



Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

January 2009

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Dear Carol,

Even if your idea of an iconic image for Mobile is not a MoonPie, there's no denying the New Year's Eve event achieved its goals of drawing people Downtown and creating a novel way to ring in 2009. Police estimate the crowd at 12,000 folks, far more than the hundreds who came down for fireworks the previous year.



Restaurants were busy and the sidewalks were filled with revelers of all ages. If turnout for New Year's Eve was any indication, Carnival season in Mobile is shaping up to be one of the best in some time.

Development Buzz



Many of us were glad to say good-bye to 2008, especially as the economy began to falter in the last quarter. However, as we look back over last year, Downtown Mobile saw many exciting new developments, including the opening of the \$20-million Hampton Inn (in background of photo) and the complete renovation of the Royal Street Buildings now housing Hargrove & Associates (foreground).

Overall, at least 18 new businesses located Downtown, and though a few have closed, the net gain is still very impressive. Things may slow a bit in the coming months, but the kind of growth we're experiencing is sustainable and should create a solid foundation for the years of more rapid growth ahead.

In other development news:

- The **Picklefish** building will soon come back to life when

an award-winning restaurant from Pensacola expands into our market. Look for a grand opening sometime before Mardi Gras.

- The lobby of the **Regions Bank** building on St. Joseph Street is undergoing an extensive renovation to the tune of almost \$500,000.
- 51 Conception Street LLC, the new owner of the former **Parkside Home and Garden** building, has purchased the parking lot at the corner of Conception and Conti Streets. Plans are for the generic surface lot to be improved with landscaping and attractive fencing.
- Though we hate to see Paymaster closing its doors, we welcome a Downtown branch of **Commonwealth Bank** in its space at 200 St. Joseph Street. A Paymaster USA window still be available in the bank line.
- The accounting firm of **Mostellar & Shreve** is moving from Midtown to offices in the Landmark Square building at 169 Dauphin Street.
- Photographer Keegan Rabon has opened up a studio at 164 St. Emanuel Street in Fort Conde Village. Also, the ambitious renovation of the **Spear-Barter House** in the Village is nearing completion.

[For Available Property](#)

Retail Happenings

Shopping, Dining and Entertainment News

Night time diners in Mobile have some new options, just in time for the increased evening traffic during Mardi Gras. Tony Moore at Spot of Tea at 310 Dauphin Street is adding evening service to the long-time lunch hot spot. The menu at **After 5** features Gulf Coast classics in an elegant atmosphere complete with a grand piano.



In other dining/retail news:

- **SAVOR...Mobile** is now the official food and beverage provider for the Arthur Outlaw Convention Center. The food service division of SMG, SAVOR has been providing catering services to a wide range of facilities across the United States, Europe, and Mexico since 1983.

Upcoming live entertainment Downtown includes:

- **Veet's:**
 - Every Tuesday - Jodyoke
 - Every Wed. through Sunday - Doug Previto & the Family Jewels (no cover)
- **The Soul Kitchen:**
 - Friday, January 23, Fly By Radio: post senior bowl party!!
Doors: open at 9:30; showtime:11:00; \$8 at the door
 - Friday, January 30, Frontrange
Doors open at 9:30; showtime at 11:00; \$5 at the door
 - Saturday, January 31; Strange Design : Recreating Phish shows

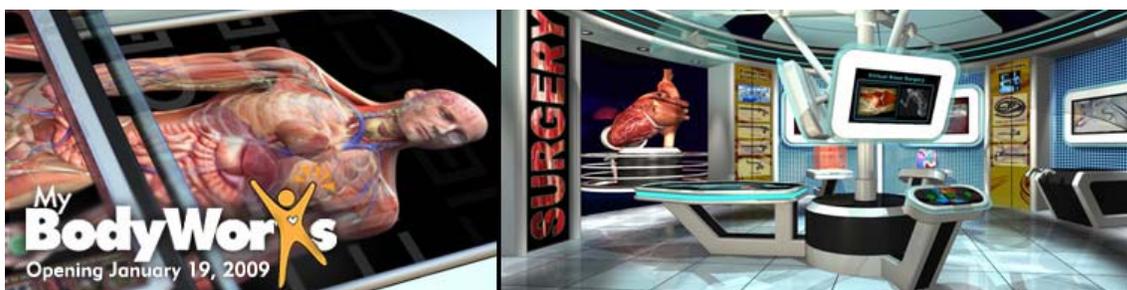
- Doors open at 9:30, showtime at 11:00; \$7 at the door
- Tuesday, February 3; HOOBASTANK -----w/ top of the orange opening-----
w/ smash hit songs: "the reason" and "crawling in the dark"
Doors open at 8:00, showtime at 9:00
tickets are \$15 in advance. get them at:800.594.TIXX
www.soulkitchenmobile.com; the Mellow Mushroom (West Mobile)
 - Thursday, February 5 - Thriving Ivory -----tickets on sale NOW
Doors open at 8:00, showtime at 9:00
w/ openign acts: Company of Thieves and Barcelona
\$8 adv. \$10 at the door. get tickets at: www.soulkitchenmobile.com,
800.594.TIXX, Mellow Mushroom (West Mobile)
 - Friday, February 6 - REHAB
Doors open at 9:30, Showtime:10:30
Tickets are \$15 adv and \$18 day of (if avail). gte adv tickets at:
soulkitchenmobile.com, 800.594.TIXX, Mellow Mushroom
 - Saturday, February 7 - Citizen Cope
Doors: 9:00, showtime:1030
Tickets are \$20 adv. and \$25 day of show. get adv tickets at:
the Mellow Mushroom, 800.594.TIXX, www.soulkitchenmobile.com
 - Friday, February 13, WRONGWAY - Sublime tribute!
\$8 at the door, doors open 9:30; showtime:11:00
 - Saturday, February 14 - the 17th Floor
Doors:9:30, showtime:11:00; \$10 at the door

