



Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

May 2008

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Dear Carol,

After 2-1/2 years of the Business Improvement District's Clean and Safe operations, many downtown regulars take for granted the spotless condition of our streets and sidewalks. Fortunately the Regents and Stewards responsible for downtown's care and maintenance haven't stopped there, and if you've walked down Dauphin Street lately, you know what we're talking about. The new trees and flowers are all but stopping traffic with their eye-catching color. Some downtown businesses have also joined the beautification band wagon. **Global Tel Link**, a new tenant in the AmSouth Building, paid for the plantings in that block on Dauphin and Royal Streets; **Heroes** on Dauphin Street, the **Commerce Building** on Royal Street and **Norton Lilly International** in the One St. Louis Building have all contributed to the effort. The combined effect is having a huge impact. The floral display certainly beautifies downtown, but also sends a more subtle message that this is a well cared for place.



Development Buzz



It seems that new projects are blooming as exuberantly as the flowers in downtown these days. Developments both large

and small are continuing to change the landscape and skyline of our city, and while the pace may ebb and flow a bit, it appears to have a general forward momentum.

A major project set to break ground July 1st is the renovation of the former Jeffries Steel building on St. Joseph Street. **T Leavell and Associates** will be moving from its present location in the former LaClede Hotel to the new offices by year's end. A partnership made up of Tom Leavell, a long-time downtown advocate, and some of his partners purchased and will renovate the St. Joseph Street building. The rendering above shows just how dramatically architect Lea Verneuille will change the original building. Tom says his firm looked everywhere from the Eastern Shore to I-65 for new office space, but decided they didn't want to leave downtown, "especially now with all the momentum that's happening."

In other development news:

- **Hargrove and Associates** will move the first of its 200+ employees into newly renovated offices in the St. Emanuel wing of the former Kress Building next week. About 25 employees of the engineering firm will make the first move with the others joining them as the adjacent Neisner Building is finished in early September. As part of the renovation of the Kress Building, Hargrove is creating a central courtyard where the four wings of the building meet, creating a charming outdoor area and all sorts of development possibilities
- Russ Adams at **Bienville Books** at 109 Dauphin Street will soon begin renovation of the upstairs loft. The new space, scheduled to open in September, will be called *The Haunted Book Loft* and will have sections devoted to horror, the supernatural and special collections of Mardi Gras books and memorabilia.
- New on the market: The **Van Antwerp Building** is listed with Burton Clark at Cummings and Associates for \$3.5 million; the **AmSouth Bank Building** is listed with Harbert Realty out of Birmingham for \$11.5 million.
- The building at **360 Dauphin Street** has been purchased by an Australian company that has an operation here in Mobile County. The company plans to convert the historic three-story building



that has seen life as a bottling company, restaurant and gift shop into residences.

- **Del-Mar Holdings, LLC** has purchased the building at 462 Dauphin Street and will move the law firm of Delashmet and Marchand into the building later this year or early 2009. The firm now has two downtown offices and will consolidate them into one building. Plans call for extensive renovation of the building that was most recently a bar.

Retail Happenings

Shopping, Dining and Entertainment News



For almost all of Mobile's 300 year history, the primary retail center for the region was downtown. Up until 30 years ago, you could walk down and around Dauphin Street and buy just about anything the average family might need, from cars to appliances to the latest fashions. And while it has never been entirely true that retailers abandoned downtown, there's no denying that the variety we once boasted has diminished.

The cycle, however, is now on the upswing. As shoppers are looking for a more "authentic" experience, downtowns across the country are seeing renewed interest in the urban shopping options. This is happening in Mobile as well, and each month we'll highlight what's new, both in terms of grand openings and special events.

