



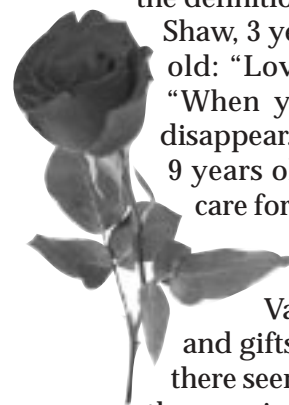
Mt Laurel Supper Club

The first event of 2006 for the residents of Mt Laurel to participate in turned out to be the Mt Laurel Supper Club. Betty Swann's "magic wand" and superb organization led the residents who participated in the event to an evening of fellowship and fun. The homes of Jessica and Russell Marsh, Donna and John Sanborn, Betty and Dennis Swann, Margaret and Howard Schiele, and Richard Williams were graciously offered and served as the host homes for the Supper Club event on Saturday, January 14, 2006. Each home provided the main dish while each guest supplied a beverage, side dish or dessert. What a great way to share ideas and get to know your neighbors! Not to mention the pleasure of a great dinner! As was said about the event, "icing on the cake" in a community of such great neighbors.

If you missed the first event of the year at Mt Laurel, watch for announcements about the scheduled events of 2006 for the Town of Mt Laurel. We hope you will plan to join in the fun and fellowship of all of the events!

Love

How do you define "love"? Your special someone, divine guidance, a look, a hug, a child's smile, your pet, a neighbor's kindness, unselfishness, an indescribable feeling? Love is so personal. Every day brings with it the evidence of love in many different ways. Here is the definition given by some of our children at Mt Laurel: Bennett Shaw, 3 years old: "Playing with friends!"; Abby Burley, 3 years old: "Love means I love you"; Catherine Burley, 5 years old: "When you like them a lot, and you never want them to disappear. And it has to do with your heart"; Hannah Naugher, 9 years old: "When people encourage, give you support and care for you".



The month of February brings with it the holiday of Valentine's Day. Most people think of flowers, candies and gifts when they think of Valentine's Day but at Mt Laurel, there seems to be no particular special day for love. Each day of the year is Valentine's Day when it comes to sharing, kindness and concern among the people at Mt Laurel. Whenever an e-mail goes out with a request for help, no matter the request, responses come quickly. This comment is heard so often here at Mt Laurel – what a wonderful place to live! Interpretation – a community of people with big hearts.

Dogwood

Each resident of Mt Laurel is provided with a copy of the Town of Mt Laurel Residential Landscape Regulations, which lists the plants approved for use in the front and side yards visible from the public way. In each issue of The Mt Laurel Chronicle, at least one of the approved plants for landscaping in Mt Laurel will be featured and a description of the plant will be given along with care instructions. In this issue, the featured approved plant is the dogwood (*Cornus florida*).



Springtime! Many people say the herald of springtime is the dogwood tree. It has been said that the timing of the blooming of the dogwood tree was so punctual that the Native Americans of the Southeast planted corn in conjunction with the flowering of the dogwood. In April of each year in Alabama, you can watch for the dogwood, which is native to the eastern half of the United

States, to beautify the woods with a tree full of creamy white bracts which are commonly mistaken for the flower of the dogwood. Actually, the flower of the dogwood is the tight cluster of tiny green and yellow flowers which

are surrounded by the white bracts. You can usually count on two or three weeks of enjoyment of the flowering of the dogwood as the leaves emerge. The name, *florida*, alludes to the effect of flowering as the word, *florid*, means, covered with flowers, while the term, *cornus*, from *cornu*, meaning a horn, refers to the density of the wood. The wood of the dogwood is hard, strong, shock resistant and fine-grained, making it

valuable for the production of articles such as mallet heads, tool handles, spools, golf club heads, roller skate wheels, and knitting needles. The bark of the dogwood has been used for making a black ink – half an ounce of bark being mixed with two scruples of sulphate of iron and

two scruples of gum-arabic dissolved in sixteen ounces of rainwater. Interesting! Also, the bark was used by the Native Americans as a fever reducer, skin astringent, a pain reliever for headaches, sores, and muscle inflammations, as a general tonic for other ailments, and to counteract the effect of many poisons. The Native Americans are very learned in the medicinal uses of the native plants and it is understood that without their expertise and help, we cannot begin to understand the vast potential of the native plants for remedies for human ailments.

