



Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

July 2008

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Dear Carol,



downtown's renaissance!

Though the dog days are upon us, the level of activity in downtown continues at a remarkable pace. Last week the \$5.2 million dollar renovation of Space 301 was unveiled for the public with almost 4000 people showing up to see the new contemporary art center and the **People's Art** exhibit. The arts are proving to be a true catalyst for

Our office is a bee hive of activity as well as we prepare for the **Annual Meeting**, a celebration of the accomplishments of last year and a glimpse into the future. See the full article below.

If things pick up even more in the Fall as is traditional, 2008 will be a banner year indeed!

Development Buzz

Projects underway downtown are moving forward at a remarkable pace, with some large developments, such as the Hampton Inn (photo at left) and Hargrove & Associates new offices, within three months of completion. The pace is certain to pick up as soon as the weather is a little more conducive to life outdoors.



In other development news:

- The **Regions Bank Building** at St. Joseph and St. Francis Streets, originally Merchants National Bank built in 1929, has been sold to an out-of-town investor group for \$2.75 million. JP-Mobile, LLC purchased several other Regions buildings as part of a \$35 million package.
- The deTonti Square building at 263 N. Conception Street that served as headquarters for **Timbes and Yeager Advertising** for many years has been sold to John Lee, an attorney who will renovate it for his offices.
- The **Senior Bowl** has relocated its headquarters from the Riverview Office Building to beautifully renovated space at 151 Dauphin Street. Much of that block of Dauphin has undergone a dramatic facelift that is transforming the area around Bienville Square.

[For more economic development information](#)

Retail Happenings

Shopping, Dining and Entertainment News



Dining options in downtown are expanding almost by the day as new eateries open their doors. New professional offices are opening as well, offering new or more convenient services for folks downtown. **Hummingbird Ideas**, an ad agency, has moved it's offices from Ryan Tower to 660 Springhill Avenue (where Dauphin and Springhill intersect), bringing even more creative energy to the rapidly redeveloping west end of LoDa.

In other retail news:

- **Cafe 100** has opened in the YMCA on St. Michael Street, specializing in recipes based on food grown within 100 miles of Mobile. Owner Richard Walsh grows many of the veggies himself and is a regular at the Market on the Square on Saturday mornings.
- The GM&O Building finally has a restaurant in keeping with its "Old World" facade. **Le Rose European Cafe and Deli** has one of the most intriguing menus in town, offering such fare as a French Duck Salad, German Schnitzel Sandwich and Austrian Ostrich Burger. Can there be any doubt that Mobile is truly an international city?
- **Edward Jones Investments** has opened an office downtown in the newly renovated building at 159 Dauphin Street. Clint Martin will be running the office located on what is becoming one of the most beautiful blocks on Dauphin Street.
- The **BNI Business Resource Center and Copy Shop** is now open at 809 Government Street. Not only is it a full service copy center, but there are marketing consultants on hand to do a free 20-minute marketing tune-up session for businesses.
- **Bienville Technology** is filling an ever more important niche in the information technology field. The company recently opened its doors at 550 Dauphin Street and will soon be moving next door into space currently being

renovation. The company hopes to become "the go-to" firm for anyone downtown with an IT problem, question or need.

Upcoming live entertainment Downtown includes:

- **Veet's Events**
 - Every Tuesday- Jodyoke
 - Every Wed.-Sun. - Doug Previto and the Family Jewels (no cover)
- **Blind Mule Events:**
 - July 18- 9:00 p.m., Mad Happy + Shining Path + Blood Red Squid
 - July 19- 10:00 p.m., Wess Floyd and the DaisyCutters + El Cantador
 - July 25, 10:00 p.m., Wish In One Hand + Blood Red Squid
 - Every Tuesday- 8 p.m.; Open Mic Night, Hosted by Jimmy Lee, talent, drink specials, food, kitchen open until Midnight
- **The Soul Kitchen Events:**
 - July 25- Doors open 9:30 p.m., Showtime 11:00 p.m., The 17th Floor, tickets \$10/door
 - July 31-Doors open at 9:00 and Showtime TBA , Billy Bob Thornton + The Box Masters, part of the Budweiser Summer Concert Series, adv. tickets \$12
 - August 9- Doors open 9:30 p.m., Showtime 11:00 p.m., The UGLISTICK, tickets \$7/door
 - August 12- Doors 7 p.m., Showtime 8:00 p.m., Candlebox + Small Town Sleeper + Kings Royal, part of the Budweiser Summer Concert Series, adv. tickets \$15, <http://www.soulkitchenmobile.com/>

Alliance Annual Meeting Set

Main Street Mobile Award Winners Will Be Announced

Wednesday, August 27th
Noon
Battle House Moonlight Ballroom

The Downtown Mobile District Management Corporation and the Downtown Mobile Alliance are pleased to announce that the **Honourable Gordon Campbell**, Premier of British Columbia, and one of North America's most visionary leaders, will serve as the keynote speaker during this year's Annual Meeting. The annual meeting is a celebration of the year's successes and a look to the goals for next year. Main Street Mobile will also be announcing its achievement awards.

