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DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE NEWS

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LIEUTENANT ROY HODGE TAKES OVER CENTRAL EVENTS

“People are choosing to move down here and that says something for us. If crime were rampant, people wouldn’t live down here.”

By Rhonda Davis

There’s a new man in downtown. Meet Lieutenant Roy Hodge, Mobile Police Department. This past December Lieutenant Hodge assumed the leadership position at Central Events.

Being downtown has brought Lieutenant Hodge full

circle. Hodge began his career with the Mobile Police Department patrolling downtown in the 1987. “Things have really changed,” recalled Hodge. “Back then, after 5:00 p.m. tumbleweeds could blow down the middle of Dauphin Street. There was nothing open – a few bars on Conti Street, and homeless people. This has been culture shock. Now, downtown looks more like the downtown I remember as a child. Businesses are open and people are everywhere.” Hodge recalled the downtown of his youth as a busy place to be. “My grandparents would come downtown and bring me with them. It was a happening place. We would shop and eat. I loved going to the lunch counter at Woolworth’s and I remember going to Gayfers every time we came downtown,” he smiled. “Now it’s fast forward and downtown is going back to the way it used to be. It is unique for me to see.”

When asked about his vision for Central Events, Hodge took a moment to contemplate his answer. “I would like to see Central Events have a positive presence in downtown and project a positive image for the Mobile Police Department. This is the biggest public relations job in the police department.” Hodge explained, “We operate with a mixture of assisting business owners and residents and the homeless – everyone has different concerns and challenges. And we have to fight crime.” Hodge’s goal is to

create a balance between public relations and fighting crime. “We want people to see us. We want people to come downtown and feel secure and know that their cars are not going to be broken into,” expressed Hodge. “People are choosing to move down here and that says something for us. If crime were rampant, people wouldn’t live down here.”



Lieutenant Roy Hodge is the new man in charge at Central Events, housed in the rear of the Mobile Police Department Museum, 320 Dauphin Street.

He also understands the different challenges that downtown faces. He cited examples of trucks unloading shipments to businesses with little or no parking available for them and the ongoing problems that the entertainment district brings. He has spent the first few months on the job meeting the business and property owners, managing Mardi Gras downtown, and working on an issue that is paramount on his list of problems – parking.

When asked about the crime in downtown Mobile, Hodge was frank and open about his observations and the statistics reported in the Mobile Police Department’s weekly Comp Stat report. “Of course crime for offenses like underage drinking and car burglary are going to be higher down here because of the unique environment downtown has with the entertainment district, but we are not off the scale. When you have a concentration of clubs there are going to always be more problems than in another part of the city that doesn’t have that concentration. We sometime have crimes to individuals,” said Hodge. He also was quick to point out

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REGENTS AND STEWARDS PERFORM MARDI GRAS MIRACLE

by Carol Hunter

Though the 2007 Carnival crowds were not quite as large as the Mardi Gras throngs that filled the city last year, on the final weekend an estimated 200,000 parade goers caught beads, danced in the streets and left behind tons of trash. On Ash Wednesday the city’s Public Works Department and the Downtown Mobile Alliance’s Crewe of Stewards hit the streets to begin the massive cleanup.

Inside the Business Improvement District, a mere 12 hours after Fat Tuesday ended (and thanks in part to a steady rain), the streets and sidewalks were spotless. More than one person remarked, “The Mardi Gras funk has never disappeared so quickly!”



Mardi Gras Day



Mardi Gras Day



Mardi Gras Day



Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 15 Stewards
- 1,452 bags of trash
- 36.3 tons of garbage

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

By Elizabeth Sanders

TIME TO UPDATE THE VISION

"There is nothing like a dream to create the future." – Victor Hugo, French poet, novelist and playwright

In the coming months Mobile will celebrate the opening of the Battle House Hotel & RSA Battle House Tower. This fantastic development includes the meticulous renovation of the historically significant Battle House Hotel; the new construction of the gorgeous RSA Tower, downtown Mobile's first class A office building to be constructed in decades; and the construction of the five story RSA Garage, a six hundred car garage that includes a drive-up branch for Wachovia and the posh Battle House Spa. We will celebrate the opening of International Shipholding Corporation's new world headquarters in Mobile. We will celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Hampton Inn on Royal Street. We will celebrate the opening of Hancock Bank, the Woodlands Bank, and hopefully, although it is not known at press-time, the opening of RBC Centura Bank in downtown Mobile. We will celebrate the opening of the gleaming new Ben May Main Public Library Building on Government Street. All of these exciting developments are occurring because of vision. In each case someone within the organization envisioned something new and set out with deliberateness to accomplish that vision.

The vision that was last developed for Downtown Mobile dates back to 1992. It was a fine vision. It called for the development of the Exploreum, the Museum of Mobile, and the renovation of the Battle House. It called for the development of Cooper Riverside Park and the Maritime Museum. The Downtown Plan of 1992 was created by LDR International for the City of Mobile. It was a fine plan. It established a vision for Mobilians to look towards and that vision has in large part been accomplished.

Ideally a community vision for a redevelopment area should be updated every five to seven years. It is now 2007. Much has been accomplished. Nearly \$1 billion in investment has gone into downtown Mobile since that 1992 plan that cost approximately \$150,000. Seems like a pretty good return on investment.

The time is nigh to begin work on a new vision for downtown Mobile. The easy stuff is done. (To all of you involved in this work over the last 15 years, aren't you glad it was easy?) Our work now needs to focus on infill. Our downtown is still reeling from years of demolition and neglect from public and private owners. Block after block of downtown's land area sits vacant or underutilized. The projects mentioned in the first paragraph have peaked the attention of the development community. Downtown Mobile is attractive for development for many reasons – our position on the Gulf Coast, our high quality of life balanced with the manageable size of our population, and our low unemployment rate. With the aggressive nature of our industrial recruitment efforts, Mobile will continue to attract newcomers to the area. Many of these newcomers will be attracted to the downtown lifestyle.

Now is the ideal time to bring the greater Mobile community together to build consensus on where downtown development should go from here. Acres and acres of land sit fallow. What kind of downtown do we want to become? What should our new buildings look like? What kind of development do we want so that our public spaces are vibrant and used on a daily basis? What kind of development do we encourage in the face of volatile energy prices and dramatic advancements in technology and economic globalization? These things have to be thought out and designed. They do not happen by accident. They do not happen because all developers have a holistic view of what is best for our community. They happen because people come together, put in the hard work to collaborate and share perspectives, and come up with community priorities. And then they work hard to make sure those community priorities drive the recruitment efforts, the incentives offered, and the decisions made.