Nestled in the woods underneath the pine and hardwood trees, the dogwood flourishes with partial light, organic materials and moisture which provide all the tree needs to survive in splendor. In our yards, the dogwood requires protective handling. The dogwood can be attacked by dogwood borer larvae which move through openings or wounds in the bark and feed on the trunks so be careful around the dogwood trees so as not to hit them in such a way as to break through the bark and leave an opening. The dogwood prefers a cool, moist,

- Dogwood continued on page 7 _____

Greenway Update

Friends of Dunnivant Valley Greenway, Inc., an Alabama nonprofit corporation, received tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service on January 24, 2006. What does this mean to us? Any contribution you make will be tax-exempt. Your checks should be made out to "Friends of Dunnivant Valley Greenway, Inc." and mailed c/o Ward Tishler, 79 Mt Laurel Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35242.

While monetary contributions are certainly welcome, your time and expertise are also welcomed. So much time and energy has been put into the planning and preparation for the construction of the Dunnivant Valley Greenway. According to Ward Tishler, the Greenway will be 12 feet wide, with a natural

surface, extending from the soccer recreational facility on US 280 along Yellow Leaf Creek through thick stands of beautiful hardwoods



with plentiful laurel, dogwood and rock outcroppings toward Mt Laurel and entering the right of way of County Highway 41 below the Mt Laurel Organic Gardens. Then, the Greenway will follow the right of way before entering the area near the Mt Laurel Elementary School and continuing on to the Mt Laurel Town Center and on the right of way to Belvedere and Shoal Creek.

The dream of the Greenway team - to connect the communities of the Dunnivant Valley, encouraging pedestrian traffic to all communities and providing another enhancement to our beautiful neck of the woods which will preserve green space for the beauty and wildlife habitat of Dunnivant Valley. Watch for construction in 2006!



John O. Freeman Sr.

Mr. Freeman's Corner

Phase III has a name now, Nolen Park, and is becoming our newest neighborhood as homes are being built and families are moving in. Be sure to stroll around the neighborhood!

If you noticed, prior to the beginning of construction in Nolen Park, the area was lacking large old trees. We have been told that bad weather caused considerable damage to the area at some point in the past. But don't dismay - our landscape architect, Rip Weaver, is making sure that trees are being planted to naturalize the area. We can lend Mother Nature a hand.

The Mt Laurel Neighborhood Association Board has met and addressed various issues during the first quarter of 2006. The Board would like to remind each homeowner to become familiar with the Design Code Book ("DCB") and the Covenants & Restrictions Manual ("C&R Manual"), copies of which are given to each homeowner at closing. Each owner of Mt Laurel is responsible for adhering to the provisions of the DCB and C&R Manual. If the homeowner is renting Mt Laurel property, it is the homeowner's responsibility to inform the renters of the provisions of the DCB and C&R Manual. All leases of Mt Laurel property must be approved by the Board.

Together with the continued support of the residents of Mt Laurel, the Mt Laurel Neighborhood Association Board will address and resolve issues of concern to the community of Mt Laurel.

The Cairns of Mt Laurel



What is a cairn, you might ask. Well, if you have walked around Mt Laurel, you have seen quite a few of them. The word is derived from the Scottish Gaelic term, *càrn*. A cairn is a man-made pile of stones, used for various purposes such as to mark a path, to mark the summit of a mountain, to mark a burial site, to commemorate an event, and in some cases, for apparently no particular reason. However, at Mt Laurel, Rip Weaver, our landscape architect, has stated that our cairns, though not part of the original plan, quickly evolved as work progressed at Mt Laurel. Our cairns are made from stones excavated from the grounds at Mt Laurel during construction and have been built to denote pedestrian ways. No need for bread crumb trails at Mt Laurel!



Elton B. Stephens, Jr.