Premier Campbell was first elected Premier in 2001 with the largest majority vote in British Columbia's history. Since taking office, Premier Campbell has worked to develop creative and healthy economic growth for his province. The Campbell government has been credited with turning British Columbia's economy around from

one of the worst in Canada to one of the best.

Prior to election as Premier, he served as a councilor to Vancouver City Council. In 1986, he became the youngest person ever to be elected Vancouver's Mayor. As a three term Mayor, he developed an urban planning model that came to be known as the "**Vancouver Model.**" Downtown Vancouver is now recognized world-wide for its diversity and vitality, and is widely regarded as one of North America's most livable downtown core areas.

The annual meeting will be held at Noon on August 27, 2008, in the Moonlight Ballroom of the Battle House Hotel. We're not taking reservations at this time, but if you are interesting in sponsoring the event, please contact Carol Hunter at 251-434-8498.

Discover Dauphin Historic District

Take A Walk Back in Time

Several times a week during peak tourist seasons, visitors will walk into our office and ask about the historic sites in downtown. The Alliance has a wonderful brochure, the Dauphin Street Historic District Walking Tour, and armed with this guide they head off to discover the delights of our architectural past. As is the case in most cities, visitors to Mobile often experience more local history than locals themselves!

Each month we'll be featuring a stop on the walking tour so you'll be able to explore downtown's history without ever leaving your computer - but we think you'll find that the more you know about our past, the more you'll want to get out and walk back in time on your own.

The **Levy Wolverton Building**, circa 1875, at 102 Dauphin Street is currently a two-story building with rounded windows with cast iron hoods on the second floor; this building was originally three stories. The decorative sills for the third floor windows are still visible at the cornice line.



[Take a Virtual Tour](#)

New Plan for Old Mobile Work Continues



The planning team with EDSA will be back in Mobile the week of July 21st for a second round of meetings with the public and stakeholders of downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods. They will present preliminary findings from the first round of meetings in March and gather input before developing an new vision for our dynamic city.

Please plan on attending any or all of the meetings. In March, more than 800 citizens discovered what a great opportunity this is to participate in the shaping of

our city's future growth and development. **Please note: An additional daytime meeting in downtown has been scheduled.**

July 22nd

Zone 1 (Downtown and Midtown Loop Neighborhoods)

8:00 to 10:00 a.m. - Museum of Mobile, 111 S. Royal Street

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Alabama School of Math and Science, 1255 Dauphin Street

July 23rd

Zone 2 (Northside Neighborhoods)

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Florence Howard Elementary School, 957 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue

July 24th

Zone 3 (Neighborhoods South of Downtown)

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Craighead Elementary School, 1000 S. Ann Street

Mayor Sam Jones and the city of Mobile have committed a great many resources to this visioning process, and the Downtown Mobile Alliance has also pledged \$100,000 toward the \$350,000 cost of the plan. Many businesses, organizations and individuals (see list below) have made donations to Main Street Mobile, our charitable division, to help with this pledge. If you would like to join them, please contact Elizabeth Sanders at 251-434-8498 or esanders@downtownmobile.org. Or mail a check to Main Street Mobile, P.O. Box 112, Mobile, AL 26601.

Platinum Investors

Alabama Power Foundation
Hearin-Chandler Foundation
Downtown Mobile Alliance

Gold Investors

A. S. Mitchell Foundation
Ben May Charitable Trust

Silver Investors

Bienville Properties, LLC
Christ Church Cathedral
Church Street Historic District
City Management Company, LLC
Committee for the Restoration of Historic Monroe Park
Gulf Coast Multiple Listing Service
Keep Mobile Moving
MLK Jr. Avenue Redevelopment Corporation
Oakleigh Garden District Society
The Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust
The Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau

Friends of Planning

219 Restaurant
at&t
deTonti Square Neighborhood Association
Mobile Bay Transportation Company, Inc.

Mobile Historic Development Commission
 Spot of Tea
 Old Dauphin Way Association
 Dee Gambill
 Regions Bank

[For More Info on the New Plan for Old Mobile](#)

Flower Planting Project Moves into Fall

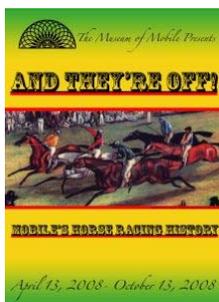
The BID Services summer flower plantings have been so wildly successful that we have had to stop taking new requests for projects until the Fall. We always believed the impact of well designed and maintained flower beds and planters would be significant, but the calls we take every day tell us it has been truly transformative. Even a simple mass of color, as Steve Clements sponsored in front of his building at the corner of Jackson and St. Louis Streets (see photo at right), can create a head-turning display.