Mayor Sam Jones has promised that he will pursue the creation of a new development vision for downtown. He is far more eloquent than I am on the need for a new vision. He is a strong supporter of the need for broad-based community involvement in the development of a new vision for downtown. He understands the need for a new vision for the whole city and will be working towards bringing people together to create such a vision with neighborhood groups throughout the city. Hallelujah! This cannot be done soon enough.

In January, the Alliance was honored to sponsor, along with the city of Mobile and Envision Coastal Alabama a presentation by Dan Burden with Walkable Communities. In slide after slide Mr. Burden showed us examples of communities across the nation that had done the hard work, and spent the money, to come together and develop a vision for how they wanted their neighborhood, downtown, city, etc. to look and be developed. He showed us cities that had managed traffic for the betterment of the pedestrian; he showed us cities that had rebuilt crime-ridden neighborhoods with redevelopment through well-planned design; he showed us cities that had rebuilt retail in their downtowns because of intelligent decisions about design and new development.

Mr. Burden made this presentation at a luncheon on a freezing cold rainy Friday. We had decided that the attendance limit on the luncheon would be 50, finally we started turning down reservations at 80 because that is all our conference room will hold. People are keenly interested in this topic. They want to be involved in how their city develops. These are not the people who call talk radio and "Sound Off" and negate everything. These are the doers. These are the people who want to work hard and give of their time to make Mobile vibrant. To be sure, our leaders need to lead, but they also must engage the people, educate the people, and listen to the people. A new visioning process for downtown and every neighborhood when facilitated by world-class urban planners will provide the forum to inform, enlighten, and engage. That is what we need now and we are looking forward to supporting Mayor Jones in his effort to develop a new vision for downtown Mobile.

SUGGESTED LINKS FOR SURTHER READING

www.dfw.org, click "Strategic Action Plan"

www.montgomeryal.gov, click "Departments," then "Planning and Development," then "Downtown Master Plan"

www.kcmo.org/planning.nsf/plnpres/plnpubs, click "Kansas City Downtown Land Use and Development Plan"

www.downtowndenverplan.org

BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL AND RSA TOWER SET TO OPEN

by Carol Hunter

For more than a quarter of a century Mobile's Battle House Hotel sat on Royal Street, vacant and crumbling, fading more with each passing year and serving both as a reminder of glorious times past and as a symbol of the decline of a once-thriving downtown. Six years ago the Battle House's savior arrived in the form of Dr. David Bronner and the Retirement Systems of Alabama, who purchased the hotel as part of a massive building project that includes the new RSA office tower.

Both projects will have a profound impact on Mobile: one returns the heart and soul to downtown; the other sends the city skyward to new heights.

The original Battle House Hotel served as the center of Mobile's social universe for 122 years, opening in 1852 on the site of an old military headquarters set up by Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. The eight-story structure took its name from the Battle family, founders of the Battle House and the Gunnison House in Point Clear, which would eventually become the Grand Hotel.

A 1905 fire destroyed the Battle House, but all 147

"A new building on this scale sends a message to any prospect that downtown Mobile is vibrant and moving forward." - Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

guests of the hotel escaped the blaze. Its opulent replacement was designed by New York architect Frank Andrews and the popular hotel continued to entertain presidents (Woodrow Wilson) and royalty (of the Mardi Gras variety) until time and a changing economy finally took their toll. The doors to the Battle House Hotel closed in 1974.

In mid-May, the doors will once again open to the public and the grand historic hotel will reclaim its status as the place to see and be seen. The Battle House has been painstakingly restored, with careful attention to period detail. According to the project's director, the colors of the lavish Crystal Ballroom, site of so many Mardi Gras coronations, are exactly as they were in the 1907 reconstruction.

The 238 rooms will be a blend of old and new, with



The Crystal Ballroom is being restored to its 19th century grandeur.

the original eight-story hotel building connecting to rooms in the sleek, modern RSA Battle House Tower. The hotel will also offer 40,000 square feet of flexible meeting space and fine dining options.

The addition of the Battle House Hotel rooms and the 375 newly renovated rooms in the Riverview Plaza Hotel, both of which will be operating under the up-scale Renaissance brand, should dramatically improve the ability of the Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau to attract large conventions. According to Leon Maisel, CEO of the MBCVB, Mobile will now be able to compete for regional and even national corporate and association meetings, the cream of the convention crop. "Until now, we haven't had the kind of product these up-market meeting planners were seeking," Maisel says.

This new class of conventions will generate more customers for other downtown businesses. Maisel says, "These delegates generate more ancillary spending in terms of restaurant and shopping than many of the meetings currently booked into Mobile." The restaurant picture is looking quite good, he says, but the challenge will be adding the kind of retail to downtown that visitors expect.

As much as the meeting picture is improved, it could still take some time for the conventioners to fill Dauphin Street. Most major meetings are already booked through 2009, some into 2010.

The opening of the RSA Battle House Tower could have a more immediate impact. With more than 500,000 square feet of rentable Class A commercial

space, the 35-story tower will be attracting tenants from the entire region. International Shipholding Corporation decided last year to relocate from New Orleans to Mobile, a decision based in part, according to the Chamber of Commerce's Director or Economic Development Bill Sisson, on the availability of top quality space. "We now have something in our portfolio that we haven't had for decades."

Sisson believes the RSA Tower is a real asset to the Chamber's recruitment efforts. "A new building on this scale sends a message to any prospect that downtown Mobile is vibrant and moving forward," he says.

The gleaming office tower will be the tallest building in the state of Alabama, in fact, at 745 feet, it's the tallest building along the Gulf Coast outside of Houston. The three-story lobby features curved granite walls, a grand staircase and elevators covered in polished white Italian marble and rich wood panels.

There is no question that it will change Mobile's skyline and attract the attention of outsiders, but it may also have a noticeable impact on our own citizens. Along with the Battle House Hotel, the Tower is bound to become a source of pride for Mobilians, and Sisson believes it will help us become reacquainted with the heart of our city by drawing us back downtown. The Battle House Hotel and Office Tower project could well become the beacon guiding us all into the future.