The Town of MT LAUREL

Few neighborhoods start with a longing for the past. Mt Laurel did. Town Founder, Elton B. Stephens Jr., pictured in his mind the traditional neighborhoods that once dotted America - those with character, respect for nature and, above all else, individuality. And so was born The Town of Mt Laurel.

White-tailed Deer

Something catches your attention out of the corner of your eye – a slight movement – then you see them, a doe and two fawns standing at the edge of the woods, obviously trying to



decide when to dash across the road. It would be smart on your part to slow down to a crawl and wait for the deer to cross the road, and what a sight it is. Is anything prettier than a fawn (a baby deer with its white spots) or a doe or buck bounding across the land? Hopefully you have had an opportunity to observe the deer of our area, the white-tailed deer (*odocoileus virginianus*). The white-tailed deer are the most

nervous and shy of the deer, extremely agile, and can bound up to 30 miles per hour. Did you know they are good swimmers? Before the development of Highway 41 expanded, you could expect to see the deer at certain points along Hugh Daniel Drive at sunrise each morning and after dark. Why? Because the deer are notorious for continually using the same pathways when foraging for food and they eat from before dawn and for several hours after dawn, and from late afternoon until dusk. In eastern forests, the deer will eat buds and twigs of maple, sassafras, poplar, aspen and birch and of other trees, as well as many shrubs. What do they do during the daytime? They sleep, or more precisely, doze for no more than several hours at a time. They are very smart and some experts say they never sleep in the same place more than once.

Depending on who you talk to, a conversation about deer can be one of appreciation of the deer or one of extreme annoyance about the deer. Throughout the history of humans in North America, the deer has been valued. The Native Americans used the meat and bone marrow in their diet, used the hides for clothing, rugs, blankets, and fishnets, and crafted arrowheads,

clubs, fishhooks and tools out of the deer bones. Today, many people hunt deer. In some areas, the deer must be hunted to protect the deer from overpopulating. If the natural predators do not control the population, the deer will suffer in the wintertime when the food supply is not sufficient, and often die from starvation. The deer have a nose for their favorite dishes and don't mind walking right up to your back door, so to speak, to take advantage of their favorite foods. Farmers often have a problem with deer eating their crops and homeowners have to contend with shrubs being eaten. Another real problem for humans is the serious risk of a vehicle collision with deer.

So what's a person to do? Deer are protected year-round in all states and provinces, with the exception of the legal harvest during designated hunting seasons, so here are a few practical suggestions: drive slowly through the areas you know the deer inhabit; plant trees and shrubs that are resistant or less susceptible to deer damage; harvest crops as early as possible; and, use safe repellent products. Actually, when you think about it, we have taken over their homeland. When you think about it that way, you are more likely to want to help find solutions which are kind to this beautiful animal.

Olmsted Street

If you have walked along the streets at Mt Laurel, looked up at the street sign for Olmsted Street, and wondered if the street was named in honor of a person, the answer is yes. One of the core values associated with Mt Laurel is "respect for nature". One of the professions closely associated with attaining this goal at Mt Laurel is landscape architecture. The man who has been acknowledged as the founder of American landscape architecture is Frederick Law Olmsted, a man known for his impeccable honesty and iron determination. Did you guess right?



Most people have never heard of the man who, during his career, carried out over 500 commissions, which included 100 public parks and recreation grounds, 200 private estates, 50 residential communities and subdivision and campus design for 40 academic institutions. Among his more well-known commissions are Central Park in New York and the Biltmore

Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. What do you think of when you think of these places? It has been said that Olmsted did not see parks as just vast meadows, but rather he saw them as places of harmony; places where people would go to escape life and regain their sanity. "The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it, tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration of the whole system." — Frederick Law Olmsted (quoted in *A Clearing In The Distance*, p. 258).

On September 12, 1999, a commemorative stamp was issued by the U.S. Postal Service honoring Olmsted and his legacy as a premier designer of naturalistic landscapes that serve as public sanctuaries in urban settings. It seems that no matter where an American lives, the perception of their environment has been touched, in some way, by Frederick Law Olmsted.

