



Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

May 2009

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Dear Carol,



If there was any doubt that Mobilians care deeply about Barton Academy, it was surely erased last week when hundreds of supporters showed up for a Preservation Week event. The photograph will be submitted to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" campaign, which we hope will focus attention on one of Alabama's most significant historic buildings.

Many thanks to the City of Mobile for providing the man lift, to intrepid photographer Tad Denson for scaling the heights to snap the photo, to Pepsi for providing drinks and to Mobile Gas for grilling hot dogs for those who spent their lunch hour for a good cause!

We will be selling large format prints of the photo to raise money for Barton's restoration. A 16" x 20" print will be available for \$40, which covers the cost of the print and a \$25 donation to Barton. A 12" x 18" print will be \$35, with the same \$25 going to the restoration effort.

Development Buzz



Even though, or perhaps especially because, economic activity has slowed in recent months, the folks at the Chamber of Commerce are busier than ever and may soon outgrow their current office space. The **Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce**

recently purchased a nearby 5,000 square foot building at 456 Civic Center Drive to prepare for future expansion. Most recently the building held the offices of Trinova engineering firm, but many of you may remember it as the popular night spot Trinity's.

In other development news:

- The **Red Square Agency** is also looking to the future with an eye toward expansion. The advertising agency recently purchased a parking lot at the corner of Conti and Conception Streets. For the short term, the lot will handle the parking needs of the growing company, and whatever the long term plans are...we're sure they will be innovative and edgy!
- The building at **354 St. Francis Street** is being demolished to make way for a new development featuring seven upscale apartments. The developers of the project are local.
- It takes a while to fill 500,000 square feet of office space, but the RSA tower is getting close to being leased out. The law firm of **Burr & Forman LLP**, currently located in west Mobile, has leased an entire floor and plans to move in by the end of the year.
- Another law firm, **Delashmet & Marchand**, has moved into a newly renovated building in the 400 block of Dauphin Street. You'll see a bar when you enter the offices...a vestige of the building's former life as a night club.

Retail Happenings

Shopping, Dining and Entertainment News



Can we really save the economy three stores at a time? A new organization believes we can and has created a cyber-campaign to spread the word. Organizers of **the 3/50 project** point out that for every \$100 you spend with a local, independent retailer, \$68 returns to our local economy. If you spend with a national chain, only \$43 stays here and if you buy on-line, nothing is generated locally. Independent retailers and restaurateurs have always set downtowns apart from the monotony of the 'burbs...we would all be worse off if they began to disappear. Visit the 3/50 project web site below to learn how to get involved.

[the 3/50 project](#)

In other retail news:

- **HopJack's**, the popular Pensacola tap room and pizza kitchen, is nearly finished with renovations to the old Picklefish building and plans to open in the next two weeks. More good news for fans of stronger brews...the Alabama legislature has passed the "Free the Hops" bill that allows beer and wine with higher alcohol content to be sold in the state. The bill now awaits the governor's signature.
- Be sure to check out **Serda's Coffee Company** on Monday evenings as they expand from gourmet coffees and gelato to fine wines. Serda's has teamed up with one of the most knowledgeable wine enthusiasts in Mobile, Mike Gibson from Red or White, to bring you Monday night wine tastings each Monday at 6pm.

Some upcoming live entertainment:

- Soul Kitchen:
 - Bloodkin - Friday, May 22
 - Past Pluto with Mob Towne Revival - Saturday, May 23
 - The Uglistick with Criminal Envy - Friday, May 29
 - Behind the Sun- Tribute to the Red Hot Chili Peppers - Saturday, May 30
 - Cross Canadian Ragweed - Thursday, June 4
 - Orge McConnell and the Nonchalants - Friday, June 5
 - The Molly Ringwalds - Saturday, June 6
 - Better Than Ezra - Tuesday, June 9
 - Appetite for Destruction - Friday, Jun 12
 - The Grey - Saturday, June 13
 - Galactic with Fuzebox Funk - Friday, June 19
 - The 17th Floor - Saturday, June 20
 - Seven Mary Three - Friday, June 26
- The Blind Mule:
 - Shotgun Lover and Abram & Sarah - Friday, May 22
 - Jason and the Punknecks, The Science and RedMouth - Saturday, May 23
 - The Catatonic 5- Improv Video Gam Event - Sunday, May 24
 - Mob Towne Revival and Phunk Blue Moon - Friday, May 29
 - Dust Congress, Broken Letters and Gheistheistler - Saturday, May 30
 - The Sunshine Factory - Friday, June 5
 - Hotel, Hotel, Eraser Eyes and Salesman - Saturday, June 6
 - Bobe Street Band - Friday, June 12
 - The Hot Seats - Saturday, June 13
 - Furrows - Friday, June 19
 - Southpaw Bandits, Big Shots and Shifting Midnight - Saturday, June 20
 - Chance Fisher - Friday, June 26
 - A Bridge to Burn, Mandown and Born Empty - Saturday, June 27
- Alabama Music Box:
 - TKO Round 3! hosted by: DJ CHARLES III -May 22
 - No Fun, The Humms, Sons of Roswell, Fit For Rivals - Saturday, May 23
 - Benny Divine, Marriage, DJ Hot Lobster - Tuesday, May 26
 - muskrat hannah, your coat my hat, too far from amsterdam - Thursday, May 28
 - Class War, Attic Ted, Hlbachi Stranglers, Modern Convenience - Friday, May 29
 - The Virgins, Lissy Trulli - Saturday, May 30
 - *FREE SHOW* w/ American Aquarium - Tuesday, June 2
 - Felix - Wednesday, June 3
 - Sky Tells All, Scream Out Loud, A Tragic Victory, Not Like The Movies, Happy Times - Friday, June 5
 - Chicken Little, Renee Arozquetta, Spider+Octopus - Saturday, June 6
 - Digital Leather, Pink Reasons, Satans Youth Ministers - Monday, June 8
 - Mob Towne Revival, Doco, Fayuca - Tuesday, June 9
 - Deleted Scenes The Old Guard, On My Honor - Wednesday, June 10
 - 1 YEAR OLD!!! BIRTHDAY PARTY!! w/ Wild Moccasins, Phunk Blue Moon & many many more - Saturday, June 13
 - Dark Knights of Camelot, The Gills - Sunday, June 14
 - IAm The Ocean, Loom, Faretheewell, DJ Hot Lobster - Monday, June 16
 - Double Dagger - Sunday, June 21
 - Dirty South Tour w/ Cassovita, The Shotgun, Son of a Gun, Apathy Ensues - Tuesday, June 23
- Serda's Coffee Company - all shows 8 - 11 p.m.
 - May 22, Kissing Whiskey
 - May 23, Dave Paton
 - May 29, New Man Crossing & Black December
 - May 30, Joel Jordan

Dunbar Murals Transform Mundane Hallways

Sometimes downtown redevelopment happens in broad strokes...take for instance the renovation of the Battle House Hotel...but sometimes it happens with the smallest of brushes. Noted Mobile artist Walter Simon (on the right) has been working with students at Dunbar Middle School to transform mind-numbing concrete block walls into a visually stimulating environment.

7th grader Kaleb Allen (on the left) has been working on this large scale painting in an exterior hallway that depicts classmates as jazz musicians. "It's been a great project," Kaleb says. "And I found something that I really love." Oh, that we could all be so lucky!



Bulletproof Mobile



Mayor Sam Jones, in conjunction with the Mobile Police Department, has launched a new initiative to end illicit gun possession and use, primarily among youths. The program, titled **Bulletproof Mobile**, is designed to encourage citizens to report illicit guns and their use. Citizens who have information regarding the illegal firing of a weapon within the Mobile Police jurisdiction or the location of an illicit gun are urged to anonymously report the information to Mobile Area CrimeStoppers at 208-7000.

Details, which result in an arrest or the acquisition of an illicit firearm, will result in a \$100 reward. According to Mayor Jones, the goal of Bulletproof Mobile is simple. "What we're trying to do is save lives," he says. For more information regarding Bulletproof Mobile, contact the Mobile Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at 208-1924.

