & Nails and say hello!

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



TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD A LIBRARY IN 2013!



Funds for building a permanent library in Mt Laurel have reached an all-time high with over \$225,000 of the \$250,000 needed for construction in place.

Plans are underway to put the finishing touches on the architectural drawings and construction details. Watch the Google Group and Facebook for exciting announcements on a groundbreaking date.

It's not too late to make a contribution to the building fund or buy a commemorative brick for the walkway. Stop by the library for information on joining the "Circle of Friends" who have each contributed \$500 or more and who will be recognized on a plaque on the wall of the community room. Forms are also available in the library for purchasing a brick to honor your family or a special friend with an engraved brick that will be installed near the entrance of the new library. Bricks are \$100 and \$250, depending on the size chosen. Information is also available on www.mtlaurellibrary.org.

MT LAUREL'S BUILD A LIBRARY 5K AND FUN RUN



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

THE MT LAUREL GARDEN GROUP TOOK IT ALL OUTSIDE IN APRIL AND MAY!

The Mt Laurel Garden Group, now three years old, going on four, has been very busy this spring with various projects, including spring cleaning and upgrading various common areas around town, working with a kids' planting day at the community garden, and continuing to learn about various aspects of gardening and native plants. Here are some photos of their recent activities.



Come by the corner at Kessler and Hawthorn and see the area newly planted with oakleaf hydrangea, southern shield ferns, blueberries, blackberries, coneflower, penstemon, and blue salvia, about 65 in all. Also visit the vacant lot on Nolen where the group planted hydrangea, blueberries, blackberries, coneflowers, penstemon and guara.

The Garden Group also planted about 30 flowering perennials at the Bryson Square Arboretum and added several large boulders.



Above: Scott Stone led a group of children in planting tomatoes at Mt Laurel's Common Ground community garden, located on Abbott Square Street between Olmsted and Hawthorn Streets.



The Garden Group's May meeting was a shopping trip to Gina's Nursery and lunch at the Pickett's cabin on the Coosa River. The June 4 meeting will be a succulent workshop at Hanna's Garden Shop on Highway 280. There will be no July meeting. The group invites anyone interested in learning more about gardening, especially with native plants, to join the group. The meetings are usually the first Tuesday of the month in Mt Laurel or at a site of interest.

Newly elected officers of the Garden Group are left to right: Vicki Balogh, secretary; Cindy Prickett, program chairman; Anne Sturm, president; Karin Franke, treasurer; Cathy Murphy, carpools; Jeanie Tice and Betty Ann O'Neal, social.





Welcome new neighbors **Marshall and Liz Putnam** who recently moved to Nolen Street from Atlanta when they fell in love with Mt Laurel while visiting their son who lives in Birmingham. Marshall is a veterinarian and Liz is retired so she can travel with him. Liz and Marshall have a newly wed daughter and son-in-law who live in Atlanta and a son and daughter-in-law who live in Birmingham.



Solomon Bolden participated in the Alabama Senate Page Program. He was a page for Sen. Jabo Waggoner from February 5-7 and was on the floor for the Governor's State of the State address.

Welcome home! **CPT William Clifford** was deployed with the Alabama Army National Guard in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He ran a clinic and emergency room and was the doctor for over 4,000 soldiers from all over the world. He returns home to Mt Laurel after a four-month deployment.



Monie Allen recently returned from a five-month stay in Lucca, Italy. While there she attended language school and traveled throughout Tuscany, namely to Volterra, Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa, Florence and many other small towns. A trip to Palermo, Sicily at Christmas was definitely a highlight of the trip where she stayed with the family of her Italian tutor from Birmingham. She says that although of course she is not fluent, she does know more than she did. She hopes to make another trip to Sicily in the fall.



Judy and Neill Beavers are pictured in Rome near the Forum on their spring trip to Europe.



George Meighen recently attended the Distinguished Graduate Ceremony at West Point, NY. where his classmate and good friend, Lieutenant General Robert Yerks, USA, Retired, was a recipient this year. George reports that "Bob" is highly decorated with two Purple Hearts and was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his work in Liberia and is also father of 10 children!