Little Bundles Arrive!



Margaret Hazel Jackson, born on December 20, 2005, 8 lbs., 3 oz., 21.5 inches long; daughter of Cathrene and Jeff Jackson.

William Connor Burley, born on March 4, 2006, 6 lbs., 9 oz., 20 inches long; son of Kelly and Walker Burley, brother of Catherine and Abby Burley.

Get Cookin'

Raspberry Salsa

1 15 oz. can of black beans, drained and rinsed ¼ c red onion, finely chopped
8 oz. cream cheese, softened 1 8 or 10 oz. Robert Rothschild Raspberry Salsa
1 pkg Monterrey Jack Cheese with Jalapeno Peppers, shredded

Combine black beans and red onion. Spread cream cheese over bean mixture. Pour salsa over cream cheese. Place shredded cheese over salsa, making sure the cheese completely covers the salsa. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 20-25 mins or until cheese is completely melted. Serve with chips or crackers.

- Courtesy of Betty Swann

Scott's Shrimp Étouffée

¼ c butter (salted)	¾ t ground red pepper or ¼ t cayenne pepper
½ c all purpose flour	Juice of ½ lemon
1 c diced Vidalia onion	½ c thinly sliced scallions
½ c diced red bell pepper	2 T minced parsley
½ c diced yellow bell pepper	1 c shrimp stock (or water)
½ c diced celery	Salt & freshly ground pepper
4 cloves garlic, finely minced	Uncle Ben's Long Grain Rice
1 lb raw shrimp, shelled, deveined	

In a 5 qt saucepan, make a brown roux by combining flour and butter. Cook the roux over medium heat, stirring constantly until it turns the color of caramel. Add onion, peppers, celery and garlic; sauté for 20 mins. Add cayenne, lemon juice, scallions and stock; bring to a boil and simmer for 5 mins. Add shrimp, salt & pepper, and simmer for another (approx) 5 mins (or until the shrimp are done). Serve over Uncle Ben's Long Grain rice and garnish with parsley. Note: To make a simple shrimp stock, add shrimp peels to 4c water and boil for 10 mins, strain and discard shells.

- Courtesy of Chris Stone

Coconut Cake (from the Cookbook Used by Joan Rank, Waialua, Hawaii)

1 c. shortening	4 eggs, separated	2 c sugar
½ t lemon extract	½ t vanilla	3 c flour
3 t baking powder	¼ t salt	1 c. milk
Coconut Cream Filling	Fluffy White Frosting	1 ½ c shredded fresh coconut

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour three 8 inch round pans. Cream shortening and sugar. Add egg yolks, vanilla and lemon extract, beat well. Sift flour with baking powder and salt, add alternately with milk to creamed mixture. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form, fold into batter. Pour into prepared pans, bake 25 to 30 minutes. Cool thoroughly, fill with Coconut Cream Filling and frost with Fluffy White Frosting. Sprinkle top and sides of cake with coconut.

Coconut Cream Filling

½ c sugar	½ c. flour
¼ t salt	2 eggs, beaten
1 ½ c milk	¾ t vanilla
3 T butter	½ c shredded fresh coconut

Blend sugar with flour and salt. Add eggs and milk, cook, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla, butte rand coconut.

Fluffy White Frosting

1 ⅓ c sugar	¼ t cream of tartar
½ c water	½ c egg whites

Combine sugar, cream of tartar and water in saucepan. Cover and heat until mixture boils, remove cover and cook to 260. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Pour syrup gradually over beaten white. Beat until thick enough to spread.

- Courtesy of George Meighen (obtained while vacationing in Hawaii)

Mt Laurel – a Multigenerational Haven!

How many can remember walking down the street to visit your Grandmother, grabbing your fishing pole and walking to the lake to fish with Granddad, playing with your cousins who lived down the street, running to your Aunt's house down the street to deliver a cup of sugar, knowing your reward would be some fresh baked cookies?