Upcoming Breakfast Briefings Explore Diverse Topics of Interest

Breakfast Briefings - May 28th and June 9th

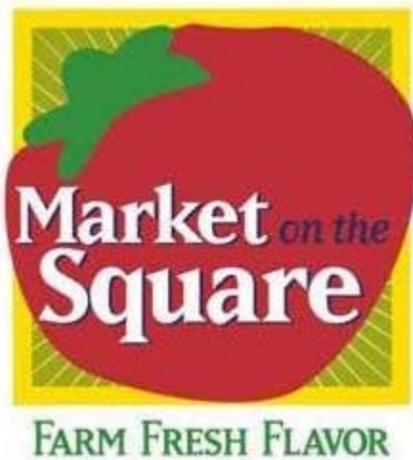
If you want to be "in the know" about what's happening in our community, you won't want to miss two upcoming Breakfast Briefings. The first, on **May 28th**, features an inside look into the new ship now dubbed "a pirate's worst nightmare," the USS Independence. The littoral combat ship is being built right here in Mobile at the Austal Shipyard. Hear from her commanding officer who will explain Mobile's vital role in the Navy's combat missions.



The second Breakfast Briefing, on **June 9th**, is being offered in response to our on-going survey, which indicated that many of you want to learn more about "green" living. Former mayor Mike Dow, whose latest endeavor involves making homes and commercial buildings more energy efficient through technology, will explain how new systems are helping commercial and residential properties better manage energy usage and costs.

Both briefings begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Downtown Mobile Alliance office at 261 Dauphin Street. Since a light breakfast will be served, reservations are suggested. Contact Jo Ann Olivera at jolivera@downtownmobile.org or 251-434-8498.

The Market on the Square is Growing!



Due to the increased number of vendors participating at the Market on the Square each week, the Market is expanding to utilize both the north and south sides of Cathedral Square. From fruits and vegetable growers to bakers and craftspeople, space needs have increased to include these local vendors. Newer additions this year include locally raised beef vendor Irvington Cattle Company; Bush's Blueberry Farm; and The Explorem and Bellingrath Gardens tents.

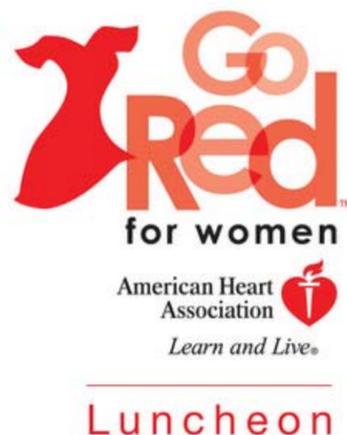
The last Saturday of each month also warrants more space as the Mobile Arts Council co-sponsors the first Art Market on the Square. Artisans and craftspeople are encouraged to pick up guidelines and applications from the Arts Council offices on Cathedral Square or online at www.mobilearts.org. The Art Market will local craftspeople a venue to sell their work as a value added piece to the market once a month.

Space is limited.

With the arrival of USDA and Farmers' Market Authority vouchers for low-income senior citizens on May 23rd, we must make the flow of the market smoother for the shoppers, as well.

For more information, please visit [Neighborhood & Community Services](#) or call 208-7540.

Royal Goes Red for Women



Heart disease and stroke are the greatest health threats faced by women, but only 21 percent of American women realize it. That's not good enough for some of the businesses on Royal Street, who are trying to increase awareness with a campaign that decks out buildings in red banners. Led by Lyons, Pipes & Cook and Hargrove and Associates, business are invited to show their support for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon on Tuesday, June 2nd at the Battle House Hotel.

If you'd like more information about the luncheon, call Jennifer McMullen at the American Heart Association at 251-461-4004. If you'd like to purchase some banners and join the "Royal Goes Red for Women" effort, contact David Constantine at david@lpclaw.com.

Last Chance to Tell Us What You Think

The Downtown Mobile Alliance has been conducting an on-line survey this month and has already received some very interesting results. If you have not already done so, and would like to help shape the planning process for Downtown Mobile, please take a few minutes to take the survey. The anonymous survey will close at the end of the month and truly provides us with extremely valuable information. Though it might be nice to be able to read your minds, as it is, you'll have to tell us what you're thinking if you want us to know.

[Take the Downtown Mobile Survey](#)

Downtown Doings

Some events around Downtown Mobile



Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk - IMAX Film
Gulf Coast Exploreum: Now through June 7

This stunning IMAX film takes audiences on an exhilarating river-rafting adventure down the Colorado River, lead by a team of explorers who are committed to bringing awareness to global water issues. Floating down the river, audiences will learn about the challenges and opportunities that exist for conserving and restoring the Colorado River watershed.

[Gulf Coast Exploreum](#)

Pirates!