The RSA Tower rises above the 8-story Battle House Hotel, a nod to the past and the future.

SPONSOR A TRASH CAN?

That's right, you too can help with downtown's infrastructure. Join Earl Hollingshead in donating the money to fabricate and install one of downtown Mobile's custom-made trash receptacles. These containers were designed by a local architect and patterned after the fence surrounding the Ketchum Fountain in Bienville Square.

There are few or no receptacles on many of our side streets, creating a situation where pedestrians must either walk around carrying their trash, or drop it on the sidewalk. The cost is \$430.00 for each container, and your donation of this amount will help us place more receptacles on the pedestrian-oriented streets. Contact Carol Hunter at 251-434-8498 for more information on how you can donate to this program.

POSITIONS OPEN AT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance is looking for a few highly motivated, creative, and determined individuals to join the downtown redevelopment team. If you are someone who believes in downtown and shares the vision for a vibrant, walkable, thriving urban environment contact us, we may have a position for you.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The person in this position will be responsible for recruiting and assisting business and land development prospects in the downtown Business Improvement District. He or she will develop relationships with property owners and real estate professionals to assist in the development of vacant and underutilized land. The Economic Development Director will recruit new

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ROYAL STREET CONVERSION ACCOMPLISHED

by Rhonda Davis

On Wednesday, January 31, Royal Street was officially opened by Mayor Samuel L. Jones as a two-way street. For decades Royal Street was a one-way street traveling north from Government Street to its northern point at Congress Street. Now the two way conversion allows traffic to travel freely in both directions for the entire length of Royal Street. The Royal Street conversion is the first in a series of one-way to two-way directional changes planned by Mayor Jones that will take place over the coming months.

Among other street changes slated for two-way conversion are Dauphin Street and St. Francis Street from Royal Street east to Water Street. This part of St. Francis Street has been closed during the construction of the RSA Tower and will be repaved before being opened as a two-way street. The changes are part of the design to help traffic flow easily around the RSA Battle House Hotel & Tower. The two-way conversions will take place in late spring, in conjunction with the opening of the RSA Battle House Hotel & Tower.

The conversion of selected streets from one-way to two-way traffic pattern was one of the recommendations of the Public Space Action Plan of 2002. Mayor Jones has selected St. Louis Street as a top priority for conversion to two-way traffic flow. A map showing the city's projected one-way to two-way conversion plans is on display at the Alliance Office at 261 Dauphin Street.



Cars pass each other on Royal Street for the first time in decades.

A NEW DEPARTMENT, A NEW DIRECTION

by Rhonda Davis

On October 1, 2006 the City of Mobile departments Main Street Mobile and the Office of Special Events merged, becoming the newly formed Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Main Street Mobile's role as a city department in the past was to drive the downtown revitalization process. Main Street was responsible for promoting downtown; creating events that helped drive the downtown economy; fundraising for special improvement projects and programs; assisting downtown business owners and residents with city services; and working as a liaison with all of the downtown entities: tourist attractions, governmental offices, businesses, residents and visitors. "Mayor Jones liked the concept of the revitalization program and he wanted it spread to all seven council districts," explained Chris Barraza, who has worked as the Main Street Mobile Program Manager for the past three years. "The new department allows us to be responsive to community action groups and neighborhoods that are interested in revitalization," added Barraza.

Barraza now works with Ann Rambeau, former Director of the Office of Special Events who now serves as Director of the newly formed department. Barraza explained "the administration's goal is to have adequate staffing to consistently produce dynamic programming throughout the city." She added, "What is good for one part of the city is good for the whole city."

Barraza stressed that many of the services that were provided by Main Street Mobile to the downtown community in the past will continue to be provided by the new department. "We will continue to produce the *Lighting of the Trees* during the holiday season, the *Market in the Square*, *Beer Fest*, *Arts Alive!* and *LoDa ArtWalk*. We will also continue providing other services such as the banner program, assisting the merchants and helping others who need city services downtown," stated Barraza.

Among the new projects the Neighborhood and Community Services Department has produced this past year are the new *Market on the Hill*, a farmers market at the Mobile Museum of Art and produced in conjunction with the Village of Springhill; *Step Africa*, a step show at the Michael C. Dow Amphitheater that includes an outreach program in Trinity Gardens; and new programming in Langan Park produced in conjunction with the Langan Park Alliance. The department is currently working on a new public art policy that will be presented to the City Council for approval soon; a new litter abatement campaign; and an educational program for citizens who are interested in learning about city services and want to know how to navigate city departments.

"The focus of the new department is more of the same, but expanded to service the entire community," explained Barbara Drummond, Executive Director of Administrative Services and Community Assistance, the person overseeing the new department. "Our focus will be cultivating more relationships with neighborhoods, community action groups and business owners. This new department is a reflection of Mayor Jones's new mantra, "we will find a way, or we will make one," included Drummond. "We want this department to be the eyes, ears, heart and arms of city government," stressed Drummond. "We want people to feel good about the city."

The catalyst for the new department is the City Smart Program, an accountability initiative of Mayor Jones. "The program calls for us to be good stewards of the public dollar and to the public we serve," emphasized Drummond. "The design of the new department will allow the city to provide services to every area of the city, including downtown."

For more information on the new Department of Neighborhood and Community Services please call Chris Barraza at 208-7443, or visit the City of Mobile website at www.cityofmobile.org.

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that downtown doesn't have the violent crimes that occur in other parts of the Mobile. "Most of the crime occurring downtown is what we call crimes of opportunity – people leaving their car doors unlocked and someone opening the car and taking the things in it. Women often have their purses stolen out of their cars because they take their wallet out to run an errand and leave their purse on the front seat of the car in full view. When an opportunistic person walks by and sees that, they bust open the window and take the purse," Hodge explained.

One story that he shared happened during the beginning of Mardi Gras. "I went to Wentzell's to eat early one Saturday evening during the beginning of the parade season and I parked next to a Plymouth Voyager mini van with the door open. I looked inside the van and in the back was a brand new 42 inch plasma television sitting inside, still in the box. There was also a car seat and children's toys inside. The van was locked, but the side door

was left open. This was a case of someone not checking the doors," he chuckled. "Now if a criminal had come along, he could have grabbed the television and taken off." A funny story, but one that could have had a different ending had it not been for Lieutenant Hodge. "A lot of people are not aware. A lot of people don't think they are a victim," he cautioned me. "Most crimes downtown can be prevented if people would stop and think about their actions."

