

# Chamber CHATTER



"The Voice for Business & Community"

ESTABLISHED 1949

February 2024 | Vol. 23, No. 2

## Chamber News

### MONTEVALLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Welcome New Board Members

##### JERROD CATO

The hardware business has been a part of Jerrod Cato's heritage as far back as his grandfather owning the Warrior ACE, then his Mom, and then Jerrod started working at Warrior ACE in 2010. Now Jerrod is the manager of the Montevallo ACE Hardware that opened in April of 2023. Jerrod grew up in Warrior learning the small-town values of "doing the right thing all the time". Jerrod graduated from Mortimer Jordan High School and attends church at Warrior, where he is part of the audio/visual production team. Jerrod is the father of two children Makenly (13) and Kobe (12) and currently lives in Homewood with three dogs and a cat.



##### WESLEY HALLMAN

Wesley Hallman earned his B.S. in journalism at the University of Alabama in 2006 and spent six years working in the newspaper industry at *The Birmingham News* and *Shelby County Reporter* before joining the University of Montevallo Athletics as the Sports Information Director in 2012. He served as the SID for seven years before moving into the University Marketing & Communications office in 2019, where he currently serves as the Assistant Director. Wesley and his wife, Christina, have an 8-year-old son and reside in Calera. He enjoys reading and spending time with his family. He is an avid fan of both the Montevallo Falcons and the Alabama Crimson Tide.



#### 2024 Montevallo Chamber Board of Directors

Julie Smitherman, Chair  
Jarvis Davis, Vice-Chair  
Susan Fulmer, Treasurer  
Alison Baggett, Secretary  
Elijah Colburn, Past-Chair  
Shirley Bice  
Elizabeth Biel

Jerrod Cato  
Jackie Chappell  
Wesley Hallman  
Candace Jarvis  
Brandon Lovelady  
Obie Moore



629 Main St.  
Montevallo

Thursday Feb. 8  
10am

#### MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, February 21

##### "READY TO LEARN COMMUNITY OUTREACH"

Guest Speakers: "apt"

ALABAMA PUBLIC TELEVISION  
representatives

Parnell Library / Networking 11:30am

Lunch - noon \$15 ea

RSVP by Mon Feb 19 to 205-665-1519

or [montevallochamber@gmail.com](mailto:montevallochamber@gmail.com)

Luncheon Sponsor - apt



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2nd FRIDAY  
**GROUNDHOG DAY**

4th SUNDAY  
**BLACK HISTORY NOW, THEN & BEYOND**  
2 - 3:30pm / Panel Discussion & Reception  
UM Center for the Arts

6th TUESDAY  
**IMPACT MONTEVALLO COALITION MEETING**  
9am / email [impactmontevallo@gmail.com](mailto:impactmontevallo@gmail.com)

8th THURSDAY  
**INDIGO CAFE & BAR RIBBON CUTTING**  
10am / 629 Main St. Montevallo

10h SATURDAY  
**ALABAMA PET PANTRY**  
Distribution of Dog & Cat Food  
2 - 3pm / Shelby Emergency Assistance parking lot

14th WEDNESDAY  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**

14th WED - SAT. 17th  
**COLLEGE NIGHT PRODUCTION**  
Palmer Auditorium (UM) 7pm

19th MONDAY  
**PRESIDENT'S DAY**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
American Village / 10am -4pm / Birthday cake at noon /  
Enjoy family-friendly activities

**MONTEVALLO SCHOOLS**  
MES, MMS & MHS No School  
Teacher Workday

21st WEDNESDAY  
**MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON**  
"READY TO LEARN COMMUNITY OUTREACH" /  
Guest Speakers: "apt" - ALABAMA PUBLIC TELEVISION  
representatives / Parnell Library / Networking 11:30am /  
Lunch - noon \$15 ea / RSVP by Mon Feb 19 to 205-665-  
1519 or [montevallochamber@gmail.com](mailto:montevallochamber@gmail.com)  
Luncheon Sponsor - apt

