



September 2022 | Vol. 21, No. 9

-Chamber News



SEPTEMBER CHAMBER LUNCHEON



Wed., September 21: "BACK TO SCHOOL" Guest Speakers from Montevallo Elementary, Montevallo Middle and Montevallo High Parnell Library / Networking 11:30am Lunch - noon \$12 ea /

RSVP by Monday September 19 to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com /

Caterer- SouthernSweets / Luncheon Sponsor - Regions Bank

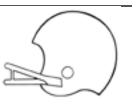


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Montevallo Nutrition, 746 Main Street, 205-626-8020



SEPTEMBER



2nd FRIDAY MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL vs Hale County at MHS, 7pm

5th MONDAY LABOR DAY

6th TUESDAY IMPACT MONTEVALLO COALITION VIRTUAL MEETING

9:00am / email - impactmontevallo@gmail.com for link

8th THURSDAY

MHS HOMECOMING PARADE

6pm / Downtown Montevallo Community Pep Rally @ Theron Fisher Stadium

9th FRIDAY

MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL vs Dallas County at MHS, 7pm / Homecoming

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE COVE

Swanglish / 6:30pm - 8:30pm / Owl's Cove Park Smokey Joe's BBQ / M&M Lemonade Sponsored by Team Lehman

10th SATURDAY
4th Annual TINGLEWOOD FESTIVAL

All Woodworking Event
Orr Park / 9am to 5pm / Free Admission /
Chainsaw Carving Expo, Artist & Food Vendors,
Children's Area, Wooden Boat Race, Axe Throwing,
Cars by the Creek, Live Music! tinglewoodfestival.com

CARS BY THE CREEK

20th Annual / Orr Park 9am registration / 9am - 3pm

11th SUNDAY PATRIOT DAY / Remembrance of 9-11

GRANDPARENTS DAY

21st WEDNESDAY

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER MONTHLY LUNCHEON

"Back to School" Guest Speakers from Montevallo Elementary, Montevallo Middle and Montevallo High. Parnell Library / 11:30am / Lunch - noon / \$12. each RSVP by Monday September 19th to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com / Caterer- Southern Sweets / Luncheon Sponsor - Regions Bank 16th FRIDAY
MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
vs West Blocton at West Blocton 7pm

22nd THURSDAY **THE BOXCAR CHILDREN**MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre, 7:30pm

FIRST DAY OF FALL

23rd FRIDAY MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL vs Jemison High at JHS, 7pm

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN
MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre, 7:30pm

24th SATURDAY THE BOXCAR CHILDREN MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre, 7:30pm

ALABAMA PET PANTRY 2-3pm / Distribution of Dog & Cat Food Shelby Emergency Assistance parking lot

25th SUNDAY THE BOXCAR CHILDREN MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre,2:00pm

3Oth FRIDAY MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL vs Sipsey Valley at Sipsey Valley 7pm

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For additional information about how to become a Chamber Business Partner contact Chamber Director Adele Nelson (205) 665-1519



HIGHWAY 25 | MONTEVALLO, AL 35115 | 205-665-5124

Montevallo Historical Society...



Everyone remembers what a great time that was experienced by the attendees of the Gala I in 2019 which honored the Mahler family. The food, fun and camaraderie was unmatched in every way and we all so looked forward to more fun the following year. Of course, the pandemic altered our plans for two years but now, Gala II, the primary fundraiser for the Montevallo Historical Society will happen October 1.

Chef Keith Hoffert, will be bringing the cuisine that he honed as executive chef of American Queen Steamboat Company, American Cruise Lines, and restaurants in the panhandle of Florida. Chef Hoffert earned a degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson and Wales in Charleston, S.C. and has since been creating meals for celebrities, athletes, governors and now those in attendance of Gala II at the Fox and Pheasant Inn at 540 Shelby Street. Dinner. drinks, music, Montevallo Trivia contest, and silent auction items will all be a part of the evening.



Chef Keith Hoffert

The Kroell family who were early settlers and entrepreneurs are this years honorees. When George Kroell completed his elaborate three story Victorian mansion in 1900, it was soon recognized throughout the region as a unique landmark on Montevallo's Main Street. A clever family member began calling the house, "Owl's Cove", because of a life-size decorative owl figurine mounted over a doorway leading into a compact "alcove" just off the foyer. The name stuck and has been used ever since.

Owl's Cove was sold and torn down in 1967, but the stories of the house and the family that lived there for 65 years have remained strong and fascinating for those who came after them. In recent years, the City of Montevallo even christened a landscaped section of the old lot where the Kroell house once stood as, "Owl's Cove Park".

Kroell descendants recently made a substantial and valuable donation to the Montevallo Historical Society, so in recognition of their philanthropy and place in the history of the town, we are gratified to name the legendary Kroell Family as the Honoree of the Montevallo Historical Society's Gala 2022.