Some of the changes Hodge would like to make are internal in nature. "We have a lot of officers that want to be here. They are experienced and understand downtown. We also have a lot of very young officers who are gung-ho and are looking for criminals. It is my job to teach those officers to have a different approach when dealing with people downtown," expressed Hodge. Parking is also a hot-button for Hodge.

Hodge's perspective of policing downtown is well thought-out and his temperament well suited for the

downtown community. He understands the tasks that face Central Events. He has a respect for the work going on in downtown and the investment of the business owners. He has compassion for the less fortunate. He has little tolerance for the criminal element. He also recognizes and appreciates the work done by the City of Mobile's sanitation department. He gets the symbiotic relationships that make downtown work.

"We are a community. This has been like moving into a new neighborhood for me," laughed Hodge. "The first person I met was Teddy Lee (a Dauphin Street resident) and Rubin, his Shetland pony disguised as a dog. The residential growth is great. The walkability is something that I have enjoyed. People are gravitating to living where they work. One day we will come in and everything will be tied together," Hodge stated. "Downtown is a work in progress and one day it will be a shiny new place that everyone will want to be."

REAL ESTATE REVIEW

Each edition of the Downtown Alliance News will feature a different downtown property. The goal of this feature is to provide information to the public on real estate options in the downtown area. If you would like more information on the property featured, please contact the management company or leasing agent directly.

LANDMARK SQUARE

Address: 169 Dauphin Street

Owner: Landmark Square LLC

Management: Yance, Inge & Associates

Telephone Number: (251) 432-2520

Year Built: 1895

Occupancy Rate: 100% leased

Available Square Footage for Lease: 23,000 square feet office space with and additional 7,000 square feet of secured parking

Leasing Rate: Average of \$14.50 per foot

Leasing Agent: Richard D. Inge or Jimbo Yance

Leasing Telephone Number: (251) 432-2520

Overlooking the majestic oaks of Bienville Square stands the lovely Spira & Pincus Building, a beautiful building located at 169 Dauphin Street, on the southwest corner of Dauphin Street and Conception Street. Constructed in 1895, this building originally was built as a men's only social club. In 1898 the building fell victim to fire. After the building was rebuilt, the Spira & Pincus Building was home to many tenants throughout the years. In 1902 a cotton brokerage house filled the building. Later it became the location for the Grant Department Store and housed Mobile's first escalator. In the late 1980's David Ball acquired the building and took it through a total renovation. In July 2003 two young real estate developers, Jimbo Yance and Richard Inge, purchased the building from Mr. Ball and they now serve as stewards of this historic structure.

The Spira & Pincus Building is now known as Landmark Square. When asked why Yance and Inge purchased the building they explained that they saw downtown as the middle ground in terms of location. "Downtown was very appealing to us. Most of our business is in Baldwin County. We are 20 minutes from west Mobile, 10 minutes from Daphne, and 20 minutes from Point Clear. The way we see it, downtown is the middle," stated Jimbo Yance.

Landmark Square is home to several law firms including Richardson, Spear, Spear & Hamby, who occupy the second floor and Killion & Associates who are on the third floor. "We have a niche market here," explained Richard Inge when asked about his property. "Lawyers want to be in walking distance from the courthouses and our location is perfect," he explained. 169 Dauphin Street is situated between Government Plaza and the Federal Courthouse. "There are still people who want to have an office in a historic building downtown, they enjoy the foot traffic in front of the building and of course being on the Square is a major advantage," Inge continued. "Our clients enjoy coming downtown. They love the Square. They always can find parking either around the Square or in one of the parking lots across the Square."

When asked about the successful occupancy rate of Landmark Square, Inge cited many advantages that this building has - parking being one of them. "We have 19 secured



parking places inside the building that are allocated to our tenants based on the square footage they lease. For every 1,000 square foot leased, a tenant receives two parking spaces," stated Inge. "And of course our location is a big plus - overlooking Bienville Square," he smiled. The location has proved to be a big advantage during Mardi Gras, BayFest and other downtown events. "Being on the Square is wonderful. This area is a hot bed of activity. Our tenants have Mardi Gras parties and invite friends and family down for the parades," explained Inge. "We order food from the downtown restaurants - we like to support downtown

"We are 20 minutes from west Mobile, 10 minutes from Daphne, and 20 minutes from Point Clear. The way we see it, downtown is the middle."

businesses. Families can park inside the parking garage where it is secure and we have a guard. How great is that if you are a family with a one year old child," explained Inge.

"When it was announced that the RSA Tower was coming downtown everyone was concerned about the adverse effects it would have on the downtown office market. It has just strengthened small office buildings," stated Inge. "RSA is offering spaces of 5,000 square feet and up. We cater to tenants that are looking for those 1,500 square feet offices. I hate that this building is all we've got downtown," lamented Inge. "We are very optimistic about downtown. Seeing what I see, RSA is bringing money downtown, bringing residents downtown, and that will bring retail downtown," he stressed. "We feel downtown is definitely coming back. The downtown market has prospered. Our gauge is this building," said Inge. With a 100% occupancy rate, he makes a valid point.

Landmark Square Tenants

Bay Point Realty, Inc.
Yance, Inge & Associates, Inc.
Richardson, Spear, Spear & Hamby, P.C.
Fleming & Chavers, P.C.
Killion & Associates, P.C.
Anders, Boyette & Brady, P.C.
Tom James Company
KLC School Partnership
Yance Law Firm
RBC Centura

MEETING AND CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Scheduled for the
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center

APRIL

**Alabama Rural Electric
Association of Cooperatives**
April 10-12

Baptist Communicators
April 11-14

Alabama Library Association
April 17-20

Association of Social Work Boards
April 26-29

**Improved Benevolent Protective
Order of Elks of the World**
April 27-May 1

MAY

Alabama Public Health Association
May 15-17

Southern Trophy Hunters
May 31-June 3

WEAVING THE FABRIC OF DOWNTOWN MOBILE

By Rhonda Davis

Each issue of Downtown Alliance News will feature a brief profile on a downtown business, a non-profit organization and a resident. Look for this profile to discover more about our community and our neighbors.