23rd FRI - SUN 25th  
**ALABAMA SALES TAX HOLIDAY**  
Severe Weather Preparedness  
<https://alabamaretail.org/resources/salestaxholidays/>

24th SATURDAY  
**MONTEVALLO ARBOR DAY**  
9am - 1pm / Montevallo Recycling Center -  
1120 Overland Rd / bare root tree seedlings will be  
available for adoption / Sponsored by Montevallo Arbor  
and Beautification Board

Mid February - March  
**"8th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TULIPS"**  
American Village / check American Village FB  
page for updates

**celebrate**  
**BLACK**  
**history MONTH**

**PLATINUM LEVEL**  
CITY OF MONTEVALLO  
MONTEVALLO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**GOLD LEVEL**  
DIXIE DECORATIONS  
MONTEVALLO FAMILY DENTISTRY  
SLICE PIZZA & BREW  
TRUSTMARK BANK  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO

**SILVER LEVEL**  
ALABAMA POWER  
ALFA - SHAWN PAYNE / MONTEVALLO  
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HEALTH SERVICES, INC.  
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For additional information about how to become a Chamber Business  
Partner contact Chamber Director Adele Nelson (205) 665-1519



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MONTEVALLO  
**Main Street**  
*Memories*

**ALABAMA POWER CO.**

by Clay Nordan  
 Vice-president, Montevallo Historical Society



The Alabama Power Company established a Montevallo District in the early twentieth century and served the multi-county district's electrical customers from an office at the corner of Main and Shelby Streets until they moved to a new office in the newly constructed Whaley Shopping Center in the 1960's.

They also had a supply warehouse and base of operations for their line crews in a low cinder-block building at the intersection of highways 25 and 119. SportTime Auto Sales operates from this location today.

While the Montevallo based Alabama Power Co. engineers occupied offices in the back of the building, the front felt like a combination bank and appliance store. Customers could come in and pay their "light" bills at a payment window and also shop for the latest refrigerators and ovens being sold by the company.

**MONTEVALLO ICE  
 COMPANY**

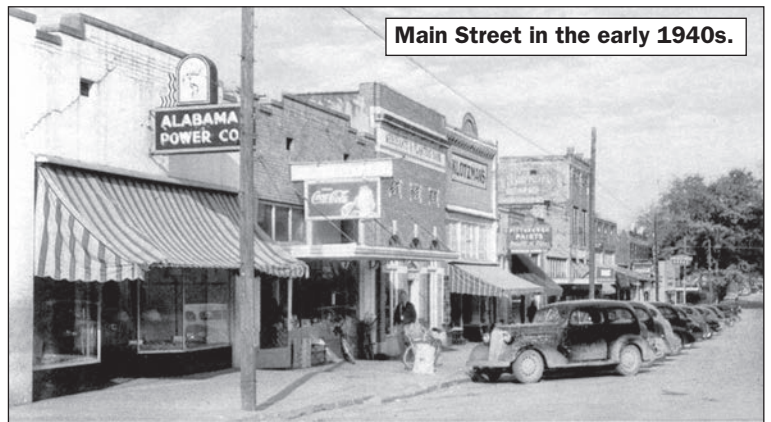
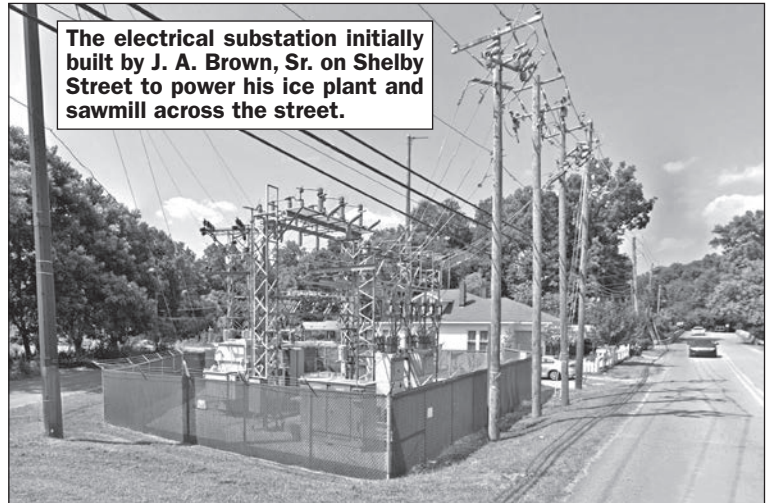
J. A. BROWN, *Manager*