Kristie Cade, our staff horticulturist, is currently designing and ordering plants for Fall installation. For business or building owners who'd like to join the transformation and wish to be added to the Fall schedule, contact Kristie at 251-434-8498. She'll work with you to create a design, order and install the plants, however owners are responsible for paying for planters and plant material.

Downtown Doings

Some Upcoming Events in Downtown Mobile



And They're Off!

Through Monday, Oct 13, 2008 - And They're Off!

1820 - 1900 Turf racing captivated the hearts of Mobilians and spawned a business culture that reigned for nearly a century. Visit the Museum of Mobile and take a look at a point in Mobile's development when horse racing was the sport of the day and the city thrived from the revenue it generated. From the races themselves to the people responsible for the various aspects of the sport's rise and fall, the visitor to the **Museum of Mobile** will be

immersed in fun and games that influenced the Kentucky Derby. For more information please call (251)208-7569 or visit the website listed below.

www.museumofmobile.com

Market on the Square

Saturdays through Jul 26

7:30am-11:00am

Shop for the freshest crop in town! This time of year is our favorite because you can get locally grown: tomatoes, potatoes, sweet corn, cantaloupe, watermelon, seafood, flowers, plants, baked breads, casseroles, pies, handcrafted



goods and so much more. Stay for live music on the green!

www.mainstreetmobile.org



FROGS! Beyond Green

Gulf Coast Exploreum: Friday, Jun 13, 2008 - Sunday, Nov 02, 2008

This interactive zoological exhibit brings visitors eye to eye with frogs from around the world. Set in the land of fairytales, explore the

amazing world of frogs. View frog life on and around a tree, in a pond and at night in three different parts of the world. Experience the fascinating beauty, form and natural history of these incredible creatures. Leap from one fun station to the next in a lively setting -- listen to frogs "talk," learn life cycle lingo and meet famous frogs from the past to present. Learn why frogs are critical indicators of habitat health and participate in stage demonstrations throughout the summer.

www.exploreum.com

Amazon - IMAX Film,

Gulf Coast Exploreum, Through August 21, 2008



The Amazon is the mightiest river in the world, the lifeblood for whole civilizations and home to more than 65,000 different species of flora and fauna. Take a journey of discovery through the river's wonders, meet its inhabitants and witness its remarkable healing powers. Follow the river from its source high in the Andes, through rain forests across South America, to an exotic menagerie of animals, including the jaguar, tapir, pipa toad and sloth.



Hurricane on the Bayou - IMAX Film

Gulf Coast Exploreum, Through November 26

Hurricane on the Bayou - a new IMAX production from MacGillivray Freeman Films in association with the Audubon Nature Institute - takes viewers on a

breathhtaking tour of one of the most vibrant places in America, the Louisiana bayou and the city of New Orleans, a place overflowing with life, love, music and heartbreaking natural beauty. Here, in the region's bountiful coastal wetlands, alligators, humans and other wildlife have lived in harmony for centuries. Tragically, these wetlands are eroding into the sea at the speed of one acre every thirty minutes, leaving the entire region more vulnerable to major hurricanes. Hurricane on the Bayou offers an emotional portrayal of this environmental calamity and the staggering effects of one of the most devastating natural disasters in American history, Hurricane Katrina.

Med School Cafe

Wednesdays, July 24 and August 13. 11:30am - 1:00pm

Spend your lunch hour at the Museum of Mobile and learn about the latest developments in

health and wellness. The Med School Cafe that premiered during the Exploreum's Human Body exhibit was so popular that the University of South Alabama is continuing the offering, but moving to the Museum of Mobile. For a full list of topics or to make reservations, call 251-460-7770.

Saenger Summer Classic Film Series

Sunday, July 20 & 27, 2008 at 3:00pm

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for Seniors (60+) and Children (12 and under)
Tickets are sold at the door.