To learn more about the MHS Gala and purchase tickets please call 205 567 9659 or look for the insert in this issue of the Chamber Chatter.









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www.historicmontevallo.org

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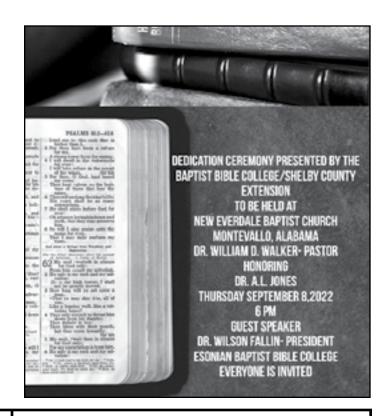
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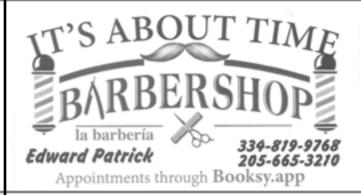
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Congratulations!



Montevallo Police announce promotions (I-r) Investigator Dustin Gray, Chief Jeremy Littleton, and Officer Todd Burr.

MPS ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

The Montevallo Police Department is honored to announce the promotion of Investigator Dustin Gray and Officer Todd Burr to the rank of Sergeant. Both officers represent our department with the utmost honor, integrity and continuous dedication to our city.

Congratulations to both Sergeant Investigator Gray and Sergeant Burr as they transition into their new roles!



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Everybody's stories matter. It's not just a matter of nostalgia, it powers us into the present and the future. -- Barack Obama Vol. 2 No. 12

THE "LITTLE SCHOOL" ON ISLAND STREET

In towns all over the South, the schools in Black communities were a source of pride that inspired loyalty. -- Annette Gordon-Reed, *On Juneteenth*

A small wooden school house for negro children once stood at the corner of Island and Bloch Streets in a Black community then known as Jacksonville. This school, nearly forgotten today, taught some of Montevallo's most admired female teachers, among them Barbara Belisle, the first African American to teach at Montevallo HS, and Kathlyn Lathion, a retired special ed teacher, recently honored as a "Hometown Hero." The "little school," as it was affectionately known, set these little girls on a path where they would become outstanding lifelong educators.

Equally deserving of admiration is Onnie Dell Fluker, a "little school" student who would go on to teach and to write a history of early Black education in Shelby County. Her nephew, James Salter, remembers his Aunt Dell as "a very soft-spoken person and teacher who always found an opportunity to teach a lesson... whether it was at home, the school house, or the church house. It is why her hundreds of students loved her."



Onnie Dell Fluker, a lifelong teacher, 1918-2015

This soft-spoken teacher exemplifies the fierce pride women of her generation took in their profession. After she retired in 1980, she wrote "Schools for Blacks in Shelby County," most likely because she feared this history might be forgotten. Remarkably, her account has been preserved in a folder of loose papers in the archives in Columbiana, two-and-a-half typewritten pages signed "Onnie Dell Fluker, a retired teacher." She saw to it that the story of Black schools did not go untold.

"Before and during the early twenties," she writes, "there were 'colored' schools dotted all over Shelby County. Most were held in churches. A few had school houses." Montevallo was one of the few. As early as 1924, our town was fortunate to have a two-room school house furnished with potbelly heaters and two salaried teachers paid by the county. (They made \$40-\$45 a month.) The facility was primitive, however. "None of the early schools had running water or indoor plumbing. There were no electric lights.

The building was in such bad shape that in 1932 the state board of education marked it for "immediate abandonment."

It would continue in use through 1939, however, when an elementary school in Almont opened. Until then children from all over Montevallo, even those "across the creek," walked to the school in Jacksonville. Kathlyn Lathion remembers vividly the horrible day in April 1939 when a tornado ripped through town, destroying Shiloh Missionary Baptist on Selma Road. There were so many powerlines down she had to be carried home on the back of her cousin Willie Bell. She still recalls the fear of being carried over the wooden bridge above Shoal Creek.



A typical two-room wooden school house like the one on Island Street.

After 1939, the little wooden school house fell into disuse. Long-time resident Patricia Walker, known to many today as "Miss Trish," remembers how as a curious child she played in the abandoned school house. She describes it as "fallen in," a "shanty," a tiny space with a stage at one end, benches (no desks), and a blackboard on the wall.

In the late 40s, Fluker's parents, O. C. and Mary Eliza Cunningham, were forced to sell their house on Main Street to make way for the FHA housing that opened in 1952. They bought the nearby school house property, added onto and fixed up the building, and turned it into the family dwelling. It seems fitting that for the rest of her life Fluker would make her home in the renovated school house.