MONTEVALLO, ALABAMA

Electricity came to Montevallo on Main Street in 1912 and was supplied by local entrepreneur, J.A. Brown, Sr. Mr. Brown generated power with the steam turbine he brought to town to make power for his ice plant on Shelby Street, just across Shoal Creek. After meeting his own electrical needs, Mr. Brown found a ready market for his surplus power and strung lines from his substation to Main Street. It was not long before Alabama Power purchased Brown's power distribution system and made improvements that allowed electrification of the entire town. Mr. Brown's substation remains in its original location and is still part of the larger infrastructure that supplies power to the Montevallo area.



The store building on the northeast corner of the Main Street / Shelby Street intersection was home to the Montevallo District office of Alabama Power Co. for several decades in the mid-twentieth century.



Main Street in the early 1940s.



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MONTEVALLO MAIN STREET MEMORIES is adapted from the series, THROWBACK THURSDAY, a Montevallo Historical Society and Montevallo Main Street partnership started in 2018. Each installment revisits commercial and residential life on Main Street and in the downtown area in the early to mid-twentieth century. The series remains available online and may be viewed at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) under "Local History".

# SAFETY-SPOT






★1,637★

TOTAL INCIDENTS

**EMS**  
 BREATHING PROBLEMS- 123  
 CARDIAC ARREST- 42  
 CHEST PAIN- 107  
 GENERAL ILLNESS- 176  
 FALL- 61  
**TOTAL EMS: 1,070**



**MVC/WRECK**  
 110

- FIRE**  
 19 RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE
-  13 COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE
-  32 BRUSH
- APPLIANCE- 9
- VEHICLE- 8
- DUMPSTER- 6
- ELECTRICAL- 5
- TRANSFORMER- 7



## CELEBRATING MONTEVALLO CHAMBER TURNING 75



During the year of 1949 when the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce was established, the Montevallo's Rainbow Market sales ad sold Salmon for .51 cents a can, Kraft Mayonnaise for .47 cents a jar, 3 boxes of Jello for .25 cents, Peter Pan Peanut Butter for .35 cents a jar and Steak for .75 cents a lb. The Montevallo Motors' ad stated "Yes, this smoother-lined, smarter-lined CHEVROLET is the Most Beautiful BUY of all. The catchy slogan for Montevallo's Wooten Motor Company was "Take the wheel... Try the New Ford 'Feel' ". News got out that a Bowling Alley opened up in Montevallo across from the post office in the Joe Klotzman Building on Main Street. **Woman Senator Chosen to Speak at Commencement** The first woman ever to win an initial election to the United States Senate will be the commencement speaker at Alabama College (aka University of Montevallo) this year. She is Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Maine Republican, whose victory over three male opponents last summer attracted national attention. **Rotary Club Observes 44th Anniversary** The Rotary Club of Montevallo links this city with more than 6,700 other cities and towns in 80 countries of the world through its celebration of the 44th anniversary of the founding of the international Rotary organization.\*

The above ads and articles above from \* *The Montevallo Times*, February 1949 edition, illustrates an example of how the Montevallo Chamber used the local paper to share news to increase community vitality through the recruitment and support of business.