Parking Patrons Help Charity at Christmas



Plunking quarters into a parking meter is never fun, but when the money goes to help a worthy cause, the pain is somewhat eased. Over the holidays, the **City of Mobile and Central Parking** worked together to arrange for money deposited into the meters around Cathedral and Bienville Squares to be donated to McKimmie Place, a shelter for homeless women. A check will be presented at the City Council Meeting on January 27th.

Two Major Exhibits Open in Downtown Mobile



My BodyWorks opens at the Gulf Coast Exploreum January 19th, giving visitors a dramatic, hands-on approach to health and wellness.

Hold a beating holographic heart in the palm of your hand. Perform virtual cardiac surgery in the Ernest G. DeBakey Virtual Surgery where the slightest touch of your fingers will determine the patient's outcome. Seal blood vessels with laser beam technology. Discover the everyday miracles our bodies perform in the most advanced human health hall in the United States, My BodyWorks.

The Exploreum's NEW 6,500 square foot gallery is packed with leading-edge exhibits, including a 12-foot tall realistic beating heart and a fully functioning health and biology lab where visitors can perform experiments and learn more about the science of life.

[For My BodyWorks Details](#)

Dead Men Tell No Tales but at the Museum of Mobile there are plenty of tales to tell when "Pirates" opens on January 18, 2009.

This exhibition made possible by the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona Beach, provides an historic account of some of the more famous Pirates of Florida's East Coast. Such legendary pirates as Edward Teach, A.K.A. Black Beard and others who plied the coastal waters of Florida in search of treasure primarily during the 16th through the 18th centuries, are noted.



For more than three centuries, pirates and piracy thrived and flourished in our own back yard - the Gulf Coast. Marvelous tales abound of swashbuckling encounters involving rogues like Gambi, Lafitte, de Graaf, and Scott. An English pirate attack against our own Dauphin Island in 1711 brings home the point that piracy affected and influenced local culture, economy, and society from the 17th to the early 19th century.

[For "Pirates" Details](#)

Downtown Beautification Continues



With the bitter temperatures we've been experiencing lately, gardening might be the last thing on your mind, but for the BID Services crew, this is the best time of year to plant large trees. Four Sweet Bay Magnolias were planted along Conception Street and nine Zelkovas were planted on Conti. These trees, provided through a grant from Keep Mobile Beautiful, replace the last of the ones lost from Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina and will have a big impact on the streetscape when they leaf out in the Spring.

But we don't have to wait until Spring for great color along our streets. Kristie Cade, our horticulturist, has planted tree wells along Dauphin Street with flowers that seem to take the chill off even the coldest January day. This current planting is one of the four seasonal installations that will happen throughout the year. Kristie and the Crew of Stewards work in all sorts of weather to plant and then maintain the flowers.



Soon the daffodils will be blooming and we'll know that warmer weather can't be far behind!

Engaging the Next Generation



If you are between the ages of 21 and 39, you have a part to play and a party to attend! Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, in partnership with Mobile United, Mobile Arts Council, Volunteer Mobile, Centre for the Living Arts and Mobile Bay Young Professionals, LLC, invites you to **Engaging the Next Generation**, a showcase of community-based organizations.

Thursday, January 22, 2009

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Space 301

301 Conti Street

Food, beverage and live music will be provided. If you are able to attend, please email sforbus@mobileunited.org.

Downtown Doings

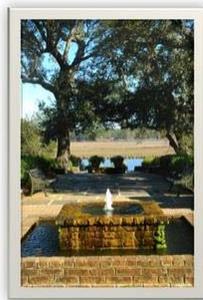
Some Upcoming Events

January 22 - ANNUAL MEETING: FRIENDS OF MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY, featuring Rick Bragg. 7 PM.