BUSABA'S

Name: Busaba's Thai Cuisine
Address: 203 Dauphin Street
Telephone Number: 251-405-0044
Website Address: www.btc-mobile.com
Date Opened: June 6, 2001

Like many successful restaurateurs Busaba Sirirux's love of food was born around her family's table in Thailand. Coming from a large family, meal time was always a time of happiness and celebration. Helping with these daily meals is where Sirirux learned to cook the traditional Thai food she now serves at Busaba's Thai Cuisine located at 203 Dauphin Street.

"Downtown is a more tightly knit community. We like the way people interact down here. It is like a family and downtown has more atmosphere than other areas of town."

Sirirux came to Mobile to attend the University of South Alabama in the early 1990's. While in school, she waited tables downtown at China Doll Restaurant, which is now closed. That is where she met Roy Pope, a regular customer who worked in information technology at Inchcape Shipping. As part of her course work, Sirirux wrote a paper on the logistics of the shipping industry and Pope stepped in to help, setting up interviews for her with Inchcape employees. "This gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better and spend some time together," remembers Pope. After graduation, Sirirux returned to Thailand and opened a family-owned finance company. For the next four to five years while she worked in Thailand, Sirirux and Pope remained in contact and their relationship grew. During one eventful conversation, Sirirux told Pope she would like to open a restaurant. That dream would later become true. After taking culinary courses for half a year in Thailand and marrying Pope, Sirirux returned to Mobile. On June 6, 2001 she and Pope opened Busaba's Thai Cuisine, 203 Dauphin Street.

Busaba's Thai Cuisine serves authentic Thai food that includes a light infusion of Vietnamese cuisine. "We basically serve everyday food," explained Sirirux, who serves as executive chef, "curry, fried rice – all common food that we would eat everyday in Thailand. Food seasoned as the street vendors do." Their food is also very fresh and healthy for you. "Our meat is very lean and hand trimmed," stated Sirirux, "and we use only white meat chicken. Our vegetables are always fresh unless we can not find them from a source here. Our seafood also is fresh. We use no MSG."

When asked what she would recommend for a cus-

tomer visiting the restaurant and experiencing Thai food for the first time Sirirux smiled and nodded to something light like Chicken in a Garden, or for something creamer, Gang Dang, their red curry. The most popular item on the menu is the Pad Thai, a wonderful glass noodle dish prepared with peanut sauce. If you are looking for something more exotic try Nam Sod, a spicy dish. Busaba's is very reasonably priced. The most expensive item on the menu is the Pla Lad Prik, \$11.95, a spicy, sweet and sour fish. Busaba's offers appetizers, soups, salads, a variety of fried rice, stir-fried dishes, curries, vegetarian dishes and desserts, along with a nice beer and wine selection. Their summer rolls are the best in town! Many entrees are priced at an average of \$7.95.

When asked why they selected downtown to open their business, Pope explained, "Downtown is a more



Roy Pope and Busaba Sirirux, owners of Busaba's Thai Cuisine, would like to thank all of the customers who have supported them since their opening in 2001.

tightly knit community. We like the way people interact down here. It is like a family and downtown has more atmosphere than other areas of town." Pope continued, "With the growth in downtown I see only positive things." Sirirux added that she thought that a positive step forward for downtown was the mix of businesses, "Bringing business back to small business owners, small businesses is what made America."

Busaba's is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and for dinner Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Friday until 10:00 p.m. Saturday they are open from 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m.

MOBILE UNITED

Name: Mobile United
Address: 8 St. Joseph Street
Telephone Number: 251-432-1638
Website Address: www.mobileunited.org
Founded: 1972

Mobile United occupies the ground floor of the newly constructed building at 8 St. Joseph Street. This organization quietly operates, as it has since its beginning, in the heart of downtown. Mobile United is one of those non-profit agencies that flies under the radar. When you see a community issue resolved, or a project with far reaching impact on the community implemented, chances are it quietly originated from the drawing board of Mobile United and its many volunteer leaders.

"Ann Bedsole has made it a wonderful place – full of flowers, the beautiful gate, a nice driveway. It is an inspiration."

Mobile United was founded in 1972 by community leaders James Crowe, Bill Hearin, Clarence Montgomery, Arthur C. Tonsmeire, Jr., and Bishop William Smith. Its purpose was to help Mobile get through the years of problems sparked by racial integration at the conference table instead of in the streets. These problems were solved with a minimum of turmoil and violence, and ever since that time Mobile United and its members have provided the community with a forum for discussing and solving a variety of community challenges.

Sandi Forbus, Executive Director, explained that the organization has evolved over the past 35 years. "Now



"A well-done program of any kind makes everyone think they did it," states Sandi Forbus, executive director of Mobile United. Mobile United is located at 8 St. Joseph Street, across from Bienville Square.

the organization has eight standing committees," stated Forbus. "In 1994, Mobile United became the sponsoring agency for Leadership Mobile, a leadership training program previously housed at United Way." They also sponsor Youth Leadership Mobile, a training program for high school students. Mobile United now offers the community a strong, diverse network of interested community servant-leaders; along with an arena for identifying, communicating and addressing relevant issues that will improve or enhance life for everyone in the community. "Mobile United has never been about taking credit," explained Forbus and citing the Alabama School of Math & Science as one project that came from the organization. And Mobile United still has a committee that deals with race relations in the community.

Leadership Mobile is one program that the general public most often relates to Mobile United. It is the most visible and one that has a long-standing impact on volunteer programs and non-profit boards throughout the area. This volunteer training program has helped train people throughout Mobile – business leaders, community volunteers and religious leaders. "People think that they are born with leadership skills, but they are not. It is a process that you go through that takes commitment, training, and work. To be a leader you must have a commitment to the process," stressed Forbus during a dis-

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cussion on volunteerism. Mobile United's impact on the community is evident by the many people who have participated in Leadership Mobile and now serve on volunteer boards throughout the community. "We have long-standing members and we get graduates from Leadership Mobile who continue to commit to improving our community," stated Forbus.