Life in the average American neighborhood has changed from what it used to be, in great part due to the transient lifestyles of modern society. Well, our neighborhood of Mt Laurel is stepping back. We have ten sets of multigenerational families who live within walking distances of one another. An interesting note is that in almost every instance, the "kids" were the first to move to Mt Laurel, followed by the "parents"!

The pleasures of grandparenthood increase when you have the opportunity of living close to your grandchildren. Cynthia Simpson says, "It is a joy having Teddy ringing my doorbell in the morning for his cup of "hot" (tea). I would tell him not to touch because it was "hot", hence the name. In the spring and summer, I leave a small bud vase on my bar because Teddy brings me a flower that he picked on the way to my house". Cynthia's daughter, Amy Searcy, also enjoys the benefits of having her parents close by. "Aside from the babysitting advantage, I think just the support you are able to give one another is tremendous". Lisa Brush says, "I am so thankful to have Mama just a few doors down. One of Miles' favorite morning rituals is running down the sidewalk in his PJs to Gran's house for breakfast!" Her mom, Jan Williams, feels the same. "I don't know how to tell you how my life has changed since I bought my house in Mt Laurel. It was nice visiting Lisa before, but now I have the freedom to come and go as I please and see Miles as much as I like. It will be extra good when this new baby comes. Of course, another huge asset to being in Mt Laurel is all of my new friends!" Rorie Scroggins also sees the advantages of having a strong family support system. "I could go on for days about the advantages of having Carol and Mike here. Having them in the neighborhood has been a true blessing. Carol was able to keep Max three days a week so that I could work part time and not have him in daycare for the first 18 months of his life. By having them here, I know Max will have the wonderful influence of his Mimi and Granddaddy". Max's other support group is the Sippin' Seniors at Mt Laurel who dote on him when brought to the meetings by his Mimi. Ward and Anne Tishler live close to their daughter, Suzanne, and son-in-law, Nick Pihakis. When asked about the advantages of living within the same neighborhood as your children, Ward said, "I think it does express the desire to maintain the traditional family culture of living in close proximity to one another. It is a great way to maintain family traditions handed down from one generation to another."

These family members can relax, sit on the front porch, and, without even picking up the phone, hear that familiar voice a comin' round the bend!

Talking Trash

What a difference a year makes! About one hundred twenty trash bags full of difference! April will mark the one year anniversary of Mt Laurel's program for removal of trash along a one mile stretch of Highway 41. Thanks go out to Renee Prescott for her outstanding leadership and to the following neighbors who participated this year: Tyler Sasser Cook and his fraternity brothers of ATO from Birmingham Southern College; Lisa and David Brush; Susan and Stan Bradley; Margaret and Howard Schiele; The Peters Family and Frank Jackson; Michael Vizzina, April Mraz, and Lynn and David Watts; Vicky and Jim Traylor; Betty and Dennis Swann, Lana Johnson, and Vicki Balogh; Steve Hackman, Hannah Hackman, Mitch Pearce, Brett Grimes, Kathy Ostrogley, and Vicki Whitworth; Mike Simpson and Barbara Anderson; and, Renee and Scott Prescott.

Did you know deer and other animals often cut their tongues on half-opened cans; animals are sometimes injured when they eat cigarettes butts, plastic wrappers or Styrofoam; little animals like squirrels sometimes stick their heads in small plastic containers, trying to get the food that's left, and get stuck there.

Would you like to help keep the land clean? If you would like to participate in the Mt Laurel Highway 41 cleanup program for the first time or sign up again for 2006, please contact Renee Prescott at 980-2598 or at presc4685@aol.com.

April Mraz Honored As Designer Of The Year!

January, 2006 - Mt Laurel's Open Creative Group received a total of seven awards at the Birmingham Advertising Federation ADDY Awards, including three of only 31 coveted Gold ADDY Awards! A special judges' award of "Designer of the Year" was awarded to April Mraz, CEO/Creative Director of Open Creative Group, for her outstanding designs over the past year, making this the second consecutive year she has been honored with this Industry Leader of the Year award.

Congratulations, April, and team!