Mobile Public Library, Ben May Main Library, Bernheim Hall (701 Government St) Members/ free (Memberships available at the door: adults/ \$30; students/ \$5.)
Contact: 251-208-7902 (Amber Guy)

Through June 7 Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk

The Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center and IMAX Dome Theater will feature an amazing white-water trip down the Colorado River. Set against the immense backdrop of the majestic Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon Adventure will take IMAX® Theatre audiences on an exhilarating river-rafting adventure in the company of a team of explorers who are committed to bringing awareness to global water issues. [Grand Canyon Adventure Details](#)



Through February 25 - Winter Wednesday at Bellingrath Gardens;

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Bellingrath Gardens and Home

Winter is never bleak at Bellingrath Gardens and Home! Designed to give visitors a unique look at Bellingrath through its distinct history, winter gardens and showcasing local and regional experts on plant care, Winter Wednesdays at Bellingrath is the perfect place to bring a friend and spend time among 65 acres of blooms! Topics cover everything from proper Rose Pruning to examining the Bellingrath extensive Silver Collection.

Free for members, \$15 for non-members

For registration, contact bellingrath@bellingrath.org.

Through March 8 - Glass Unexpected, Space 301, 301 Conti Street.

An exhibit featuring 22 artists who are uniquely using glass in works the viewers will find intriguing and captivating.

[Space 301](#)

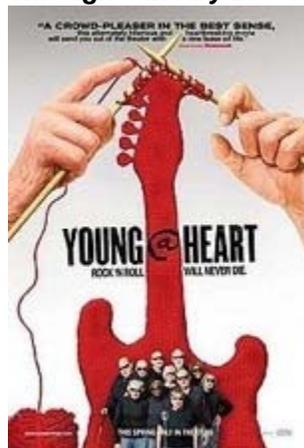
Through January 31 - NEW BEGINNINGS, Cathedral Square Gallery.

Works by more than 60 local artists. 612 Dauphin St.

Contact: 251-694-0278/ lhall699@aol.com

Through January 30 - MORE THAN MARDI GRAS, SOME PAGES AND 2008 BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS NATIONAL FINE ARTS EXHIBIT, Mobile Arts Council, 318 Dauphin Street.

Three exhibitions: works by artists from the Mirth Company (Kelly Boyd, B.C. Ellis, Tuck Hayward, Eugene Lombard, Peggy Lombard, Caleb "Sheesh" Morris and Jatou D. Yonge); a retrospective of the typography and letterpress printing of Ian Leonard Robertson; art by members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. Contact: 251-432-9796

Through January 29 - YOUNG @ HEART

Crescent Theater, 208 Dauphin Street

6 & 8:30 PM; 6 PM

\$6; 8:30 PM/ \$8.

Contact: 251-438-2005

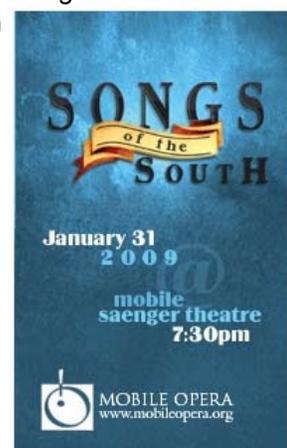
www.crescenttheater.com

www.myspace.com/crescenttheater

January 31 - Mobile Opera Presents "Songs of the South," 7:30 p.m., Saenger Theatre

For one night only, Mobile Opera presents an inspiring evening of American music with a familiar "southern" accent. Join us as a full stage of talented people sing and play some tunes with roots in the American South. "Songs of the South" brings together some of our beloved musical treasures including songs from country music, New Orleans jazz and blues, bluegrass, traditional folk, choral hymns and Alabama favorites.

[Mobile Opera](#)

**February 7 - Cruise Show 2009, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Arthur Outlaw Mobile Convention Center**

The free Cruise Show is a multi-cruise line extravaganza, with Springdale Travel's Cruise Specialists on-site to help you plan the vacation of your dreams. Cruise line representatives will be on hand to give you the best travel prices for 2009 including "day-of-show" specials, travel discounts, cabin upgrades and much more. Door prizes will be given away throughout the day and a grand prize of a

free cruise for two will be awarded! The event will also feature a fashion show by Belk and more!

[For more information on Cruise Show 2009](#)

February 6 through 24 - Mobile Mardi Gras Season in Downtown

Throughout the Carnival season we'll be sending out updates on events and other important Mardi Gras information. Please click the "Join Our Mailing List" link at the top of this newsletter if you're not already signed up and would like to receive these updates. In the meantime, click the link below for a full parade schedule.

[2009 Mardi Gras Parade Schedule](#)

[For a Complete List of Events](#)

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

Carol Hunter
Downtown Mobile Alliance

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