One important project is the new Hurricane Guides that have been developed by Mobile United. "This is a good example of businesses and non-profit agencies working with environmental agencies," explained Forbus. "After Hurricane Katrina we became concerned about the lack of information people had about things like unsafe foods and handling hazardous materials. The language barriers that exist in Mobile County are also a concern." The Hurricane Guide was a result of those concerns. Forbus explained that the Hurricane Guides will be coloring books that will be distributed to children through the school system, concentrating distribution first in the south part of the county and also to the Hispanic community. "The Hurricane Guides are being distributed through the schools so children will take them home and read them to their families. We have many non-English speaking families," stressed Forbus. The Hurricane Guide is designed to get vital information into the hands of people who may not know what to do in a crisis like a hurricane.

The coloring book was designed by Ryan White a graphic design student at Spring Hill College, as part of his Senior Project. White's family lost their Pass Christian home in Hurricane Katrina. The books will be printed in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and French. The Hurricane Guides are currently available on Mobile United's website www.mobileunited.org. "This is a stellar example of a committee working together," said Forbus. "They reached into the community to bring in other partners to make this project work."

When asked about Mobile United's new offices, Forbus smiled, "it is an inspiration."

Although the building is new construction, it is compatible with the newly restored Franklin Firehouse that stands across the courtyard. "Ann Bedsole has made it a wonderful place - full of flowers, the beautiful gate, a nice driveway. It is an inspiration," said Forbus. "Not far down the road downtown will look like this complex."

For more information on Mobile United, Leadership Mobile and Youth Leadership Mobile please visit their website at www.mobileunited.org.

PART OF THE DOWNTOWN DEAL

Name: Clay and Melissa Rankin

Address: 317 N. Conception Street

Construction Date: 2005

Clay and Melissa Rankin live in a wonderful Creole cottage in the DeTonti Square Historic District. From all appearances the house looks like it has been there for over 100 years, but in reality, the house has only been standing since 2005.

Clay Rankin, single at the time, was encouraged, or harassed, depending on whom you talk to, by his sister, Tish Rankin, to invest his money. This was her code for

"buy a house." Clay was living in an apartment in DeTonti Square at the time. Taking her advice, Clay purchased an empty lot at 317 N. Conception Street. The purchase was through the City of Mobile's land development pro-

"In the spring time our front porch becomes our dining room. I love coming home from work, sitting on my front porch and visiting with my next door neighbor."

gram for DeTonti Square. Tish Rankin, an architect who was also working in DeTonti Square, then began designing a home that would be suitable for her brother and comparable to the homes originally found in the district



Clay and Melissa Rankin live in a charming Creole cottage at 317 N. Conception Street designed by Clay's sister, architect Tish Rankin. The home, completed in March 2005, was built as part of the City of Mobile's redevelopment program for the DeTonti Square Historic District.

during the time of its development. Ms. Rankin, who studied at Columbia and specializes in restoration architecture, designed a home that was perfect for the neighborhood and perfect for Clay.

As the home was being constructed, Clay and Melissa began dating. The two had known each other for years and shared many friends. Their relationship began to blossom as they saw each other at Mass. Melissa, a Federal probation officer, worked just five blocks away from the construction site and lived in Fairhope. "Everyday I would put on my bullet-proof vest, have a 45 minute commute, deal with criminals all day and rush back to beautiful Fairhope," recalls Melissa. "I couldn't believe Clay was building a house in downtown." As construction of the house progressed, so did their relationship.

Clay and Melissa married and moved into their new home in March 2005. Melissa smiled as she remembered the move. "I'm giving it one year," I told Clay. We are going to keep my house in Fairhope. Then March '06 came and I said don't put the For Sale sign up. Wild horses couldn't drag me away from this house!"

Both agree completely on their love for their home and for their neighborhood. "I love it here," declared Melissa. "Moving from Fairhope has added two hours to my day. I can walk home from work and in five minutes, be sitting on my front porch and drinking a glass of lemonade. My co-workers are so jealous," Melissa smiled. "Everything is so close. I can conduct all of my business in walking distance from the house. I can walk to work, walk to Mass, walk to the Post Office, walk to pay my power bill. It's great."

Clay, an English teacher and coach at Vigor High School, agrees. "The atmosphere down here is unbelievable. The street lamps are beautiful and the sounds from the harbor are great. I love lying in bed and hearing the ship horns and the trains," explained Clay. "I have lived in large cities, D.C. and Atlanta. DeTonti Square is like living in New York. You see the skyline but you have your own piece of property and can rake your yard." One of Clay's favorite downtown experiences is his morning run. "When you are running down Dauphin Street at 5:50 in the morning and you look up and see the sun coming up and the sky scraper (RSA Tower) being built, it's just beautiful."

One of the things that the couple loves is the porch living that is an important part of a historic neighborhood. Although Clay grew up on South Georgia Avenue and had experienced neighbors visiting on their porches, this was a new experience for Melissa who grew up in a subdivision in Fairhope. "In the spring time our front porch becomes our dining room. I love coming home from work, sitting on my front porch and visiting with my next door neighbor," said Melissa. "Our quality of life is wonderful!"

They also love the social aspect of living downtown. "This is the perennial pit stop for everything going on downtown," reminded Clay. "During Mardi Gras, Chili Cook-Off, St. Patrick's Day parades, the Azalea Trail Run - everything. We have a BayFest stage set-up a block away. And last year (2006) all of our friends stopped by after the ATR for an impromptu party." Mardi Gras is also a festive time in DeTonti Square. "Our neighbors are great. Betty Little blocks the street and has a Mardi Gras party with a band on her porch and we all dress up in costumes. Dick and Johnna Rogers host a ball at their house. Then there is the Crew de Brabner party. All that, along with our neighborhood association picnic and other social events throughout the year, makes living here great fun," explained Clay.

"About the downtown deal," interjected Clay with a laugh, "I love it. After Hurricane Katrina we had our power on immediately, being on the city grid, while our friends were out of power for days and weeks. The police began patrolling every hour and we have trash pick-up every day. We love our city workers, the Regents and Stewards too," they said together.

"I feel like I have a voice in this community," Melissa continued. "The BID wants to know what I think. They send you surveys and want to know your opinion. They want to know if you feel safe; what you need to improve your life; if you had an option would you do this or that . . . We are on their email newsletter list. If you call 3-1-1 to report leaves in the street the next day a street sweeper comes and is sweeping up leaves. Now where do you find that," challenged Melissa.

HOW WALKABLE IS DOWNTOWN?

By Rhonda Davis

Every trip begins and ends with a walk.