Tower of London and view the Crown Jewels. Of course, the guys got away to a soccer game while the ladies saw a show and did some shopping. We are sure the time went by far too quickly as they enjoyed every moment of their visit to Ireland and before they knew it, they were headed back home to Mt Laurel.

We're glad all made it back safe and sound with such wonderful memories and stories to be shared!

Travel To And Fro

During November and December, George Meighen headed off to Hawaii and New Zealand. After lounging around the North Shore of Oahu, George headed "Down Under". George says: The view from the pinnacle of the Sky Tower in Auckland is spectacular, not to mention Waitenata Harbour in the booming "City of Sails". Then, on to the urban, volcano-strewn North Island to enjoy more unadorned beauty. "The Lord of the Rings" was filmed in the area. Did not participate in sheep-shearing, but did bottle feed a lamb. A "have to do": an airborne view of scenic Rotorua from a cable car. After a plunge or two in a Polynesian Spa fed by volcanic waters, it was on to the "adventure capital" of Queenstown. Walked the streets, shopped, sipped Australian beer and succumbed to plates of huge, delicious lamb shanks. A must: a trip to the arresting fjord of Milford Sound, taken on a tour boat plying the ten mile waters with sheer 4,000 foot high rock walls and waterfalls cascading from snowmelt lakes. Drove from Queenstown past orchards, sheep, vineyards, sheep, elk and deer farms, sheep and more sheep to the coastal city of Dunedin, staying next door to the Cadbury Confectionery. Too late for a tour and chocolate sampling! Drove 200 miles along the Pacific Coast to Christchurch, with acres of beautiful gardens and a Starbucks! You can take a gondola ride along the Avon River, shaded by weeping willows. Heart swelled with pride while viewing a USAF C-130 land and take off! New Zealand - beautiful! So much to see and do. Couldn't dawdle - back onboard for the 8,000 mile return trip to Honolulu.

During the Christmas holidays, Neil Mel, Logan and Maggie McCoy traveled to Northern Ireland to visit Neil's family. For three weeks, they enjoyed wonderful times with the family in and around the village of Caledon. On the farm, Logan and Maggie were able to enjoy the arrival of 70,000 one-day old chicks and to even welcome new calves into the world. While in Ireland, Maggie had a birthday and a huge birthday party with her questioning her mom about each child, asking if they were all cousins! But get this, Neil and Mel slipped off to London for a few days and on a cold, dark night, they took the Jack the Ripper Tour which took them to all of the places where the murders took place! They also were able to tour the

Hilltop Montessori School – A Dream Come True

Ten years ago Cindi Stehr's dream to start a Montessori school came true with 7 students enrolling. In 2000, Hilltop Montessori moved from its original site to a temporary facility in Mt Laurel, and another dream began to form of one day building a permanent structure that would be a LEED-rated green school. On Jan. 20, 2006, the next step was taken toward making the dream become a reality when 15 golden shovels pierced land located in Mt Laurel that will soon be the permanent LEED-rated home of Hilltop Montessori School.

Students, faculty, staff and other project supporters were present during the ground breaking ceremony as Stehr looked on, her eyes bright with anticipation of the building that will soon grow to define the school's values and principles. "Creating a green school was the vision of Hilltop's first Board after we gained nonprofit status in 2000," Stehr said. "The green school concept fits right in with the Montessori philosophy." "A Montessori education stresses the development of the whole child with emphasis on the child's talents, social responsibility and place in the world", said Rita Smith, chairperson of the Green School Action Committee. The similar values of the Montessori education and "green" building practices have made the creation of a LEED certified building a top priority for the School.

The kindergarten class of Hilltop Montessori School presented an earth poem:

*Earth which brings this land
with hope bright
Sun which blesses all with
warmth and light
Dear Earth/Dear Sun
By you we live and sow
Upon this ground-a school will grow.*

Seven stepping stones made by the classes that comprise Hilltop Montessori School will be integrated into the construction of the School. The stones represent the children's hands in the school's creation, giving them a tangible bond to the new structure. The students of Hilltop Montessori are excited about the new building. Emily Fleisig, 11, is currently the longest-standing student of Hilltop Montessori and had the distinguished honor to represent the entire student body and use one of the golden shovels to help break ground. "I love Hilltop because everyone is close together," she said. "What do I think of the new building? It's going to be different. Different good though!"

