

Montevallo Arbor and Beautification Board
Information to replace April 2022 meeting

Arbor Day expenditures

My records show that the bare root seedlings for Arbor Day cost 593\$ plus shipping. I have not yet learned the shipping cost.

We spent \$354.50 with the Type Shop for new Banners and printed materials.

The trees for Arbor Day 2022 were ordered in July 2021 from Superior Trees in Florida. We need to watch their web site to order trees for the 2023 Arbor Day.

Post Office yard landscaping

Julie Smitherman, Courtney Bennett, Sarah Hogan and John McKinnon met with Postmaster John Grisham to explore the possibility of a joint landscaping project between the Post Office, Main Street and the Arbor Board to improve the appearance of the almost empty lot next to Main Street where the photo frame is located. We agreed to draw up plans and meet again.

Courtney Bennett, Sarah Hogan and John McKinnon visited Green Valley Farms and were given a tour by Lance Byrd who made suggestions as to the types of trees to use.

The initial plan is to plant knock out roses next to the Post Office, three crepe myrtles on the Trustmark Bank end and one or two oak or maple trees in the open space not blocking the view of the Christmas tree used in December. We have to determine who will pay for the plants and if the city workers can be used for the planting. Montevallo Main Street may expand the project at a later date.

Missing trees on Main Street

On two occasions a group from Main Street has walked down town Montevallo to identify missing trees that may need to be replaced. On the most recent trip Lance Byrd helped identify the existing trees and made recommendations about how the trees should be pruned. Lance was going to talk with Kirk Hamby about tree pruning.

Damaged tree near library/tennis courts

Steve Gilbert asked for recommendations concerning an old failing tree near the library/tennis courts. My recommendation was to cut the tree down and replace it with a hardwood with Fall color.

Middle Street noise issue

The following are emails relating to a noise issue on Middle Street. Since the area in question is on a state right of way the City of Montevallo and the Arbor Board may be limited in their ability to help with the problem.

Fri, Mar 11 at 5:16 PM

Mayor Nix,

My name is Rachel Beasley and my family and I live on Vine Street next to Orr Park. What a blessing our location has been to have a welcoming, well-kept, and MYSTICALLY CARVED green space for our two very young children to enjoy! Our residential few blocks houses several young families— and grandparents with oft-visiting grandchildren— all of whom enjoy time spent outdoors: both at the park and in our yards.

After some storms last year, the corner of Middle and Morgan endured some significant damage to trees lining Middle street upward onto the bridge that runs parallel to Vine. Workmen were finally able to rectify the downed trees fallen onto residential land and did an excellent job leaving a tidy-not-muddy area after they removed all their equipment. Kudos!

My concern is that Middle Street, much to our chagrin, is used as a major thru-route for transfer trucks DAY AND NIGHT. They pay no mind when accelerating with lead feet up the hill, nor hesitate to utilize their jake brakes at ALL HOURS. Without the bare minimum noise buffer of those removed trees, we are left staring at an exposed high traffic road that now leaves our backyard nearly uninhabitable due to abhorrent noise pollution. I am curious if the city plans to erect any replacement vegetation or, better, a wall to contain the noise of all these diesel motors and jake brakes, again, day and NIGHT!

As I'm sure you agree being a lifelong resident of sweet Montevallo, a small town loses much of its desirability for families' long term residential goals when commercial vehicles trump- in both sound and in right of way- the expected serenity of traditional neighborhoods.

I look forward to hearing from you on your ideas on how to remedy this unpleasant situation!

Best,
Rachel Beasley

Fri, Mar 11 at 5:16 PM

Good afternoon, Rachel

I do agree about the noise. Jake Brakes are illegal in the City Limits. We will get some signage up so that may help. I think we can plant some trees to replace the ones that blew down. We must stay off the right of way. I'm copying Steve Gilbert (City Clerk), John McKinnon (Arbor Board Chair), Kirk Hamby (Director of Streets), Jeremy Littleton (Police Chief).

Thanks,
Rusty

Sun, Mar 13 at 3:35 PM

I looked at the section of Middle Street in question and took some pictures. I saw two large stumps but I do not know what was in the area where the straw is beside the road. A drive also runs beside the

straw. I do not know the width of the right away. Even if trees were planted it would take a number of years before they may be effective for sound control.

Let me know if I need to meet with someone to discuss the issue and do a site review.

Thanks,
John McKinnon

Mon, Mar 14 at 8:11 AM

This was a job done by the State since Middle Street is AL Hwy. 155. There were numerous trees removed that were in danger of coming down on the property owners and the roadway. The area where the straw matting is was just turf no trees were removed. They had to replace the grass due to the damage done by the equipment and heavy rains during the project. In the area where the work was done the State has 100 FT. right of way. This will make planting in the area difficult in order to stay off of State ROW. I have been in contact with the State trying to get signage on Hwy 25 to limit truck traffic on Middle Street. I will follow up on this issue as it causes problems with tractor trailers trying to turn right on Main Street. Signage regarding use of Jake brakes may help with inbound trucks, but acceleration noise going uphill is going to happen because of the grade of the Viaduct.

Steve

Steve Gilbert
Steve Gilbert
City Clerk / Treasurer
205-665-2555 Ext. 105

Tue, Mar 29 at 1:44 PM

All,

I wanted to check on the progress being made by the City on how to rectify the exposed roadway + excessive traffic noise on Middle Street for us residents in the surrounding neighborhoods.

While signage is appreciated, it will only do as much good as Chief Littleton's officers enforcing such obedience. As an addendum, please also advise what noise ordinances Montevallo has in place regarding abnormally disruptive engines/mufflers on personal vehicles, as commercial trucks are not the solitary disturbance: lifted pickups, race-car style Civics, and even an exposed-engine hotrod all rattle our window panes as they regularly cruise the park and Middle St bridge with seemingly no reprimands from patrolling officers.

I have spoken with my fellow residents on Vine, East Boundary, Middle, Morgan, Shelby, and Walden Court about the need for physical buffering of the road from our properties— something that existed when we all purchased our homes— and we all look forward to a constructive and prompt solution to salvage both our resale values and our nerves.

Rachel Beasley