- Coastal Living Magazine's current issue includes **Wintzell's Oyster House** on its list of the 25 best dives in the country. And that was before the Mobile seafood landmark added spectacular palm trees and landscaping to its Dauphin Street parking lot! Such luxurious surroundings might hurt its chances for next year's list, but the impact on LoDa West has been dramatic.
- In response to downtown's recent surge in residents and visitors, **Bienville Books** is expanding its hours of operation. Owner Russ Adams has noticed that about half his customers now hail from out-of-town and so has decided to stay open until 6:00 p.m. most weekdays. The store will be closed from June 14 - 22 as some renovations begin, but look for the extended hours to start when it reopens.
- Also extending hours through the summer is one of downtown's oldest retailers, **Three Georges Southern Chocolates**. The store now opens at 9:00 a.m. seven days a week and closes at 6 p.m. Sun - Tues, 8 p.m. Wed, 9:00 p.m. Thurs, and 10:00 p.m. Fri and Sat. And it's not just a place for great chocolate. Any time the store is open, you can order great sandwiches, salads and homemade soups. And look for live music coming soon.
- **Blind Mule Events:**
 - Friday, May 23 - Terrific Kid & The Levity Effects
 - Saturday, May 24 - Electronic Sulking Machine, Thruoutin, My Milky Way Arms, One Cut Kill, Sedbomb & Hotel Hotel
- **Boo Radley's Events:**
 - Thursday, May 22 - Joe Wright
 - Friday, May 23 - Haydens Corner
 - Saturday, May 24 - Chronic Blues

- Thursday, May 29 - Randy from Chronic Blues
- Friday, May 30 & Saturday May 31 - Echolin Blues
- Thursday, June 5 - Randy from Chronic Blues
- Friday, June 6 & Saturday, June 7 - Haydens Corner
- Friday, June 13 & Saturday, June 14 - Echolin Blues
- Thursday, June 19 - Joe Wright
- Friday, June 20 - Bust
- Saturday, June 21 - Color the Coast
- Thursday, June 26 - David from Chronic Blues
- Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28 - Chronic Blues
- **The Garage Events:** Sunday, May 25 - Hyde Project
- **Grand Central Events:** Friday, May 23 & Saturday, May 24 - Michael Warren Band
- **Serda's Coffee Co. Events:**
 - Friday, May 23 - El Cantador - 7 to 10pm
 - Saturday, May 24 - "Meet & Greet" with Sume Phillips & Tracy Host (Artists of the Month)
- **Soul Kitchen Events: (Doors open @ 9:30PM and show time @ 11:00PM unless specified)**
 - Friday, May 23 - Haydens Corner, \$5/door
 - Saturday, May 24 - Fusebox Funk, \$7/door
 - Thursday, May 29 - The Wailers; doors open @ 9:00 and show time is 10:00; tickets are \$15/adv. get them at: 800.594.TIXX, www.soulkitchenmobile.com, and the mellow mushroom
 - Saturday, May 31 - The Uglstick w/ Hamlin opening, \$7/door
 - Saturday, June 7 - U.S., \$7/door
 - Friday, June 20 - The Benjy Davis Project, \$8/door
 - Saturday, June 21 - The Dave Mathews Tribute Band, \$10/door
 - Friday, June 27 - The Velcro Pygmies, \$8/door
 - Saturday, June 28 - Wrong Way -----tribute to SUBLIME, \$8/door

Transportation and Parking Updates

As gas heads north of \$4.00 a gallon many drivers across the country are becoming passengers. Mass transit systems in cities both large and small are reporting record ridership numbers as folks choose to climb aboard buses, subways and trains instead of making that painful stop at the pump.



We're seeing this national trend in Mobile as well. The Wave Transit reports 88,500 passenger trips in April, a 5% increase over March. Even more impressive is the growth Bayline is experiencing. This commuter bus service between the Eastern Shore and downtown began in November 2007 with 394 passenger trips. By April ridership had risen to 873 trips, a 12% increase.

Public transportation of course won't work for everyone every day, which means folks driving downtown will eventually have to find a place to park. This can be a challenge that will only get worse as more businesses open and former lots are converted to other uses. The Downtown Mobile Alliance has been working with the Mayor's Parking Working Task Force on developing long and short term solutions to parking issues and shortages and has finalized recommendations to present to

Mayor Sam Jones. The final report recommends the immediate creation of 200-300 on-street parking spaces. This should ease parking pressures somewhat while longer term solutions, including the upgrading of parking lots and the construction of decks, are considered.