On Friday, January 19 a group of city officials, downtown property and business owners, and representatives from the media gathered to take a stroll through downtown. The purpose was to see just how safe, easy and appealing it is to walk around downtown Mobile. Facilitating the walking workshop and a luncheon presentation on pedestrian friendly cities was Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc. Burden, a well respected urban planner, was brought to the area in a joint effort of Envision Coastal Alabama, the City of Mobile and the Downtown Mobile Alliance.

As the day began Burden outlined the keys to making a downtown successful – security, convenience, efficiency, comfort and creating a feeling of welcome. Our objective was to open our minds and walk along the sidewalks that we travel everyday. We were to think about the way each of us uses the downtown area and think about where our sidewalks take us. We were to really look at our environment. We were to envision what we would like to experience as we move through downtown.

During the course of the walking exercise Burden pointed out many factors that have an impact on our downtown. Everything from the appearance of dingy sidewalks to leaning traffic posts to the beauty of the oaks in Bienville Square and the historic architecture of our buildings was discussed. Nothing was off limits. As the exercise continued, Burden shared successful traffic calming techniques with the group, and discussed zoning changes that other cities have made to create safer environments for their citizens. Burden also underlined the changes that needed to be made here and gave wonderful examples of success stories to city officials. He also talked about how easily some of these changes



Burden explains the importance of creating an environment that is safe, welcoming, and easy-to-use to the group during a stroll through downtown.

could be implemented.

"We have to correct the things that are wrong to make the things that are right feel right," Burden stressed in the beginning of the day. By the end of his presentation Burden had inspired the group and given them positive images of downtowns that have gone through successful revitalizations that included well thought-out pedestrian environments. He praised Mobile's 'good bones,' and was complementary of our historic inventory of buildings. With the right changes, Burden thought Mobile could have a beautiful and safe center city with people safely strolling downtown all the time.

What became clear during the course of the day was that our instincts for downtown have been right. Burden reinforced the vision for downtown that advo-

cates have held for two decades. His recommendations for change and improvements were almost identical to the recommendations made in the Public Space Action Plan for Downtown presented by Project for Public Spaces several years ago (a review of projects implemented following the PPS plan's publication was included in the December - January issue of Downtown Alliance News available at www.downtownmobile.org). He stressed the need for a master plan for downtown that will give us a defined and organized direction for change, growth, and positive planning. If city officials, downtown property and business owners and the tireless advocates for downtown can begin implementing these recommendations for change and needed

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City officials, downtown property and business owners and members of the local media gathered at the DMDMC Office on January 19 to take a walkability audit of downtown Mobile. Leading the walking workshop is Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc.

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retail, professional businesses and residential developments and work to retain existing businesses. Required skills include a comprehensive knowledge of sales, business marketing and land development. Effective communication skills and a demonstrated understanding of urban environments are a must.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The person in this position will be in charge of all income opportunities at the Alliance. These include business memberships, charitable giving, endowment solicitation, and grant writing. Successful applicants should have experience in fundraising and/or sales; have excellent oral and written communication skills; and know the downtown business and/or philanthropic community.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

This is a position available to college students who want to get hands-on experience working in a non-profit or economic development environment. The hours are flexible and tasks varied depending on student's interests.

Applicants for any of these positions should prepare a letter of interest and resume and send it to the downtown Mobile Alliance, PO Box 112, Mobile, AL 36601 either by mail, fax at 251-434-8538, or email to aerberhardt@downtownmobile.org.

FINANCIAL DISTRICT REDEFINED

For decades Mobile's financial district has been defined by St. Joseph Street. Bastions of banking line the street in buildings headquartering their corporate offices – Regions Bank, AmSouth Bank, Wachovia Bank, BankTrust. Smaller downtown branches opened adjacent to the old-line banks – Whitney Bank and Compass Bank. Now all that is changing. With the merger of AmSouth and Regions Banks and the beginning of the economic boom in downtown Mobile, new banks are coming into town. Now the financial district will be expanded off St. Joseph Street and the banking services offered to the public will be broad and varied.

Here is a look at what the changes in banking will bring for downtown:

- BankTrust – 100 St. Joseph
- Centura/RBC – has established corporate offices in Landmark Square, 169 Dauphin Street. (Reported to have signed a contract for space on Dauphin Street but not announced location at time of print.)
- Compass Bank – 1 South Royal Street
- Hancock Bank – St. Emanuel Place, St. Emanuel and Dauphin Streets
- Regions Bank – Regions Building, 106 St. Francis Street and the lobby of the RSA Battle House Hotel & Tower
- Wachovia Bank – Wachovia Building, 61 St. Joseph Street
- Whitney Bank – 50 North Royal Street
- Woodlands Bank – Park Building, 200 Dauphin Street

The June July issue of the Downtown Alliance News will feature an in-depth article on the downtown banking industry.

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improvements, our downtown can become the vibrant center city it deserves to be.

For more information on Walkable Communities, Inc. visit the website at www.walkable.org.

Here are a few facts and concepts shared by urban planner Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc.

ON CITIES - We need cities for exchange - for the exchange of knowledge, for culture and for heritage.

A SENSE OF PLACE - Why do we need a sense of place? Children need to make friends. Friendships lead to engagements, and engagements lead to weddings. Then there is the birth of a child and that child needs to make friends. Then the cycle begins all over again.

ON MASTER PLANS - A city needs a master plan to see where it is going. A master plan makes you think about the right mix of uses for buildings. It allows you to build buildings that are for keeps.

UNDERSTANDING SIDEWALKS - You want a sense of enclosure in sidewalks. Having trees, lamps, shrubs and benches help.

To understand the make-up of a sidewalk here is an explanation of its space. The first two feet of the inside of a sidewalk is the shy zone. No one wants to walk in this space - it is too close to the building, a wall or a fence. Tree-wells are located on the road side of a sidewalk and you can't walk where trees are planted. The curb or sidewalk cap is never counted as walking space in the use of a sidewalk. If you have a furniture zone that includes benches or tables and chairs on the sidewalk, no one can walk there. If you measure the width of your sidewalk and then take all the measurements of the shy zone, the furniture zone, the tree-well zone and the sidewalk cap out, what you have left is the walk zone.

CANOPIES ON BUILDINGS - Any place where there is a canopy, people are willing to spend \$.12 on the dollar more.

