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June 2007

## Downtown Update

The Latest News about Downtown Mobile

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Dear Carol,

Mobile's "Living Room" is back! The Battle House Hotel, after a multi-year, multi-million dollar renovation, is once again the place to see and be seen in the Port City. The painstaking renovation has recaptured Mobile's Golden Age while at the same time catapulting us into the future. We hear it on the street every day: "This is a great time to be in Mobile!"

### Development News



Just when downtown is recovering from the twin triumphs of the Battle House grand opening and the ThyssenKrupp announcement, more projects are being announced. Berg Spiral Pipe Corp. will be locating at the former International Paper site, just outside downtown, and these exciting developments are happening inside the Hank Aaron Loop:

- Sullivan-St. Clair Marketing/Public Relations will be relocating to downtown Mobile in January. The firm and local investors plan to spend \$1.6 million to purchase and renovate space at 202 Government Street.
- The old Uncle Simmies building has been sold to an investor who will renovate the space to include

commercial on the ground floor and residential on the second floor.

- 308 St. Michael Street has been sold for \$352,500 to an investor group, 308 LLC. The 6,800 square foot building will house Commercial and Marine Insurance Brokers.
- The old Lerner's department store at 10 St. Emanuel Street was sold to local investors for \$295,000. The developers plan to renovate the 6,200 square foot building into a mixed-use project with commercial on the ground floor and residential above.

[Find Out More](#)

### A Solution to Unsightly Garbage Cans

Is there anything more unpleasant than walking down Dauphin Street during the lunch hour only to encounter dozens of filthy, smelly garbage cans? Not only is it unpleasant, it is against the law. The City of Mobile's Code states that in downtown, garbage containers "shall not be placed on



the sidewalk or curb for collection between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. After the garbage has been collected by the collector, the owners of the containers shall remove them from the streets of the city not later than two (2) hours after the garbage has been removed." (Section 25-5 (f))

Years ago, when the garbage cans outnumbered the daytime pedestrians, it might not have mattered so much, but as more and more people are choosing to live and work downtown the problem has the potential only to get worse.

Fortunately, there are solutions. One of downtown's most progressive developers, Tilmon Brown, has just completed a mixed-use project at the corner of Dauphin and St. Emanuel Streets. The residents in the 12 apartments above the new bank on the ground floor will generate some amount of household garbage, but their containers will never have to sit out on the sidewalk during the day. Instead, Brown built a "garbage can niche" into the building with bi-fold doors and room for several containers.

As more projects are being planned, developers may want to consider a similar option. It may also be possible to retro-fit

existing businesses, or to arrange for containers to be stored at the rear of buildings in parking lots or alleys. In any case, solutions are out there. Consider New Orleans. You will see many things on the streets and sidewalks of the French Quarter, but you will rarely see a garbage container except during the very narrow collection hours.

[View the City of Mobile Code](#)

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### Dump the Pump



Join millions of Americans on June 21st as they Dump the Pump and use public transportation to get around. The Wave Transit System will join public transportation agencies from coast to coast for the Second Annual National Dump the Pump Day.

If you've been complaining about the price of gas lately and would like to show the oil companies you have options, take The Wave Transit to work or to run errands. We'll admit, it's not as convenient as driving your own car from place to place, but it can save money and take some of the hassle out of driving. Just imagine reading the paper or the latest best-seller instead of fighting congestion on Airport Boulevard.

The day is dedicated to raising awareness that public transportation conserves fuel and helps improve the environment. It offers the opportunity for people to beat the high price of gasoline and support public transportation as an important travel option that helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

[Learn more](#)

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### Sign of the Times

A great sign has always communicated more than the name of a business. Sometimes it reflects the goods sold, the actual nature of the business, even the personality of the owner.



Take a look at photos of downtown Mobile from decades past, when the streets and sidewalks were bustling with activity. The storefront and business signs were bold, perhaps even tacky by today's standards, but they signaled a healthy, vibrant retail and business community.