The opening of the all-white Montevallo Elementary School across the street in 1964 created provocative ironies. She later reflected on her complicated feelings about integration:

Several years ago, we purchased the 'Little School House" and remodeled it into a dwelling house, where we now live. In front, on a hill, sits a new formerly all-white school. I was often teased about teaching there where I could walk to school. When integration came to the county, I was invited by the Principal and the Supt. to teach there. I was also approached by several business people who suggested that I should be the one to "Cross over" there.

But she would not be the one to "cross over": "I feel that I belong with my people. I understand them and their problems" ("Mini Revelations: A Short Autobiography").

In 2011, aged 93, Onnie Dell Fluker was presented the key to the City of Montevallo, and rightly so. This soft-spoken woman, a lifelong teacher, kept alive her pride in her people and her dedication to the history of their schooling.

Photos courtesy of James Salter.

Submitted by Kathy King & Anitka Stewart Sims. Contact us at Movaltrail@gmail.com. We want to hear your stories and welcome correction of any errors of fact or interpretation.



Pictured: Don Simmer, Nancy Simmer, Dr. Kathryn King

THE SHELBY COUNTY FREEDOM FUND BANQUET AND AWARD RECEPTION

On Saturday, August 13th the Shelby County NAACP honored the Reverend Albert L. Jones for his lifetime of Civil Rights work and his foundational role the in the founding of the Shelby County NAACP at their Freedom Fund Banquet. The guest speaker was Pastor Van C. Houser of the New Vision Christian Church in Helena.

Dr. Kathryn King was presented with the President's Award for her work on the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail. Other honorees included Nancy Simmer, Don Simmer, Sheila Truss and Kendralyn Houser.

Recognition was also given to the Shelby County Omegas and the AKAs for their work in supporting the Shelby County NAACP.

MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

AUG. 26 SHELBY COUNTY ()-()
SEPT. 2**HALE COUNTY ()-()
SEPT. 9* Dallas County ()-()
SEPT. 16at .West Blocton ()-()
SEPT. 23at Jemison High ()-()
SEPT. 30 at Sipsey Valley ()-()
OCT. 7 Bibb County ()-()
OCT. 14at Holt High ()-()
OCT. 21 at American Christian ()-()
OCT. 28

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TUESDAY NIGHTS

Margarita Special from 5 to 9 pm Regular or Strawberry Margarita Small 16 oz. \$3.50 Medium 28 oz. \$5.50

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Buy One Dinner A thru L Combination Get 2nd Dinner for \$2.50 (NO SUBSTITUTIONS! DINE-IN ONLY)

THURSDAY NIGHTS from 5 to 9 pm All Domestic Beer, American or Mexican \$2.25 EACH

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CITY OF MONTEVALLO NEWS

Mayor's Message...

Hello citizens of the great City of Montevallo! I hope everyone is well. The end of this month means that Fall is almost here and cooler weather is on its way. We have had a very hot summer and I am glad to see the triple-digit heat is on its way out. Shelby County Schools (MES, MMS, and MHS) are back in



RUSTY NIX, MAYOR

session and it's great to see all our students getting in the swing of the new school year. I am excited to see that students at the University of Montevallo are back in town and exploring the city. The arrival of Fall also means that high school football season is here, and I am looking forward to an outstanding year for the Montevallo Bulldogs. Go Dawgs!!

I am happy to report that there are two city projects that are in the finishing stages. The first project is the construction of additional restrooms at Stephens Park. The restrooms were much needed as the travel ball circuit has increased over the years and brings 1,000+ people to our ballpark on most weekends. When the park was built 26 years ago, we had no idea that its use would grow this large and that more facilities would be needed to accommodate a much larger group of players and spectators. The second project is Storm Shelter No. 2 behind Fire Station No. 1. This Storm Shelter gives us the capacity for another 96 persons in the event of a severe weather event. All that is left to the completion of this project is hooking up the plumbing for the two ADA compliant restrooms.

I would also like to report that we should soon see the turning of dirt on the sidewalk project from Lucky's Foodland to Pic 'n Sav. I will be glad to see this project underway. In addition, we will be reapplying for a grant for improvements at and around the Moores Crossroads intersection. The northern part of Montevallo is where much of the new residential growth is happening. This area is one of the gateways into our city and improvements are needed regarding safety and appearance.

The City of Montevallo is in the early stages of planning a community/recreation center. The city has hired Dewayne Moore Foundation LLC to help coordinate with this project. Dewayne and his team have many years of experience in developing similar facilities. His team will start with two Citizen's Feedback Surveys to guide project planning and gain Community buy-in. Dewayne was born and raised in Montevallo, and we are excited for his involvement with this project.