Museum of Mobile

Now through July 4, 2009

This exhibition provides an historic account of some of the more famous Pirates of Florida's East Coast. Found on display are artifacts, including coins, bullion, ingots and tools recovered from shipwrecks off of the East Coast of Florida. Grab your cutlass, don an eye-patch, hoist the Jolly Roger, and climb aboard as we set sail for a glimpse of the characters that charged local waters with their intrigue and exploits. No passports are necessary, only a desire for adventure. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free for kids under 6.



[Museum of Mobile](#)

Imagillaboration: Collaborative Sculpture Project
Space 301

Now through Sunday, July 5

Conceived and organized by Florida Community College at Jacksonville sculpture professor Michael Cottrell, this project has been a collaboration on an immense scale. 106 professional artists from 26 states worked in small, regional groups to create a collection of three-dimensional works.

[Space 301](#)



Brown Bag in Bienville
Bienville Square

Free music event held each spring and fall in Historic Bienville Square in Downtown Mobile. Jazz, Blues, and Pop highlight this event that is celebrating its 22nd year. Bring your lunch and feast among the Oaks from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Mobile, Radio Avalon, and Catt's Sunday Jazz Brunch. For more information, contact

the City of Mobile's Neighborhood and Community Services Department at 251-470-7730.

May 20: Roman Street

May 27: Shad & the Gang

[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

CSG: First Year in New Location

Cathedral Square Gallery

Now through May 31st.

Works by more than 60 local artists, featuring new artists: Carol Edmondson, Frances Habeck, Terri Keller, David Ketchum, Jean-Marie Lee and Lynn Luna; free wifi; coffee and biscotti. Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.



Tour: Downtown Churches

Government Street Presbyterian Church

May 23 10:00 to noon

Led by Cart Blackwell (architectural historian, Mobile Historic Development Commission), exploring the relationship between architectural style and religious practice. A National Historic Preservation Month Event. Sponsor: Mobile Historic Development Commission. 10 AM - noon. Meet in the parking lot of Government Street Presbyterian Church (300 Government St) Participants will drive to the other four sites: Big Zion AME Zion Church, the First Baptist Church, Government Methodist Church, and All

Saints Episcopal Church. Free.

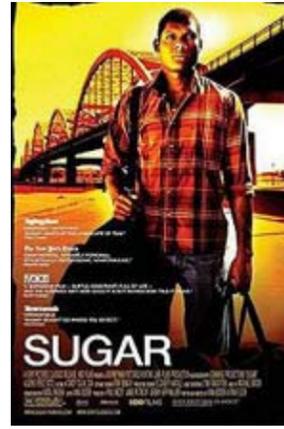
[Historic Development Commission](#)

Sugar**The Crescent Theater**

May 22 through May 28

Sugar follows the story of Miguel Santos, a.k.a. Sugar, a Dominican pitcher from San Pedro De Marcoris, struggling to make it to the big leagues and pull himself and his family out of poverty. Playing professionally at a baseball academy in the Dominican Republic, Miguel finally gets his break at age 19 when he advances to the United States' minor league system; but when his play on the mound falters, he begins to question the single-mindedness of his life's ambitions. Showtimes are at 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm.

[The Crescent Theater](#)

**Memoirs of Music, Concert Photography and Onomatopoeia****Mobile Arts Council**

Now through May 29

Three exhibitions: Paintings by Tut Riddick; photographs by Keith Necaise; visual interpretations of music, electronic illustrations created by students of Janden Richards at Spring Hill College. Mon - Fri, 9 AM - 5 PM; Sat 7:30 - 11 AM. Free.

[Mobile Arts Council](#)

Discussion: What about Photography?**Cathedral Square Gallery**

May 22 at noon

A general discussion of photography, hosted by Michael Mastro, who says "we can talk about anything: photographic styles and techniques, equipment, digital manipulation, etc., and we can critique prints." Bring your lunch. Second & fourth Fri, noon.

[Michael Mastro](#)

Market on the Square**Cathedral Square**

May 23 from 7:30 am to 11:00 am

Locally grown produce, seafood, beef, honeys, breads, pastas, cheeses, plants, handcrafted goods for kitchen and home; live music; games and other activities. City of Mobile's Neighborhood & Community Services. Each Saturday, now through July 25.

[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

**Free Improv Night @ the Blind Mule****The Blind Mule**

Sunday, May 24 at 6:00 pm

Create new music with friends and strangers using compositional tools such as conducting, note cards, games, etc. Not your typical free jam. Non-musicians are encouraged to play, as well. Please, no cover songs. Each Sunday at 6:00 pm.