Each month we'll feature one of downtown's most creative and appealing signs. And we begin with the sign that has become an icon of downtown's rebirth. The Picklefish sign is one of the most photographed and painted signs in Mobile...day or night. It may not say "pizza," but it sure draws you inside.

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### Taxi Service Expands in Downtown



When transportation veteran Margie Wilcox took over the Yellow Cab business in Mobile, she wasted no time in trying to expand service to the downtown area. Her goals were to serve the entertainment district's patrons at night and the additional visitors from the new and remodeled

downtown hotels.

After visiting the entertainment district at night and talking to some of the club owners, Margie learned that cabs don't have easy access to Dauphin Street after 10:00 p.m. when the street is closed to vehicles. She was told that patrons who may have had too much to drink might take a cab if they see one, but that they'll decide to drive their own cars if finding a taxi is too difficult. "That endangers everyone on the road," says Wilcox, who adds that, "It's just one way to keep Mobilians safe." She is meeting with Lt. Roy Hodge, head of the downtown police precinct, to see if cabs can be allowed to park on Dauphin Street along Cathedral Square. The cabs would be easily accessible and just might help patrons get home more safely.

The Spring Hill College Student Government Association has partnered with Yellow Cab to proactively address the problem of drinking and driving with its **Safe Ride** program. The program guarantees that no matter where a Spring Hill College student may be at any given time of the day, he or she will always be guaranteed a safe ride back to campus,

and this safe ride comes at no cost to them.

According to Student Body President Nolan T. James, Jr., "We as a Student Government Association realize that when students go away to college, their families place the well-being of their children in the hands of the college. We feel that it is our responsibility as student leaders on campus to assist the administration in keeping our students safe." The Student Government Association is seeking sponsors for Safe Ride. If you're interested in supporting this valuable program, contact Carol Hunter at [chunter@downtownmobile.org](mailto:chunter@downtownmobile.org).

Yellow Cab is also promoting another service of interest to parents of college age children who enjoy the night life downtown. It's called a **Family Account**, and parents set one up with Yellow Cab and all family members are issued a membership card. Whenever anyone in the family needs a cab, they simply show the driver the card and the parents will be billed for the service. Wilcox says Family Accounts also work well for older family members who no longer drive, but still would like to meet friends or get to appointments without inconveniencing others. Call Yellow Cab for more information: 251-476-7711. It costs nothing to set up the account. The peace of mind is priceless.

**For more information**

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### Correction

In last month's newsletter article on Handling Panhandlers, the address for 15 Place was incorrect. The address for 15 Place is 15 North Joachim. Please go to the following link to learn how to refer panhandlers or homeless individuals to proper social service providers.

**Helping the Homeless**

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### Maritime Museum Kicks off Campaign

A standing-room-only crowd was on hand for the announcement by the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf Coast that it has already raised \$6 million toward the



campaign's \$10 million goal.

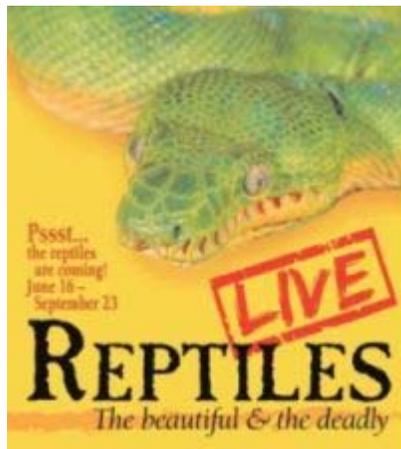
Capital Campaign Chairman Lee Moncrief unveiled the Charting the Course Campaign logo during ceremonies June 7th at the site of the future museum.