Fundraising for a memorial park bench honoring Dr. Earl Cunningham is still underway. Donations are being accepted at Regions Bank in Montevallo. There are also a few fundraising projects for the bench in the planning stages, so be on the lookout for the announcement of these events.

Friday Nights at Owl's Cove Park events are still going on with bands playing on September 9th and October 7th from 6:30-8:30. Food trucks will also be onsite. This event is sponsored by Montevallo Main Street. Please come out for

some family friendly entertainment. Do not forget your chair or blanket!

Tinglewood Festival will be held on September 10th, 2022. This event will be held in our beautiful Orr Park from 9 am-5 pm. This is one of our largest events in Montevallo and draws 7,000+ visitors to our city. The event will feature Cars by the Creek show, many forms of wood artist vendors, a chainsaw carving expo, children's activities, wooden boat race, food trucks, bands, and more.

The city received new bids for garbage services, and I am sorry to report that our fees will be increasing to \$30.00 per month. Two companies responded to the open bid request and Republic came in with the lower bid. The rise in fuel prices and dump fees are a factor in the elevated rates. I believe that this is the first price increase we have had for garbage service in 12 years.

On a bright note, we have paid off the fire truck! This keeps our ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating at 2 which is almost unheard of for a volunteer fire department. An excellent ISO rating helps ensure that your insurance premiums are lower and provides the fire protection we need in relation to the fire load that we have.

Please remember to shop Montevallo first. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

GO DAWGS!



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There is a new P.E.O. chapter forming in Shelby County! Learn about P.E.O. and how you can support women in your community through P.E.O.'s six philanthropies.

Thursday, September 15 – 1:00 PM Parnell Memorial Library, 200 Park Drive, Montevallo, AL

> For more information contact Sylvia Sheffield ssheffield 108@gmail.com

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SEPTEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesdays at 10am, Mini Music

Wednesdays at 9:15am, Storytime with Mr. Mac

Sep. 1 – Sep. 30: **Parnell Memorial Library Diaper Drive**, benefitting Bundles of Hope. Drop off your donations at the library and receive a certificate good for Fine Forgiveness for Parnell Library-owned items in the month of September!

Saturday, Sep. 3 – Monday, Sep. 5: **Library CLOSED** for Labor Day weekend

Sep. 6: **Take Home Craft Kit:** Coffee Filter Butterflies. Available while supplies last!

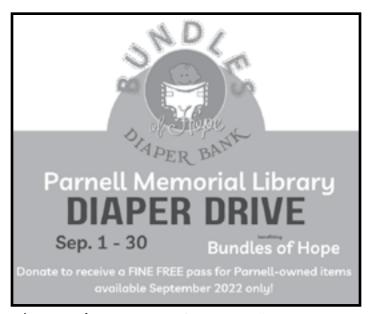
Tuesday, Sep. 13: **Kid's Movie**, 3:30 pm. New release kid's movie on the big screen! Call library for title.

Tuesday, Sep. 20: **Sweets and Eats Take Home Kit:** Butterfly snacks. Available while supplies last

Tuesday, Sep. 20, from 3 – 6 pm: Flu & Covid-19 vaccine clinic. Sponsored by City of Montevallo and Montevallo Drug. No appointments required, walk-ins welcome!

Monday, Sep. 26 at 2:00 pm: **Classic Movie Monday.** Enjoy a movie from the '40s, '50s, '60s, & '70s in the Parnell Library Theatre. Call library for title.

Friday, Sep. 30 from 10am – 5pm: **Fall Plant Swap**. Bring your plants, cuttings, and seeds to swap with others, and discover your new favorite plant. Drop-by event.







Welcome Back UM Students!



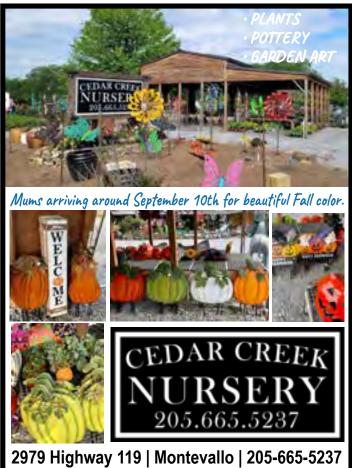
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MHS Jazz Band	9am
Chase Stewart	
Mother May I	11:45am
2 BLU & The Lucky Stiffs	
Cars by the Creek	.9am - 3pm
Artist Vendor Area	.9am - 5pm
Food Vendor Area	.9am - 5pm
Tim's Whittling Contest	



CHILDREN'S AREA ACTIVITIES 9am - 5pm

"Make & Take" Art
Dr. Bob's Traveling Snake Show
Inflatables
Alabama Wildlife Center
The Balloon Guy
Petting Zoo



Tinglewood Festival is located in Montevallo, Alabama, on Park Drive, within the grounds of Orr Park.