[The Wave Transit System](#)

Pet Store Rounds up for Charity to Help Downtown



Shop **B&B Pet Stop** in the month of June and you'll be able to contribute to Main Street Mobile at the same time! When you stop in at the Cottage Hill Road pet store for food or toys or even a new feathered or furry friend, you'll be asked whether you'd like to round up your purchase to the nearest dollar. When you say, "yes," the money will go to help with the public landscaping program of Main Street Mobile, one of the non-profit organizations operating under the umbrella of the Downtown Mobile Alliance.

Since the *Round-Up for Charity* program began in March 2007, B&B has raised more than \$17,000! The Trufant family, owners of B&B Pet Stop, has long been active in the arts and downtown redevelopment and says the effort is a win-win for everyone.

[Click here for B & B Pet Stop](#)

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 **Abraham Pincus Building** at 1 South Royal Street was designed in 1891 by Rudolph Benz. This whimsical four-story brick building is in the classic Queen Ann style. The east and south corners have turrets with pyramidal roofs. The building also has a variety of decorative motifs and cast iron balconies.

[Take a virtual walking tour](#)

New Plan for Old Mobile Work Continues



As urban planners with EDSA continue to work on the New Plan for Old Mobile, individuals and organizations continue to contribute to Main Street Mobile's commitment the help fund the effort. To date we have received more than \$50,000 toward our \$100,000 goal.

The most recent donors, all in the Friends of Planning category, are the **Old Dauphin Way Association** and

Dee Gambill, who leveraged her donation with a matching gift from **Regions Bank**.

[For comple list of donors](#)

Tour Brings Real Estate Professionals Downtown

Dozens of Realtors took to the streets of downtown this week searching for new residential properties and clues to a scavenger hunt. In an effort to familiarize area real estate professionals with downtown residential opportunities, the Downtown Mobile Alliance organized a tour of five condominium projects.

To make things even more interesting and to provide exposure to downtown's many shopping, dining and entertainment options, the Realtors could also participate in a scavenger hunt. Many thanks to our sponsor of the event, **Guarantee Title**, and to all the downtown businesses that contributed prizes for those intrepid real estate professionals who completed the hunt.



Downtown Doings

Some Upcoming Events in Downtown Mobile



War circa 1970, Public reception, Friday, May 30th,
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
MDi media group, 601 Government Street

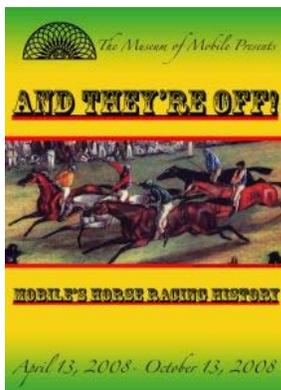
In a "life comes full circle" moment, local ad man Don Davis discovered his uncle studied advertising and graphic design in college before heading to Vietnam in 1970. As happened to so many young men of his generation, Richard Davis did not make it back, but Don's parents recently found the portfolio that led to the creation of this exhibit, an exhibit that demonstrates that dreams often do live on, though sometimes they must wait for the next generation.

Through Sunday, Jun 01, 2008

OUR BODY: The Universe Within, an awe-inspiring blockbuster exhibit featuring actual human bodies



will premiere at the **Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center** on January 11, 2008. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the elegant design of the human body's form and function up-close in an artful, compelling and dignified environment. **OUR BODY: The Universe Within** is an educational exhibit featuring actual human bodies. Spanning more than 7,500 square feet, the inspirational human anatomy lesson is comprised of more than 11 whole-body specimens and 75 anatomical displays that have been preserved through polymer impregnation. For more information please call 1(877)625-4FUN or visit the website listed below.
www.exploreum.net



Through Monday, Oct 13, 2008

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

Saturdays through Jul 26
 7:30 a.m. until 11 a.m.