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## SUTTONS' TOUCH ON MONTEVALLO

by Nancy Wilstach, writer and retired journalist, Montevallo, AL

Dr. Terry Sutton and his wife, Kay, came to Montevallo when the church called him 16 years ago. They have worked with the University of Montevallo, the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Shelby Emergency Assistance, the Parnell Memorial Library Board and several other civic organizations. Sutton even appeared on stage in a Montevallo Main Street Players production.

"We have loved our time here," Sutton said, "but now that we are leaving, we are doing just that." The couple explained that they have long thought that the new pastor, whoever he may be, should have a clear field and not have a former pastor looking over his shoulder. They plan to do some traveling and relax in their Chelsea home.

Sutton's path to the ministry was not something he traveled from childhood. He already was out of high school, working and was married to Kay when he was "called" to the church. His previous occupation was selling high-end menswear—of which his natty bowtie and his fashionable round-lens glasses convey a hint. "He always dressed really well," First Baptist church member Walt Czeskleba observed.

Sutton earned an undergraduate degree at Samford University and was ordained after finishing his studies at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He also did some post-graduate work at Princeton. Sutton chuckled that Kay, who worked during these years, earned her "PHT"—"putting hubby through." Their ministerial journey took them to Lawrenceburg, Tenn., known as the hometown of Davy Crockett. There he joked that he studied "community relations" to help promote the community.

They were at a small church in Irondale when Sutton was called by Montevallo First Baptist. It was a perfect opportunity and the Suttons accepted the challenge. People came out of curiosity to see the new preacher, Sutton said, and then they stayed to help with the many community activities in which First Baptist was becoming involved. "There were only 27 regular members, when we came here," Mrs. Sutton said. "There are 130 members now."

One of the early inspirations came from the late and former Montevallo Chamber Director, Mary Lou Williams in 2010,



"The Voice for Business & Community"

Sutton said. She came in one day and said: "We need a farmers' market." Sutton agreed with her because he, too, had heard about these bustling enterprises in other cities in Shelby County. Putting it in Hershel Hale's hands was an inspiration, Sutton said, and the Montevallo Farmers' Market became the place to be on Monday afternoons in spring and summer. Hale, a familiar figure around Montevallo, helped launch the city's Arbor Day and is a long-time member of MFBC.

The couple suffered a devastating loss while they were serving in Montevallo. Their daughter, Paige Sutton Golden, 50, died suddenly of a blood clot on her brain. She had just opened her counseling practice, Mrs. Sutton said.

"For these 16 years the church has been our family," she said. The First Baptist family worked hard to help others, Sutton said. They teamed with the University of Montevallo to collect and transport relief materials to Tuscaloosa when a tornado tore through the city. They collected funds to help residents of Haiti after the island nation was struck by a hurricane. Each year at Christmas, members get the Christmas lists for needy children from SEA, and the church members shop for the items that will help the children have a joyful Christmas.

The community showed its appreciation for his work by naming Dr. Terry Sutton the Shelby County Citizen of the Year for 2023.

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## 2ND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE MONTEVALLO CEMETERY.



1st row (l-r) Kial Cottingham, Antion Tolbert, 2nd row (l-r) TiKisha Kirkland, MaKayla Cottingham, Telana Upshaw, Kobe Cottingham, TJ Cottingham, Tim Cottingham, Sophie Cottingham, Michael Cottingham, LaToya Cottingham, Debbie Tolbert, Larry Cottingham, Ann Cottingham and Devarious Moore.

At the grave site of Airman Walter Columbus Cottingham Jr. He was assigned to the 808th Motor Vehicle Squadron A/3C during the Korean War. While serving he received the Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and Bronze Service star.

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*Happy Valentine's Day!*

**ARBOR DAY 2024 IS FEBRUARY 24 FROM 9:00 UNTIL 1:00**

On Saturday, February 24, 2024, the Montevallo Arbor and Beautification Board will hold Arbor Day 2024 at the Recycling Center on Spring Creek Road. The format this year will be the same as last year. As a part of the Montevallo Tree City Experience we will have tables set up outside, under tents if necessary, where you can pick up bare root tree seedlings. The trees will be available from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm or until supplies run out.