From Birmingham AL (taking I-65 South)

Wooden Boat Race.....4pm

- Take Exit 234 Shelby County Airport
- + Turn left onto Co Rd 87
- Go straight 4.9 miles and at the end CO RD 87, turn right onto Co Rd 22 W
- Go 2.8 miles and turn left onto Hwy TI9 S (Montevallo Road)
- Go 4.3 miles, Hwy TI9 becomes Main St., at second red light turn left onto N. Boundary St. (between Regions Bank & McDonald's)
- . Turn left onto Island St. and turn right onto Park Dr.

From Montgomery AL (taking I-65 North)

- Take Exit 228 Montevallo/Calera
- + Turn left onto Hwy 25 S
- . At 1st traffic light, turn left onto Hwy 31 S
- At 2nd traffic light, turn right onto Hwy 25 S (between CV5 & Calera Intermediate School)
- Go 6.1 miles and at red light, turn slight right onto Middle St. (after passing Pic 'n Sav Shopping Center)
- . Go 0.2 miles turn right onto Island St and right onto Park Dr.

FREE PUBLIC PARKING

Free public parking is located at Montevallo Elementary School, the lots off Island St. behind Regions Bank, and McDonald's. Handicap Accessible Parking will be available on Park Dr. at the Main Entrance.



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On December 17, 2022 at 12:00 pm, the Montevallo City Cemetery will participate in the national Wreaths Across America laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of local veterans buried there. The event is sponsored by the Monteval-Io Historical Society. We hope to have 100 holiday wreaths ready to install on Dec. 17. Visit www.historicmontevallo.org if you would like to place an online order for live wreaths (\$15 each) to honor specific loved ones or to help us reach our overall goal of 100 memorial wreaths.

If you have questions, please click 💹 on the order page.



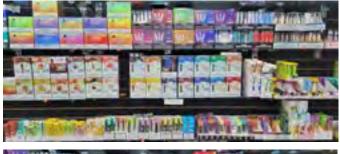






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COMMUNITY OPENIAGES E

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Elder Justice Center of Alabama

4804 Highway 25 Montevallo, AL 35115

More info: rjames@m4a.org

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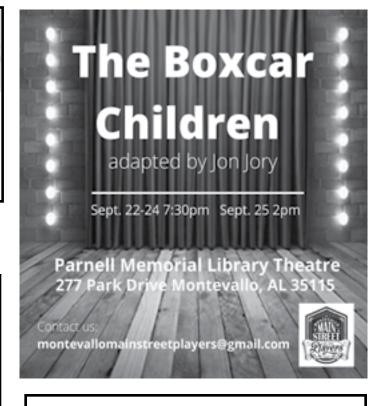
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PLEASE CONTACT INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR UPDATES. Thank You!

EVERY 2ND & 4TH MONDAY

City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 5:30 p.m. Work Session

EVERY 2ND MONDAY

MDCD Montevallo Development Cooperative

1 p.m., Meets at City Hall

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY

Historical Commission, 6:0 p.m., City Hall

EVERY TUESDAY Ladies Bible Study - Community Wide 10:00-11:00 am, Montevallo First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

EVERY TUESDAY -

7-8:30 pm, Montevallo Community Chorale meets at Choir Room of Davis Hall on UM Campus.

EVERY WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

Aldrich Coal Mine Museum and Farrington Hall is OPEN from 10 a.m. until 4 pm

EVERY THURSDAY

Rotary Meeting, noon, City Hall

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall

EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

Montevallo Water & Sewer Board Meeting, 9:00

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY MORNING

Clothes Giveaway, St. Andrews Episcopal Parish Hall 925 Plowman Street, Montevallo, 8 am-noon





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ALABAMA BIKE RIDING LAWS

Alabama was ranked the 39th most bicycle friendly state by The League of American Bicyclists in its 2017 survey. Areas being considered in this ranking include: infrastructure & funding, education & encouragement, legislation & enforcement, policies & programs, and evaluation & planning. Alabama's best ranking was in infrastructure & funding for cycling projects, and our lowest ranking was in legislation and enforcement. We need to improve our laws to improve this score, but until then, motorists and cyclists need to have a better understanding of Alabama's existing bike laws. Here are the laws we receive the most frequent questions about:

Bicycle = Vehicle (Ala. Code §§32-1-1.1(81); 32-5A-260): A person riding a bicycle has all the rights and duties of the driver of a vehicle. This includes the same penalties for driving while intoxicated or under the influence of controlled substances (Ala. Code §§32-5A-191; 22-27-90). As a cyclist, it's important to follow the rules of the road, both for safety and to leave motorists with a positive impression of cyclists!

Helmet Law For Minors (Ala. Code §§32-5A-283; 32-5A-285): Whether you are the operator or passenger, a helmet is required for anyone under the age of 16 while riding in public. Thus, those over the age of 16 can make their own

decision as to whether they want to wear a helmet.