[The Blind Mule](#)

Murder in Jest at Comealot Castle**Mobile Carnival Museum**

Saturday, May 30 at 7:00 pm

Presented by Mobile Mystery Dinner. There will be a tour of the museum, unlimited wine bar, dinner provided by the Pillar's Restaurant and a two hour mystery/comedy. \$55 per person, reservations are required.

[Mobile Mystery Dinners](#)

2009 Summer Library Program: Be Creative @ Your Library**Mobile Public Library, Ben May Main Library**

Saturday, May 30 from 10:00 am to noon

Imagine, Create, Participate- Children ages 6-14 may enter paintings, drawings, or sculptures. Limit one entry piece per child. Artwork will be judged and prizes will be given in two age groups (6-10 and 11-14). Artwork may be submitted from May 30 to June 30. Artwork will be judged on July 1 and all entries will be displayed May 30 through July 9 at the library.

[Mobile Public Library](#)**Wonderful Wednesdays at Bellingrath
Bellingrath Gardens**

The perfect place to bring a friend and spend time among 65 acres of blooms! Each Wednesday guests will learn about gardening and the Bellingrath's Collections. There will also be a special kid's cruise. Programs begin at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise listed and reservations are requested.

Admission to Wonderful Wednesday is free for members. Gardens Admission (\$11.00 for adults & \$6.00 for children 5-12) is charged for non-members attending programs. There are additional charges to tour the Home and/or to take the River Cruise.

June 3 - A Summer Garden Walk

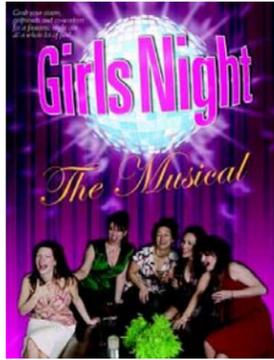
June 10 - Hydrangea Day

June 17 - Ikebana 101

June 24 - From Pressed to Cut; a Look at 19th Century Glass in the Bellingrath Collection.



[More "Wonderful Wednesdays" Info](#)

**Girls Night Out: The Musical
The Saenger Theatre**

Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 pm

Ladies, grab your sisters, girlfriends and co-workers and prepare to laugh, cry and dance in the aisles! The Saenger Theatre presents the U.S. premiere of the U.K. smash hit, "Girls Night Out: The Musical". Follow 5 friends on a wild and outrageous night out as they examine their past a celebrate their present. Tickets are on sale now.

Bravery and Beauty Mint Julep Party

Oakleigh House, 300 Oakleigh Place

Thursday, June 4, 5 - 8 p.m.

A celebration in honor of the June 1877 visit to Oakleigh by **James A. Garfield** (later a president of the U.S.) when **CSA Gen. T.K. Irwin** served him his first mint julep. Garfield's diary entry of that occasion states: **"The bravery and beauty of Mobile were there."** **HMPS members, \$15; general admission, \$25 per person and \$45 per couple. No one under age 21 admitted.** All guests receive complimentary mint juleps and non-alcoholic juleps. (Cash bar for non-julep specialty beverages.) Silent auction and live music.

Fantasia

The Saenger Theatre

Friday, June 5 at 8:30 pm

Fantasia made an immediate impression on American Idol with her stylized gospel- influenced sound, and her explosive stage presence. She participates in the U.S. tour with the other American Idol Finalists and appeared in the 2004 Christmas special, Kelly, Ruben and Fantasia: Home for the Holidays. Tickets are on sale now!

[The Saenger Theatre](#)

**American Red Cross Gumbo Cook-Off
Bienville Square**

Saturday, June 6 at 11:00 am

Teams can enter for \$250 or sell 25 tickets. Tickets are \$10 per person and sponsorship opportunities are available. All proceeds benefit the American Red Cross Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter. Each team will be required to prepare and serve 5 gallons of gumbo.

[American Red Cross](#)

LoDa Artwalk

Cathedral Square Arts District

Friday, June 12 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Exhibitions and entertainment will be presented in a variety of downtown



galleries and other venues. The Artwalk is sponsored by the City of Mobile Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. The Artwalk will continue every Second Friday of the month.



[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

Carol Hunter
Downtown Mobile Alliance

The Downtown Mobile Alliance exists to support the redevelopment of downtown through marketing, advocacy and management of BID services.

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