The \$30 million dollar project has already secured \$10 million in support from federal sources and the City of Mobile is working with the Maritime Museum on raising the remaining funds needed. During the announcement Museum Board Chairman E.B. Peebles told the crowd, "Through this campaign, we are bringing together those who wish to honor and celebrate the rich maritime heritage of Mobile and the Gulf Coast region."

Maritime Museum Executive Director Tony Zodrow said the Mobile attraction will be the first maritime museum to focus on the Gulf Coast and one of only three interactive maritime museums in the country. The museum is scheduled to open in 2009.

### Downtown Doings

*Some upcoming events in downtown Mobile*



**Reptiles: The Beautiful and the Deadly, June 16 - September 23** at the Gulf Coast Exploreum. Come face to face with LIVE reptiles from around the world in this interactive zoological exhibit. Deadly snakes, colorful lizards, bizarre turtles, alligators and crocodiles are exhibited in naturalistic habitats. Participate in hands-on demonstrations and learn about these amazing creatures. For more

information, call 251-208-6873.

**GREEN SPACE: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN CONTEMPORARY ART, Through June 24** - curated by David McCann. Space 301 Off Centre (6 S. Joachim St.) Through Sun, Jun 24. Wed - Sat, 10 - 5 p.m.; Sun, noon - 5 p.m. Centre for the Living Arts members/free; nonmembers/\$5. Contact: 251-208-5671/ [www.space301.com](http://www.space301.com)

**CAPTIVE PASSAGE: THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE**

**TRADE AND THE MAKING OF THE AMERICAS, *Through September 3.*** The Museum of Mobile (111 S. Royal St.) Mon - Sat, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun, 1 - 5 p.m. Adults/ \$5; senior citizens/ \$4; students/ \$3; children under six/ free; groups and active military/ \$1 off admission category. First Sunday of each month/ free. Contact: 251-208- 7569

**Market on the Square, *Saturdays through July 28.*** This farmer's market opens and continues each Saturday, 7:30 - 11 a.m., in Cathedral Square. Get the freshest, locally grown and produced goods, including: tomatoes, cantaloupes, peaches, honey, breads, cut flowers, baked goods, plants, seafood, watermelons, okra, and much more! The public is welcome to come and shop in the Square, play in the fountain and enjoy live music, cooking demonstrations and more.

**America's Junior Miss 50th Anniversary National Finals, *June 28 - 30.*** 2007 is a special year for AJM as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary National Finals. The 50 state Junior Misses will arrive in Mobile on June 18 and spend two weeks rehearsing, making public appearances, participating in community service activities, making new friends and competing for college scholarships. All performances are held at the Mobile Civic Center Theater. For more information, call 251-438-3621.

**Hurricane on the Bayou: IMAX Film and Simulator, *Through October 4.*** The Gulf Coast Exploreum's new IMAX film carries audiences on a journey deep into the soul-stirring of Louisiana--before, during and after the unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Also, step inside a category 1 hurricane in the hurricane simulator. For more information, call 251-208-6873.

**Fourth Saturday in the Square, *June 23, 9:00 a.m. - Noon.*** All artists -- amateur and professional -- are invited to draw, paint, sculpt, sew, etc. in the park as part of the area's arts community. Cathedral Square.

**Kids Days in Bienville, *Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. through July 12.*** Free summer fun in Bienville Square with a variety of activities including face painting, comedy, hands-on activities, clowns, a petting zoo and more! For more information contact Neighborhood and Community Services at 251-470-7730.

**Blind Mule Battle of the Bands, *Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. through July 28.*** Each week bands will appear at the Blind Mule at 57 North Claiborne to compete to see which local group will eventually appear on *The Pirate, 106.5.*

**For a complete list of events...**

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The Downtown Mobile Alliance is a non-profit partnership between the Downtown Mobile District Management Corporation and Main Street Mobile, Inc., whose purpose is to create more exposure for downtown redevelopment efforts, both within the downtown community and throughout the city at large.

**Sincerely,**

Carol Hunter  
Downtown Mobile Alliance

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