Lights & Reflectors (Ala. Code §§32-5A-265): While riding at night, a WHITE front-facing light visible for at least 500 feet and a RED rear-facing reflector visible between 100-600 feet when illuminated by a vehicle headlights are both required. A rear light is not required, but will further improve your safety.

Where to ride (Ala. Code §§32-5A-263): Wherever there is a usable path for bicycles adjacent to the roadway (such as a bike lane), a cyclist should use that path. When riding on the road, bicyclists should ride as far to the right as "practicable" - this means that while you should normally stay within 2 feet of the right side of the lane, if there are obstructions or issues with road quality, you can move further into the lane. Also, while some folks feel safer on the sidewalk, cycling on the sidewalk is prohibited under Alabama law (Ala. Code §§32-5A-52).

3-Feet Passing Law (Ala. Code §§32-5A-82) Alabama has a 3-foot law! Motorists shall give cyclists at least 3 feet of space while passing them given that they are no more than 2 feet from the shoulder of the road. The passing vehicle should give you more than half the lane in space to comply with this law, and ideally they will give you the whole lane as they pass.

While at times being on the roads seems scary for cyclists. following the rules and keeping alert around motorists will help you stay safe and minimize motorist-cyclist conflict! ValloCycle is Alabama's oldest citywide bike share. For more information visit vallocycle.com, contact vallocycle@ gmail.com, or find us on Facebook.



Catch us at Home!



OPPONENT	SPORT	DATE	TIME
Clayton State	Women's Soccer	Sept. 2	5 p.m.
Young Harris	Women's Soccer	Sept. 5	1 p.m.
Full Moon Invite	M/W Golf	Sept. 12-13	TBA
Falcon Classic	M/W Cross Country	Sept. 16	TBA
Christian Brothers	Women's Soccer	Sept. 16	5 p.m.
Mississippi College	Volleyball	Sept. 16	6 p.m.
Christian Brothers	Men's Soccer	Sept. 16	7:30 p.m.
West Alabama	Volleyball	Sept. 17	2 p.m.
Union	Women's Soccer	Sept. 18	1 p.m.
Union	Men's Soccer	Sept. 18	3:30 p.m.
Shorter	Men's Soccer	Sept. 23	6 p.m.
Alabama-Huntsville	Volleyball	Sept. 24	2 p.m.

MILITARY MOMENT

Submitted by Traci Crenshaw, Director, UM Office of Veteran & Military Affairs



September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, and as such, we recognize the following observances:

- September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day
- September 4-10: National Suicide Prevention Week

Veterans die by suicide at a substantially higher rate than the general population. That is truer in Alabama, with a suicide rate for veterans that exceeds national figures. The first thing to know, if you are a Veteran and considering suicide, or are concerned that a loved one is considering suicide, you're urged to call: The Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, and Press 1. There are trained counselors and resources immediately available.

With the state ranking second nationally in this terrible category, the Alabama Legislature and the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs have authorized a new study committee to examine the problem and make recommendations on what Alabama can do to help. Dr. John Campbell, Director of Mental Health at the Birmingham VA, says, "The veteran population experiences about 20 percent higher suicide rates than the civilian population just in general. And, the South and Alabama, in particular, have a higher veteran rate than even the rest of the country."

"Suicide is a significant public health issue. The entire month of September carries a simple, potentially life-saving message: suicide is preventable," said Devereux's Director of Clinical and Professional Affairs, Megan Russell. It's a growing problem, and the numbers tell a shocking story. Every 40 seconds, someone takes their own life according to the World Health Organization (WHO). That's about 800,000 people worldwide every year — although some estimates put that number closer to 1 million. Suicide is the leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 29, and for every suicide that results in death, there are as many as 40 attempted suicides.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, depression and other brain disorders are leading risk factors of suicide, followed by alcohol and drug addiction.

Here are a few warning signs of suicide:

- Increased alcohol and drug use
- Aggressive behavior
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and community
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior



Suicidal behaviors are a psychiatric emergency. They include:

- Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon
- Giving away possessions
- Tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts
- Saying goodbye to friends and family

Research has found that 46% of people who die by suicide had a known mental health condition. Several other things may put a person at risk of suicide, including:

- A family history of suicide
- Substance use. Drugs can create mental highs and lows that worsen suicidal thoughts.
- Intoxication. More than 1 in 3 people who die from suicide are under the influence of alcohol at the time of death.
- Access to firearms
- A serious or chronic medical illness
- Gender. Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are nearly 4x more likely to die by suicide.
- A history of trauma or abuse
- Prolonged stress
- A recent tragedy or loss

Veteran or not, all of us need someone's help at some point in our lives. Please do not be afraid to reach out for help, for yourself or for someone else, who is suffering. Worst case scenario, you're mistaken and they didn't need your help. Best case, you help save someone's life, perhaps, even your own.