Mary Ayers recently visited Sea Grove Beach where she took a photo of the pathway to the beach.



Anne Sturm and Jackie Hester took a two-week trip to the Netherlands on a river cruise. They visited Belgium, The Netherlands, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Jackie reports that the trip had beautiful flowers, great food and friendship.



Knox Wolsoncroft and Cole Sibley toured Mount Vernon on their recent fifth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. with Briarwood Christian School.



Congratulations to **Suzy and Phil Hammonds** on the birth of their first grandchild, Nora Margaret Hammonds, who was born May 15 to Seth and Becca Hammonds in Austin, TX.



Kristie and Nich Arvin celebrated with a pink cake to announce that they're expecting a baby girl in October.



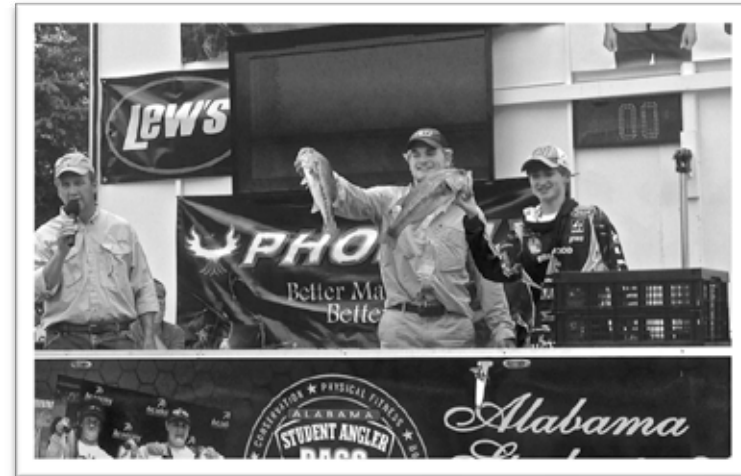
Mark Bice, granddaughter **Caroline Norris** and son **Justin** recently had good catches at Spoonwood Lake.



Mark Partain's Men's Doubles Team won the Alabama USTA 2.5 State Championship. They go on to the USTA Sectional Tournament in Lexington, SC in July.



Congratulations to **Lucy Collier** who was recently inducted into the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, the national high school honor club for math and science. Lucy, daughter of Bob and Susie Collier, is a sophomore at Chelsea High School.

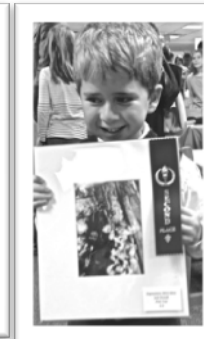


Johnson Dooley (pictured right) is a member of the Briarwood High School Bass Fishing Club. Johnson and his fishing partner came in 19th place out of 177 boats in the Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association State Tournament held at Lay Lake on May 10-11.

Brad M. Lugar, son of John and Anne Lugar, recently graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Industrial Design.



Melissa Wolsoncroft and daughter **Meghan** enjoy a moment at Meghan's recent dance recital.



Virginia Kate Brandt and Jack Brandt were winners in the Expressions Art contest at Cherokee Bend School. Jack was also a district winner in the photo division for the Mountain Brook School District. Proud grandparents are Anne and Jim Summers.



Mike and Becky Davis attended their son **Corey's** graduation from UGA on May 10. Cory earned a Masters of Science in Kinesiology.

SUMMERTIME AT THE MT LAUREL LIBRARY

SPECIAL EVENTS



ICE CREAM SOCIAL
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2-4 PM

All ages are invited to come to the library.



DIGGIN' DINOS

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2 PM
ALL AGES/REGISTRATION REQUIRED*

The McWane Science Center will bring fantastic fossil fun to your library this summer. This program will explore the truly amazing animals (not just dinosaurs) that once, swam, flew and walked the earth!