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



Saturday, May 31, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Summer Library Program

The Mobile Public Library will kick off its Summer Library Program on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. until noon at the **Ben May Main Library** at 701 Government Street and at all branch locations. Last year, more than 15,000 children participated, making the program the largest in the state. The program, which runs through July 12, encourages children to set a reading goal for the summer and record their progress in a special reading log. This year, children will receive a Mobile Public Library book bag.



Saturday, May 31, 2008 - Sunday, Jun 01, 2008

You're invited to the ultimate celebration of women at the Gulf Coast Women's Expo, May 31st - June 1st at the Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall! Visit hundreds of exhibits for lots of shopping, free samples and prize giveaways. Plus, enjoy free demonstrations, free seminars, celebrity appearances and much more! This is the largest event on the Gulf Coast for women with over 100 exhibits featuring products and services from fitness to fashion to finances.

Hours are 10a-6p Saturday and 12p-6p Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults. Kids 12 & under are admitted free with \$1 donation to American Cancer Society.
www.gulfcoastwomensshow.com

Thursday, Jun 05, 2008 - Thursday, Jul 10, 2008

Bring the kids out for some summertime fun to Bienville Square each Thursday through July 10th and enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts and visits from The Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the Mobile Police and Fire Departments and much more! Free. From 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

www.mainstreetmobile.org



Friday, June 6, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Lemonade "Stand Against MS"

The Mobile Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators will host the Lemonade "Stand Against MS" in support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, on Friday June 6th 9:00 til 6:00 pm. The stand will be located in front of Lyons, Pipes & Cook adjacent to the Battle House Hotel on Royal Street. In addition to walk-up sales, businesses are encouraged to purchase lemonade and cookies for their employees or make a donation to The National MS Society. For more information, please call David Constantine at 251-441-8215.



Saturday, Jun 07, 2008 - Sunday, Jun 15, 2008

The Exploreum kicks off an exciting summer line-up with educational tiger demonstrations

presented by the Marcan Tiger Preserve! June 7-15, **Live Bengal Tigers** will prowl downtown Mobile on the county green area adjacent to the Exploreum. Three demos will be presented Monday - Saturday at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. On Sunday two shows will be presented: at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Admission is free with the purchase of an Exploreum combo ticket. Individual tickets for the educational demonstrations will be \$5. www.exploreum.com

Friday, June 13, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fridays @ 5, this department's answer to the questions: what to do downtown on a Friday after work, is a musical street party that places local, live musicians in public square and on street corners as a prelude to the LoDa ArtWalk. Stroll the Cathedral Square Arts District and LoDa West to visit galleries, funky shops and larger institutions as they open their doors and invite you to see their works of art.



The event is family friendly and free.

From 5 until 9 p.m.

www.ncsmobile.org

Friday, June 13th, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tour Carriage Works Condominiums

While you enjoy the art and music of the LoDa Artwalk, be sure to stop in at 709 Dauphin Street to see the unveiling of the latest addition to downtown living. Wine and cheese will be served as you get a taste of urban living in the beautifully decorated model unit. An exhibition of art works by Missy Patrick will also be on display.

www.drummondgrouponline.com

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

Ernie Haase And Signature Sound

Friday, Jun 13, 2008

Saenger Theatre

7:00 PM

Signature Sound burst onto the Gospel music



scene with energy and excitement, just a few short years ago. A 10-year veteran of one of the greatest quartets in Gospel music, The Cathedrals, upon launching his own quartet, Haase wanted to create a team that was all 21st century in image and attitude, yet whose stage performance and musical material borrowed liberally from the great quartets of the 1950s, such as the legendary Statesmen. It's most evident, with the assistance of lead singer Ryan Seaton, baritone Doug Anderson and bass singer Tim Duncan, Haase has achieved this task.

Tickets are on sale now!!!!