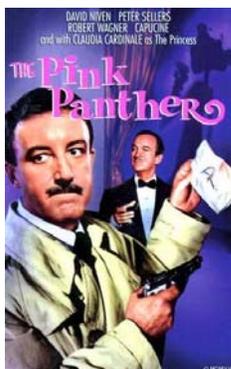
July 20th

"The Dirty Dozen"

Telly Savalas, Lee Marvin, Donald Sutherland

Not Rated; 149 minutes; 1967

Twelve hardened Army criminals are given a chance to be pardoned by undertaking a suicide mission behind Nazi lines. Lee Marvin is the tough Army major who trains this collection of murderers, rapists, thieves and assorted misfits, and turns them into a skilled fighting force. A great all-star cast, and the skilled direction of Robert Aldrich combined to make this one of the biggest box-office attractions of 1967.



July 27th

"The Pink Panther"

Peter Sellers, David Niven

Not Rated; 115 minutes; 1964

The inveterate bungler, Inspector Jacques Clouseau (Peter Sellers) of the Paris police, is the sort of man whose wife is not only two-timing him, but is doing so with the very masterful jewel thief he's been assigned to catch. The inimitable David Niven plays the suave and ultra-sophisticated cat burglar.

Redliners Comedy Show

Mobile Civic Center

July 18, 2008, 8:00pm

This show has been rescheduled from Friday, May 16. Tickets for the original show will be accepted for the new show date.

Starring Shawty, Cocoa Brown and Dirty South with host comedian Michael Blackson

Hosted by 93BLX's Morning Hosts Al Mighty & Cortney Hicks

Advance tickets are \$35

Tickets are available at the Mobile Civic Center Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 251-434-0033 or purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information, call 251-423-0255.

Monster Jam

Mobile Civic Center

July 25 and 26, 2008, 7:30pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

U.S. Hot Rod Association Presents Monster Jam 2008!

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2-12.

Adult tickets are \$2 more on day of show.

Tickets on sale at the Mobile Civic Center Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 251-434-0033 or purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information, visit www.monsterjamonline.com.

No video cameras are allowed.



the **PEOPLE'S ART** *exhibition*

People's Art Exhibition

Friday, Jul 11, 2008 - Friday, Sep 05, 2008

Regular Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10:00 am-5:00pm and Sunday 12:00 -5:00pm

Please join us for the People's Art exhibition to celebrate the reopening of our newly remodeled permanent gallery space at 301 Conti Street on Cathedral Square. For information about how to enter the show, click on the link below.

www.space301.com/pdf/entries2008.pdf

Gulf Coast Ethnic and Heritage Jazz Festival

Jul 31st, 2008-Aug 3rd, 2008

The 10th Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival is a four day schedule of events at multiple venues in the Mobile metro area. A key highlight is a spectacular jazz festival held in beautiful Bienville Square, featuring local, regional and internationally renowned jazz artists. Most of the events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call (251)473-5020 or visit the link below. www.gcejazzfest.com



TGI Thursday Indie Film Series (Ben May Main Library)

Thursdays through July 31, 7:00pm

For more information please call 208-7097.



July 24th

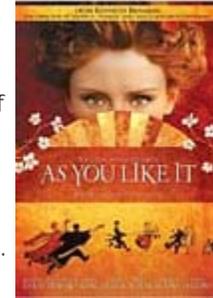
"Starting Out in the Evening"

Leonard Schiller is an aging New York author who wants to publish his fifth novel before he dies even though the world is not literary anymore. Graduate student Heather Wolfe seeks him out to write her thesis on him and encourage his writing. The May-December couple comes to realize they have more in common than they thought in this complex and gentle love story. The film runs 111 minutes and is rated PG-13.

July 31st

"As You Like It"

Rosalind, the daughter of the banished Duke Senior is raised at the court of Duke Frederick, the younger brother to Duke Senior who took over his dukedom. She falls in love with a young man named Orlando, but before she can even think twice about it, she is banished by Duke Frederick, who threatens death if she comes near the court again. Kenneth Branagh's film adaptation of William Shakespeare's play runs 127 minutes and is rated PG.



As You Like It is also the August selection for the Classics Revisited Book Club. Please join us on August 11 for a spirited discussion!

Pop Go the Wiggles Live

Tuesday, July 29th, 6:30pm, Mobile Civic Center

Get Ready to Wiggle! Its time to learn how to Romp Bomp A Stomp, do The Monkey Dance and Move Like an Emu during the all-new Pop Go The Wiggles Live! tour. Discover how to make "Fruit Salad" and "Crunchy Munchy Honey Cakes." From way "Down Under" comes the #1 childrens entertainment name in Australia - THE WIGGLES!

www.mobilecivicctr.com



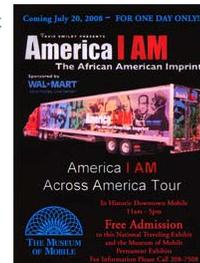
AMERICA I AM ACROSS AMERICA

Sunday, July 20, 2008, 11:00am-5:00pm, Museum of Mobile (111 Royal St.)