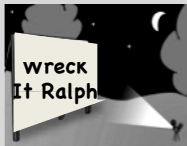
BENEATH THE SURFACE

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2 PM
ALL AGES/REGISTRATION REQUIRED*

Explore the biosphere and learn about animals that live just below ground level. Presented by the Alabama 4H Center.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 7:30 PM



Pack up your family and your lawn chairs for an outdoor movie at the Mt Laurel Library Tuesday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. If it rains, the movie will be shown in the library.

PAJAMA PARTY!

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 5 PM

AGES 3-9/REGISTRATION REQUIRED*
Milk, cookies and fun math games.



SUMMER READING END PARTY

SKIP CAIN, THE MAGIC GUY
AT THE TOWNHOUSE TEA SHOPPE
JULY 30, 2 PM

Enjoy an interactive show filled with magic, jokes, and prizes for the top Mt Laurel readers.

**For events requiring registration, come by the library or call 991-1660.*

Library Hours: Tuesday 1-6 PM
Wednesday 10 AM – 6 PM
Thursday 1- 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM

SUMMER READING



The Summer Reading Program runs from June 1 to July 31 for participants from birth through fifth grade. Come by the library for detailed information on joining, logging in books, reading goals and prizes and to register. There is also a Summer Reading Program for adults and teens (entering 6th – 12th grades).

ADULTS ONLY

UPTOWN ART TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 6 PM
Create a piece of art with the help of a professional. \$5 reserves your spot and all your materials.

WINE FLIGHT SATURDAY, JULY 20, 5 PM
Mt Laurel resident Jay Price will discuss how to select and appreciate red wines.

TODDLER TALES AND STORYTIME



TODDLER TALES
Wednesdays, June 5 & 19, July 10 & 24, 10 AM

A lively 30-minute story program for children 9-36 months and a caregiver. Registration required.*

MS KRISTY STORYTIME
Wednesdays, June 5 & 19, July 10 & 24, 11 AM

All ages welcome for songs, stories, and serious fun.

SUMMER CRAFTS

DROP IN TO CREATE A FUN ITEM.

June: Wednesdays, June 12 & 26, between 11 & 2
Thursdays, June 6 & 20, between 2 & 4

July: Wednesdays, July 3 & 17, between 11 & 2
Saturday, July 13, between 11 & 2
Thursday, July 25, between 2 & 4

MT LAUREL PUBLIC LIBRARY
A BRANCH OF THE NORTH SHELBY LIBRARY
33 OLMSTED STREET
205-991-1660
WWW.MTLAURELLIBRARY.ORG

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: MT LAUREL PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPOONWOOD LAKE UPDATE



The lake was recently stocked with 10,000 threadfin shad to provide forage for the largemouth bass.

Enjoy the lake, but don't forget to practice "CPR." Catch, photograph, and release.

STAY COOL AT THE POOL!

School's out and the pool is open, so it's time for summer fun. Remember that it's SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK this year. Parents, please supervise your children closely so that we'll have another accident-free season. Here are a few reminders:



- Running on the pool deck is the number one problem and safety issue.
- Remember that the maximum depth of the pool is only four feet, so horseplay and diving are not permitted.
- Pool Safety Rules and Regulations are posted on the right just past the gate along with emergency contact numbers.
- Children under age 14 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- The pool hours are 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
- The pool is open only to Mt Laurel residents and their accompanied guests. Do not give your pool key to anyone.

MOMMY OR DADDY GRANDPARENT & ME SWIM CLASSES

(One or both members of the duo must be a resident.)
\$100.00 for eight weeks
Ages six months - three years
30 minute class

The parent or grandparent and child will be introduced to routines that promote water safety to help a child become comfortable in the water. Games and songs will be incorporated into the learning experience to help the child build confidence in the water while having tons of fun. Parent or grandparent must enter the water with their child.

Class time will be determined when a group of five is formed. Tentative day and time - Fridays at 9:00 AM. We must have a minimum of five people to have a class. Please call to sign up. Babysitters also welcome to bring little ones. For more information, contact Jo-Ann Moulin at 807-5549.