CO.STARTERS

Want to start your first business, or change the direction of your existing business? You're invited to sign up for CO.STARTERS!

CO.STARTERS Core is a three-month, cohort-based program that equips entrepreneurs of all kinds with the insights, relationships, and tools needed to turn business ideas into action.

Our Fall 2022 cohort will meet in-person at the University of Montevallo Michael E. Stephens College of Business, Stephens Hall classroom 212. Classes will be held every week on Tuesdays from 6-9 PM, starting on September 13. Limited space is available. We are offering an introductory course fee of \$99 per entrepreneur.

Learn more and apply for your spot at this link: https:// www.cityofmontevallo.com/CO.STARTERS.aspx



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- OIL CHANGES
- ROTATE & BALANCE
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MONTEVALLO TO CELEBRATE

"SHAVINGS, SMOKE, AND SOUND" DURING
4th ANNUAL
TINGLEWOOD
FESTIVAL



Alabama's premier, all-woodworking art festival will celebrate "Shavings, Smoke, and Sound" during its 4th year in Montevallo's Orr Park on September 10, 2022. This All Star Shelby County Tourism and Recreation Award winning event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Enjoy a uniquely Montevallo event with live chainsaw wood carving, woodworking artist vendors, Tim Tingle's Whittling Contest, and a wooden boat race. Festival-goers will find everything from knives, wooden bowls, vases, jewelry, and toys, to handcrafted furniture, bird houses, ornaments, and more! There will also be a classic car show—the 20th Annual Cars by the Creek—a variety of children's activities, axe throwing, and food vendors on site.

Live music runs all day during the festival with a wide variety of styles. Musical acts include Montevallo High School Jazz Band, Chase Stewart, Mother May I, and 2BLU and The Lucky Stiffs!

The chainsaw carving exhibition will include a panel of well-known artists: Heather Bailey of Alabaster, Alabama; Justin Bailey of Alabaster, Alabama; Corey Lancaster of Princeton, North Carolina; Dave Marshalek of Shelbyville, Tennessee; and Justin Driver of Farmington, Kentucky. Artwork created during the festival will be available for purchase.

The 20th Annual Cars by the Creek car show welcomes all years, makes, and models of cars. Awards will be given to "Best of Decade," "Best of Show" for Cars and Trucks, and "Best 'Woodie." There will also be a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Children's activities will include a "make and take" art project, the "Balloon Guy," Dr. Bob's Traveling Snake Show, inflatables courtesy of JAC's Rentals, Alabama Wildlife Center show, a Petting Zoo and more.

Candlewood Suites Alabaster is the official hotel for the 2022 Tinglewood Festival. Call 205-620-0188 to inquire about special rates.

Tinglewood Festival is inspired by a special section of Orr Park, where local artist Tim Tingle has carved faces and creatures into the dead parts of living cedar trees since a fateful ice storm in 1993. The festival is organized by the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street, and the Montevallo Arts Collaborative as a signature event for the City of Montevallo.

For more information, visit tinglewoodfestival.com, or visit the "Tinglewood Festival" Facebook Page.



8 REASONS TO CHOOSE A REAL ESTATE AGENT OVER "FOR SALE BY OWNER"

Submitted by Susan Lehman, Team Lehman

Why it's worth getting a pro to sell your home

When you sell your home yourself—also known as "for sale by owner" (FSBO)—it may seem like a great way to save thousands of dollars. After all, the standard real estate agent's commission is 5% to 6%—that's \$12,500 to \$15,000 on a \$250,000 home. Given the size of this fee, you may think that acting as your own seller's agent will surely be worth the savings. Here are eight reasons why you may want to reconsider.

1. Realtors May Not Show a "For Sale By Owner" Home In an FSBO deal, the buyer's agent knows there won't be a professional colleague on the other end of the transaction. Even if a client insists on seeing your home, the agent might discourage making an offer, citing the hassles and risks of trying to close the deal without a professional representing the seller—and without a guaranteed commission.

If you want to be taken seriously by sellers' agents, get the best price, and make sure you don't miss any key steps in the process—or risk a lawsuit—it's better to use a real estate agent than to try to sell your home yourself.

2. Agents Avoid Emotional Sales

Selling your home is typically an emotional process. Having an agent keeps you one step removed and makes you less likely to make stupid mistakes, such as overpricing your home, refusing to counter a low offer because you're offended, or giving in too easily when you have a deadline for selling. A realtor can follow up without communicating a sense of eagerness or desperation; following up is their job.

If you forgo an agent, you'll also have to deal directly with rejection every time a buyer's agent tells you that the client isn't interested and it may be hard to get buyers to give you constructive feedback.