Hilltop's green vision has been a combined effort of faculty, parents, students and other members of the community. James Nietfeld, parent of two Hilltop students and LEED consultant, helped organize the building plans and present them for LEED certification. He explained that many factors must be taken into consideration while constructing a green building, including energy-efficient lighting, energy-efficient HVAC, water efficiency and minimal site disturbance. The entire process, he continued, is meticulous but extremely worthwhile. "Our two boys transferred from public schools to attend Hilltop," Nietfeld said. "I want my kids to be aware of consumption and conservation, and the new facility will be a great tool. It can't come soon enough."

Partnering with Hilltop Montessori School in the creation of the green school is EBSCO Industries, which donated the five-acre plot for the new school. John Thompson, Human Resources Director at EBSCO, was present at the ground breaking. "We are proud to announce the establishment of this school. EBSCO chose to donate this land to encourage an educational institution that offers a unique and effective curriculum and a program that will make it a positive addition to the Mt Laurel community," Thompson said. "The green school status also sticks with EBSCO's principle of being environmentally friendly and raising awareness of the importance of not only abiding by laws, but by using common sense to work toward the restoration and preservation of our environment."

James T. Stephens, Chairman of EBSCO, praised Hilltop's conservation efforts and emphasized that the dream of a green school goes hand-in-hand with EBSCO's principles. "We at EBSCO have a great respect for the area's beautiful environment and are passionate about its conservation," Stephens said. "It is on both a personal and professional basis that we work to preserve the environment as much of EBSCO's business is directly related to the outdoors. We are not academic armchair conservationists. Instead we get out in the woods, and we work to preserve it."



Also involved in the project are Bill Segrest, LEED Architect, and Nancy Jernigan, both of HWK Architects; Jane Reed Ross and Lea Ann MackNally, both landscape architects of Ross Land Design; builder Bill Kreis of JohnsonKreis Construction, and AmSouth Bank.

An Evening with the Sippin' Seniors

On February 20, 2006, a dinner organized by Vicki Balogh and the Sippin' Seniors was enjoyed at the Corner Café with friends and neighbors of Mt Laurel. Mike and Cindy Simpson opened the doors of the Café to invite everyone to enjoy a fabulous dinner prepared by Rosemary Chesser. What a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and catch up on the latest. The only concern of the evening was the possibility of missing out on even one bite of Rosemary's superb dinner or forgetting to say hello to someone at the next table. After the fun and laughter calmed down and all was said and done, everyone agreed that this simply had to become a monthly event at Mt Laurel!



(Dogwood continued from page 1)



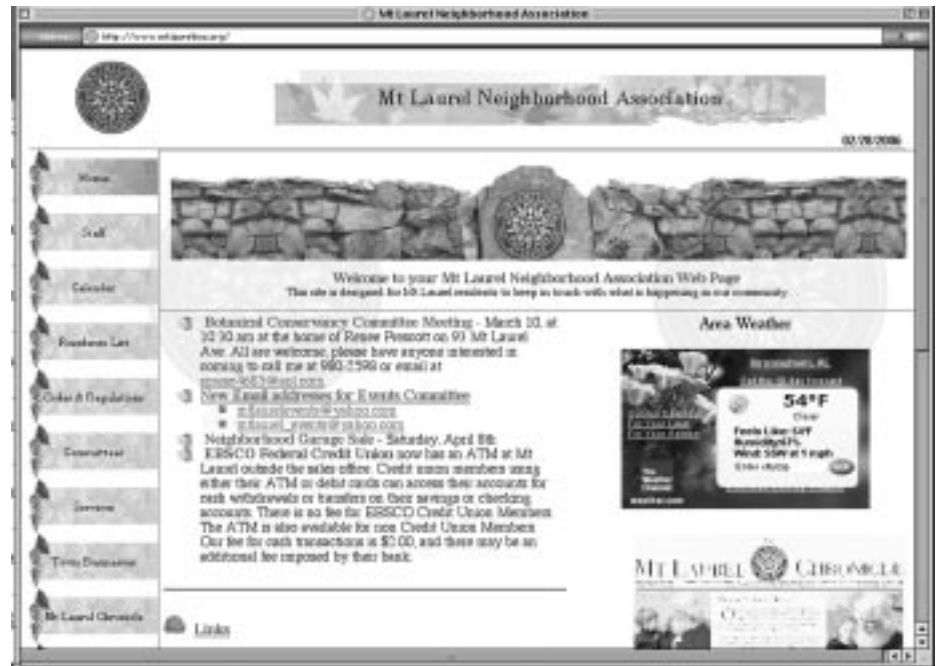
acidic soil that contains organic matter and is not tolerant of stresses such as heat, drought, pollution root injury and over-fertilization. The tree is best suited for replanting at the beginning of the third year, as a root-balled seedling, in moist, rich, well-drained soils. The quality and composition of soil will determine the health of the tree. You can help your tree by adding mycorrhizal fungi, fertilizers and