SAVE THESE DATES

SPECIAL NOTE: *The Mt Laurel Library is offering many outstanding summer programs and activities for youth, families and adults. See the full library listings on the adjacent page in this newsletter.*

June 4	Garden Group
June 6	Book Club
June 11	Bunco Group
June 26	Ladies Lunch
July 4	July 4 Parade, Cookout & Fireworks
July 9	Bunco Group
July 24	Ladies Lunch

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

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

LADIES LUNCH IN MT LAUREL

Ladies in Mt Laurel are invited to come to Ladies Lunch on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11:30 AM. The June lunch will be at Stone's Throw Bar and Grill, and the July lunch will be at the Townhouse Tea Shoppe. No reservation is necessary.

GARDEN GROUP



The June meeting of the Mt Laurel garden group will be a succulent workshop at Hanna Garden Center on Highway 280 on Tuesday, June 4, at 10:00 AM. There will be no July meeting.

SUMMER TENNIS LESSONS FOR MT LAUREL RESIDENTS

Private and group tennis lessons are offered to Mt Laurel residents June 17-August 2, Monday-Friday, 8AM-10AM. Call or email Jean Ann Hayslett to schedule. (205) 612-6089 or ja.tennisanyone@gmail.com.

Got News?

Send news and photos to
mtlaurelnewsletter@gmail.com

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the "Common Areas" that are set aside to reflect and preserve the natural landscape that is the signature feature of the Town of Mt Laurel.

WHERE THE WILD PLACES ARE

The founders of Mt Laurel designed the town to be "in concert with nature," knowing that what they would preserve would be just as important as what they would build. As a result, the community is blessed throughout with natural common areas, pocket parks, trails and pedestrian walkways. Many of these special areas are very familiar to Mt Laurel residents, and others are not. Do you know where all the wild places are?

ABBOTT SQUARE PARK

This park is enclosed by Abbott Square, Hawthorn and Burnham Streets and is surrounded by homes in a residential area. Two semi-circular arbors form a giant sundial enveloped with muscadine grape vines and shade trees. Chairs and tables are arranged in the arbors and provide the perfect place for small group activities, picnics and relaxation. The arbor was designed by Rip Weaver, former landscape architect of Mt Laurel. The design received the Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.



OLMSTED PARK AND OLMSTED WETLANDS PARK

Located at intersection of Olmsted and Abbott Square Streets, Olmsted Park consists of a sports field with picnic and playground facilities nearby. The colorful train is a favorite spot for the toddler group and is nicknamed the "tot lot." This park is the scene of Mt Laurel's annual Easter Egg Hunt and the July Fourth watermelon feast.

The Olmsted Wetlands Park is located behind Olmsted Park and the Dog Park and extends along the north side of Olmsted Street to a common area between Hawthorn and Burnham Street bridges. A trail leading into the park may be accessed across the street from the Hilltop Montessori School entrance drive or from a path behind the tennis courts. This large wetland plays a vital ecological role as a natural filter for storm water that runs off community streets and parking areas. It contains species of native plants found in wetlands in valleys of the southern Appalachian Mountains.



MT LAUREL DOG PARK

Situated along Kessler Avenue near the tennis courts, this large "loosing" pen has an enclosed area for dogs to run and benches for owners to relax. It is a well-designed facility that provides a popular spot for both dogs and owners to become acquainted with their neighbors.



JOURNEY MARKERS

If you've wondered what exactly are those pyramidal stone formations that you notice as you travel our streets, some of them even in the form of stone mailboxes with pointed tops, they are Mt Laurel's version of cairns. Cairns are basically a manmade pile of rocks used to pass along information. They've been found on every continent and have been used for centuries, some dating to Eurasian prehistory. Cairns come in many shapes and sizes, anything from a few stones piled up on top of a boulder to mark a hiker's pathway to formal, mountainous memorial constructions.

Usually, they are found in multiples, as they are here in Mt Laurel where you'll find a trail leading from one side of town to the other -- from Mt Laurel Avenue, where one is used as a trailhead marker, to Hawthorn Street in Phase 3 leading right up to the neighborhood's property boundary. Cairns connect common areas between homes forming a walker's pathway (though without a defined footpath) through our neighborhood.