Tickets are \$25 and \$20 (plus service charges).

www.trinitycommunications.org

Wednesdays, June 18, July 24 and August 13. 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Med School Cafe

Spend your lunch hour at the Museum 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.



Carrie Underwood

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mobile Civic Center

7:30 pm (doors at 6:30 pm)

Carrie Underwood with Special Guest Jason Michael Carroll

Ticket Prices: \$49.75 and \$39.75 (plus applicable fees)

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased 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.

Artist Website: www.carrieunderwoodofficial.com; www.jasonmichaelcarroll.com

Kenny Lattimore And Chante' Moore

Friday, June 20, 2008 At 08:00 PM

Saenger Theatre



He embodies the elements of traditional R&B with a decidedly contemporary flavor and feel and in the space of just under a decade, Kenny Lattimore has established himself as a soulful song stylist of the first order. Whether putting a distinctive stamp on classic songs recorded by such musical icons as Donny Hathaway ("I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know") and George Harrison ("While My Guitar Gently Weeps"), creating his own legacy of hits such as "Never Too Busy," the 1996 ballad "For You" and 2001's "Weekend" or duetting with his

wife, Chanté Moore on two stellar albums (the 2003 release "Things That Lovers Do" and 2005's "Uncovered"), Kenny's style combines passion, sensuality, intensity and subtlety, making him one of today's premier black male vocalists.

Please check www.mobilesaenger.com for more info.



National Finals

Wednesday, June 25 through Saturday, June 28

The 50 state Junior Misses will arrive in Mobile in early June 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. Tickets go on sale in early May. Obtain more information from the website below or call (251)438-3621.

www.ajm.org

Southern Gothic Now

Through Sunday, Jul 06, 2008

Southern Gothic Now will be an exhibition of contemporary art works that embody the characteristics associated with the subgenre of the Gothic writing style, unique to American literature.

The work featured will use supernatural, ironic, or unusual events to engage the viewer. What makes Southern Gothic unique to American literature, and our region is its use of these tools not for the exclusive sake of horror-based entertainment or shock value, but rather to air social issues and reveal the cultural character of the region.



For more gallery information visit: www.myspace.com/space301mobile or www.space301.com

Art Biz Connection Salon Members' Exhibition, Doorways to Preservation: This Place Matters and Postcards from the Edge of Extinction

*Through Friday, May 30. Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM. Free
Mobile Arts Council (318 Dauphin St)*

Three exhibitions: works by the seven artists who participated in the area's first art marketing salon, following the model of Alyson Stanfield (www.artbizcoach.com): Loran Chavez, Derald Eastman, Ed Edwards, Carolyn Greene, Tracy Host, Mary Rodning and Kate Seawell; a National Preservation Month show with art by students of St. Mary Catholic School, Little Flower Catholic School and Sarah Haas Studio; paintings on old postcards by Val Webb, spotlighting some of the planet's most critically endangered animals. **Contact:** 251-432-9796/ www.mobilearts.org

Painting the Town Red

*Cathedral Square Gallery (NEW LOCATION: 612 Dauphin St)
Through Sat, May 31. Tue - Sat, 11 AM - 6 PM; Sun, 1 - 5 PM. Free.*

Works by more than 60 local artists, featuring artists Steve Dark, Lolita Dickinson, Kate Seawell, Linda Hall Tenhundfeld, Shelly Ingersoll and Suzanne Damrich; spotlighting the American Heart Association.

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

Inherent Tendency - Cognition is an Immanent Act of Mind

*Through May 31. Wed-Sun, 8PM-2AM
Bacchus (54 S Conception St)*

New works by Timothy Ellzey. 50% of all sales benefitsthe Mobile SPCA. 6 - 9 PM.

Lydia Host: 80 MPH

*Chesser Gallery (306 Dauphin St)
Wed - Sat, 11 AM - 2 PM or by appointment.*

Contact: 251-591-7877/ www.chesserartgallery.org

[For a complete list of events...](#)

Sincerely,

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Downtown Mobile Alliance

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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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