BIENVILLE SQUARE AND STREETS - Streets need to be very walkable. Install high emphasis cross-walks and raised intersections. Have the cross walks perceived as entrances to the park from the beginning of the cross-walk, across the street, leading into the Square. Streetscaping needs to be better and be everywhere. Make walking so pleasurable that everyone wants to walk.

ONE WAY STREETS VS. TWO WAY STREETS - During the 1960's our focus was to get home as fast as we could to watch Ozzie & Harriet on television. Getting people out of downtowns fast is why one-way streets were created. Now we want people to get in and out of downtown, but not fast. Our outer boundaries should have a speed limit of 20 to 25 mph.

ROUNDABOUTS - 99% of personal injury accidents are eliminated with the installation of roundabouts, which also move 30% more traffic.

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS - The first opportunity you have to turn a car into a pedestrian do it. You need to get people out of their cars. You need to slow cars down. You need parking lots on the perimeter. You need a good shuttle service to help move people.

When creating roads use the 50-50 Rule: 50% of the space for cars and 50% of the space for pedestrians.

CHILDREN IN DOWNTOWN - As residents move into downtown they will bring children with them. Children need places of discovery, places to play and get wet, and places to have fun.

LIGHTING - There are three types of lighting a downtown should have at night. The number one light source is street lamps. Theme lights are ranked second. These include decorative lights such as twinkle lights that may be in trees along the sidewalks. The third source of light is light coming from shop windows. Shop owners should agree to keep their lights turned on until an agreed upon time each night. This can be achieved through timers.

NEW CONSTRUCTION - Transparency is a major factor in new construction. A new building should have 70-90% windows. This makes people on the street level feel like they are being looked over, increasing the sense of security.

DENSITY - The more density you have in a downtown the less crime there is.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

APRIL

Through April 15 – *Food for Thought: Concept, Icon and Symbol*, Space 301 Off Centre

Through June 3 – *A Day In Pompeii*, Gulf Coast Exploreum and Science Center

Through September 3 – *Captive Passage: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the Americas*, Museum of Mobile

April 1 – *Voices of the Passion*, concert, Government Street Presbyterian Church

April 2 through 27 – *Opening: Faces of Mobile, Portraits by Kate Seawell*, Mobile Arts Council, Artist Reception April 13

April 7 – *Southern Market's First Saturday Art Market*, sponsored by Museum of Mobile Southern Market and the Coastal Artisans, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Green Space at Government Street and Royal Street

April 7 – Blue Oyster Cult and Foghat, concert, 8:00 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

April 13 through 15 – *Kids Artistic Revue*, Mobile Civic Center Theater

April 14 – Don McLean, concert, 8:00 p.m., Saenger Theatre

April 15 – *How To Be A Megastar Tour*, Blue Man Group, 7:30 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

April 19 – *Quest for Social Justice*, Mobile Civic Center Theater

April 20 through May 2 – *Book Sale*, Mobile Public Library, Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall

April 21 through July 8 – *Green Space: Environmental Concerns in Contemporary Art*, Space 301 Off Centre

April 21 – *Arts Alive! On Conti Street*, 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Cathedral Square Arts District

April 23 – *Jazz Jambalaya*, Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed, 6:00 p.m., Gulf City Lodge

April 26 – Eric Burdon & The Animals, concert, 8:00 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

April 28 through July 28 – *Market on the Square*, farmer's market opens and continues each Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Cathedral Square

April 28 – *Fourth Saturday in the Square*, 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Cathedral Square

April 28 – *Re-creation*, presented by Mobile Symphony, 8:00 p.m., Saenger Theatre

MAY

May 4 – *9th Annual Business Expo and Jobs Fair*, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

May 5 – *Southern Market's First Saturday Art Market*, sponsored by Museum of Mobile Southern Market and the Coastal Artisans, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Green Space, Government Street and Royal Street

May 11 – *LoDa Artwalk*, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Cathedral Square Arts District

May 13 – *Second Sunday at the Space*, 2:00 p.m., Space 301

May 26 – *Fourth Saturday in the Square*, 9:00 a.m. – Noon, Cathedral Square

May 28 – *Jazz Jambalaya*, Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed, 6:00 p.m., Gulf City Lodge

CLASSES

Weekly rehearsal: Gulf Coast Gay Man's Chorus, Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., St. Francis Street United Methodist Church

Alabama Contemporary Dance Company, 9 South Joachim Street is offering the following classes: Yoga - Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.; Ballroom Dance - Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m.; Salsa - Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.; Modern Dance - Saturdays, 10:45 a.m. • Class fee: \$10 • For more information, contact ACDC at 432-6706, or visit www.aldance.org

For a working email update on events happening downtown and throughout the metropolitan area contact Charlie Smoke at the Mobile Arts Council.

If you would like to be added to the *Downtown Alliance News* mailing list, please call (251) 434-8498.

Main Street Mobile, Inc.
P. O. Box 112
Mobile, Alabama 36601

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CASH KEY MAKES LIFE EASIER

Always digging for change to put in the downtown parking meters?

Here's your solution. Central Parking offers a Cash Key that can be used as a substitute for change in the parking meters. The Cash Key is electronic and inserts directly into the parking meters. With each turn of the key, minutes are logged into the meter. The cash key can be loaded with any amount of money you desire, when the amount purchased is depleted, just return the key or purchase more amounts of parking time. It takes just minutes for Central Parking to program the key. A \$10 deposit is required for the Cash Key and is refundable when the key is returned.

For more information on the Cash Key, visit Central Parking, 300 Dauphin Street; or call them at 438-9132.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 21
2:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
CATHEDRAL SQUARE**



FARM FRESH FLAVOR

**MARKET ON THE SQUARE
OPEN EVERY SATURDAY
APRIL 28 – JULY 28
7:30 A.M. UNTIL NOON
CATHEDRAL SQUARE**

Central Events polices the area from Broad Street to Beaugard Street to Water Street and south to Church Street. The precinct is located at 320 Dauphin Street, in the rear of the Mobile Police Department Museum. Central Events has a staff of 13 officers who fill a variety of rolls including car patrol, segway patrol, bike patrol, beat cops and the personnel who watch the bank of monitors projecting images from the 24 surveillance cameras strategically placed throughout the downtown area.

If you have a concern, question, or problem please contact Central Events at 208-6315, or Lieutenant Hodge directly at roy.hodge@cityofmobile.org.