A national traveling exhibit, a mini-museum on wheels offering video, music and interactive opportunities; a nationwide preview of America I AM: The African American Imprint exhibition, celebrating 400 years of African American contributions to the nation. Museum of Mobile. Free.

Contact: 251-208-7569

<http://www.museumofmobile.com/>



THE TIMES OF DAVE BRUBECK, WORKS BY AMERI'CA JONES-GALLASPY AND THE MOONROCK SHOW

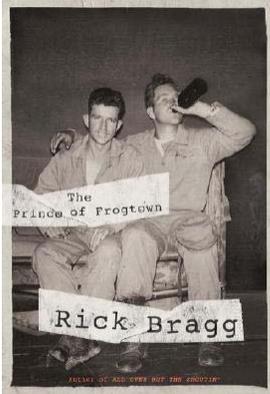
Three exhibitions: an interactive exhibit from the Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific (sponsored by MOJO -



the Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed - and Evonik-Degussa; through Fri, Aug 15); works by Jones-Gallaspy; and art by Pat Wilder. Mobile Arts Council (318 Dauphin St) Free. Through Fri, Aug 1. Mon - Fri, 9 AM - 5 PM. Contact: 251-432-9796/ <http://www.mobilearts.org/>

READING/ BOOKSIGNING: RICK BRAGG (author of *The Prince of Frogtown*)

Thursday, July 31, 2008, 6pm, Museum of Mobile (111 Royal Street)



Free, but reservations required; deadline: Mon, Jul 28.
Contact: 251-208-7569

<http://www.museumofmobile.com/>

THE TIMES OF DAVE BRUBECK, WORKS BY ARGENTINEAN ARTISTS AND THE MOBILE SYMPHONY - CREATIVE FORCE



Three exhibitions: an interactive exhibition interactive exhibit from the Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific (sponsored by MOJO - the Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed - and Evonik-Degussa, through Fri, Aug 15); works by

Argentinean artists living in South Alabama; and photographs by Ben Harper. Mobile Arts Council (318 Dauphin St) Free. Through Fri, Aug 29. Mon - Fri, 9 AM - 5 PM.

Contact: 251-432-9796

<http://www.mobilearts.org/>

LODA ARTWALK

Friday, August 8, 2008, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Exhibitions and entertainment in a variety of downtown galleries and other venues; includes "Do You Miss Me?" a dance piece by Stella Nystrom (in Cathedral Square) Sponsor: City of Mobile Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Cathedral Square Arts District (downtown Mobile)

Contact: 251-208-7443

<http://www.ncsmobile.org/>



TGI Thursdays Foreign Film Festival - Irish Films (Ben May Main Library)

Thursdays through August 28, 2008

Please join us for the annual Mobile Public Library Foreign Film Festival. This year the spotlight shines on Irish films, shown with English subtitles. On August 7, we'll be showing *Waking Ned Devine*. On August 14, we'll be showing *Once*; August 21, *Intermission*;

and on August 28, *The Commitments*.



August 7th
"Waking Ned Divine"

When Ned Divine dies from shock after winning the lottery, two longtime friends, Michael and Jackie, discover the body and agree Ned would want them to benefit from his good luck. They embark upon an outrageous scheme to claim the ticket in this uproarious comedy. Film runs 91 minutes, rated PG. For more information please call 208-7097.

August 14
"Once"

A serendipitous meeting on the streets of Dublin between a down on his luck Irish street performer and a poor Czech immigrant sparks a bond that plays out in this hip modern day music film. Don't miss this delightful love story. Film runs 85 minutes, rated R.



August 21
"Intermission"

Fifty-four characters and eleven storylines intersect with dazzling results in this raucously funny and compellingly gritty comedy. Film runs 105 minutes, rated R.

August 28
"The Commitments"

An irresistible comic drama from director Alan Parker (*Evita*, *Mississippi Burning*) overflowing and alive with passion, humor, and music. *The Commitments* showcases some old R & B standards in a new light. Film runs 118 minutes, rated R.



[Click here for a complete list of events](#)

Sincerely,

Carol Hunter
Downtown Mobile Alliance

email: chunter@downtownmobile.org
phone: 251-434-8498 fax: 251-434-8538
web: <http://www.downtownmobile.org>

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

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