biostimulants to the soil. Check out this website for dogwood carepackages: <http://www.treehelp.com/search-results-ext.asp?SearchType=0&Keyword=dog-wood+fertilizer>. Talk about a beauty for the seasons – spring, tree loaded with white bracts for several weeks; summer, soft green leaves provide cool shade; fall, foliage turns red early and lingers; winter – shiny, oval red drupes mature in the fall as showy clusters which provide food for the birds, chipmunks, squirrels, turkeys, whitetail deer, skunks and other creatures, but remember – the fruit is poisonous to humans. What a beautiful giving tree! We should all whisper words of thanks to the dogwood tree!

The Train Has Left the Station!

Well, Mark Taylor rode the pony, Mary Peters has run the station, and along came Mark Partain driving the train down the tracks! Can you believe it? We have a living, breathing website, thanks to Mark. Like so many other of the residents of Mt Laurel, Mark jumped in to help with projects for the community. Mark, a great big “Thank You” goes out for the incredible job being done for the website!

If you haven't checked it out, go to the Mt Laurel Neighborhood Association website at <http://www.mtlaurelhoa.org/>.



www.mtlaurelhoa.org

www.mtlaurelhoa.org

Community

Help protect all the creatures and plants – the circle of life connects us all.

Respect for Nature

Change landscaping to greenscaping, practice the 4-Rs: Reduce; Reuse; Recycle; Rebuy
www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/index.htm.

Commitment to the Future

If we all make little contributions, the impact over time can be huge.

The Town
of
MT LAUREL
An EBSCO Community

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The Mt Laurel Calendar

Date	Event	Weekly Events
April 7	Annual Garage Sale at Mt Laurel – Once again, the residents of Mt Laurel are cleaning up, cleaning out and getting ready for the Garage Sale to be held on April 7! Watch for announcements and flyers for details.	Sippin' Seniors – Most Monday mornings at 9 a.m., you can join the Sippin' Seniors for a cup of coffee and interesting conversation at Jimbo's Soda Fountain.
April 15	Easter Egg Hunt	Mt Laurel Play Group – Moms, ready to meet other Moms at Mt Laurel and let the kids play together? Contact Mallory Carrington at mcarrington72@charter.net for the schedule of events for the Mt Laurel Play Group.
April 22	Spring Festival – Plans for Mt Laurel's Spring Festival have been announced! Make plans to attend for a load of fun! 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Stitch & Dish – Anyone interested in knitting or just watching and dishing with your neighbors, come by the Corner Café on Tuesdays between 5 and 8 p.m.
May 13	Fishing Tournament – Watch for information for this spectacular event!	Mt Laurel Men's Golf - The men of Mt Laurel, under the able leadership of Mike Simpson, have organized a group to play golf. Remember that skill levels are not a reason not to be a part of this, high or low handicaps – no matter. The plan is to have a good series of outings and a lot of fun. If interested, contact Mike at mikesimpson@mindspring.com.

This is not all! Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements of all the happenings in the Town of Mt Laurel.

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