3. Real Estate Is a Full-Time Job

Can you rush home from work every time someone wants to see your home? Can you excuse yourself from a meeting every time your phone rings with a potential buyer? At the end of a long workday, do you have the energy to take advantage of every possible opportunity to market your home? Are you an expert in marketing homes?

Do you have any experience doing so? Your answer to all of these questions is probably "no." A qualified agent's answer to all of these questions is "yes." In addition, by going through an agent, you'll get a lockbox for your front door that allows agents to show your home even when you aren't available.

4. Agents Access Large Networks

Yes, you can list your home yourself on Zillow, Redfin, Craigslist, and even the multiple listing service (MLS) that agents use. But will that be enough? Even if you have a large personal or professional network, those people will likely have little interest in spreading the word that your house is for sale. You don't have relationships with clients, other agents, or a real estate agency to bring the largest pool of potential buyers to your home. In addition, real estate agencies have access to additional sites you may be unaware of. For example, Keller Williams lists their properties on over 400 different sites. A smaller pool of potential buyers means less demand for your property, which can translate into waiting longer to sell your home and possibly not getting as much money as your house is worth.

5. Weeding Out Unqualified Buyers

An agent can find out whether someone who wants to view your house is really a qualified buyer, just a dreamer or curious neighbor. It's a lot of work and a major interruption every time you have to put your life on hold, make your house look perfect, and show your home. You want to limit those hassles to the showings most likely to result in a sale.

6. Price Negotiations Take Skill

Even if you have sales experience, you don't have specialized experience negotiating a home sale. The buyer's agent does, so they are more likely to succeed in the negotiation, meaning less money in your pocket.

Furthermore qualified agents know the local customs for selling a home, such as whether the buyer or the seller typically pays fees such as transfer taxes and closing costs.

7. You Ignore Your Home's Flaws

Agents are experts in what makes homes sell. They can walk through your home with you and point out changes you need to make to attract buyers and get the best offers. They can see flaws you're oblivious to because you see them every day—or because you simply don't view them as flaws. They can also help you determine which feedback from potential buyers you should act on once you put your home on the market to improve its chances of selling.

8. Exposure to Legal and Personal Risks

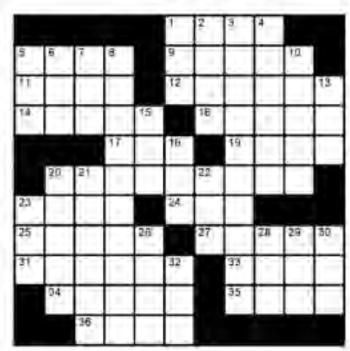
Opening your home up to strangers does put you at personal risk. It is much safer to use sellers' agents since they would have gotten to know the person they are showing the houses to and have a variety of safeguards they use when showing homes. There are also legal risks. While Alabama is a "buyer beware" state, you do have an obligation to disclose heath and safety issues and a realtor will help you make those determinations.

THE BOTTOM LINE

It's a tall task to learn how to sell your house without a realtor—and selling your home will likely be one of the biggest transactions of your life. You can try to do it alone to save money, but hiring an agent has many advantages. Agents can get broader exposure for your property, help you negotiate a better deal, dedicate more time to your sale, and prevent your emotions from sabotaging it. An agent brings expertise, which few FSBO sellers have, to a complex transaction with many potential financial and legal pitfalls.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Created by Stefan Forrester

AUG. PUZZLE SOLUTION





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Across

- 1. Fedora feature
- 5. Toffee-nose, e.g.
- 9. Recluse
- 11. It's active in Sicily
- 12. Consumer Reports employee
- 14. Not those.
- 16. Pet with no home
- What you must do before you reap
- 19. Wander
- 20. Event for potential buyers
- 23. Slender cut
- 24. Sound of savoring
- 25. The Gem State
- 27. Romulus' brother
- 31. Mexican "sirs"
- Bridges (late 90s cop show)
- 34. Sec 10-Down
- 35. Cafeteria camer
- 36. What it often does in a riny globe?



Down

- 1. Diner order: Abbr.
- 2. Some deer
- 3. What 8-Down is
- Greater Birmingham and Greater Atlanta, for example
- 5. Congeal
- 6. Degree in math?
- 7. "A Chorus Line" number
- 8. Member of the clarmet family
- 10. Plunder, like those from the 34-Aeross civilization
- 13. "The Catcher in the
- 15. Many millennia
- 18. Childishquestion?
- 20. "In the days..."
- A Steinway and a Yamaha
- 22. Sharer's word
- 23. Family mem.
- 26. '-ish' phrase
- 28. Deface
- 29. College in Mobile, for short
- 30. Introverted
- 32. Put in stitches











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