The seedlings available should include Red Maple, Buttonbush, Kousa Dogwood, Water Oak, American Elm, Fragrant Sumac, Nuttall Oak and Ashe Magnolia.

**LAUNCHING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

The Montevallo Legacy Project will be hosting Stories Our Own Way: Black History Now, Then & Beyond in UM's Center for the Arts on Sunday, Feb 4, 2-3:30. The event is produced in cooperation with UM's Office of Community Engagement and Public Service and co-sponsored by the Shelby County NAACP and Montevallo AAUW. The panel will feature three remarkable story makers—Peter Datcher, Theangelo Perkins and Elvie Schooley—and will be moderated by Joyce Jones. Reception to follow.

For information about the panelists go to <https://themontevallolegacyproject.com/latest-news/bhm-2024Datcher>.

Questions? Contact MLP at [montevallolegacy@gmail.com](mailto:montevallolegacy@gmail.com).

**STORIES OUR OWN WAY**

**BLACK HISTORY NOW, THEN & BEYOND**

**SUNDAY FEB 4 2:00 - 3:30  
UM CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

A panel discussion and reception featuring Peter Datcher, Theangelo Perkins and Elvie Schooley, moderated by Joyce Jones.

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# Untold Stories

## OF BLACK MONTEVALLO



Vol 3, No. 2

*"Tradition holds that King would wander, grief-stricken, the grounds of his home. . . . This house and the family cemetery still serve as a source of fantastic tales and ghost stories." -- Lewis O. Powell, Haunted Alabama*

### The Ghosts of King House I: Uncle Ben's "wonderful stories of 'hants'"

For as long as there have been students on the campus of the University of Montevallo, spirits have roamed the grounds and family cemetery of King House and played pranks within the house itself. These ghost stories are well known, passed along by successive generations of students and recounted in popular ghost tours. Edmund King, lantern in hand, searching for his buried gold. Edmund King, counting money in an upstairs room. But where did these stories come from? Many came from African Americans formerly enslaved on or near the King plantation.

"Uncle Ben" was famous for his "wonderful stories of 'hants.'" Two years earlier, in 1913, two college girls ventured off campus to talk with "negroes of Montevallo regarding their several attitudes toward 'hants, ghostes, en sperrits.'" Ben was at the top of their list. They had "heard of his fondness for telling ghost stories." They rendered his story in dialect in a piece called "'Hant' Philosophy" printed in Technala, the college yearbook.

One recalls asking him, "timidly," for something "scarey." Uncle Ben complied without hesitation in a "very business-like manner," treating the two young women to a sensational whopper of a tale from Ben's days as a young plantation slave. It concerns a wealthy slave owner, a man with the generic name of Massa Will Brown, who had "lots of slaves" and lots of money too. ("Twuz said by some that he had piles of money buried somers." In African American ghost stories, wealthy enslavers were much given to burying piles of money on their property.) He is discovered one morning dead in his bed, his throat slashed. The scene is vividly depicted: "Dar wuz Massa Will half er lyin' on ther bed and helf er lyin' on they floor, wid his throat cut from side ter side. His whold night dress wuz besplottedter in blood."

The plantation is sold and sold again, but no owner manages to last more than one night in the house. Finally it is bought by a man "from out East" who sends his wife and children ahead to spend the first night alone. That's right, alone. The wife hears hammering and beating on the door, and a screechy noise around the windows, but unlike her predecessors she does not take flight. She goes to the door and, sensibly enough, asks who is there. It is, of course, the ghost of Massa Will. He reveals the identity of the two men who slit his throat and promises her a pot of gold and the deed to the plantation if she will take his murderers to court. She does, they are found guilty, Massa Will's satisfied ghost moves on, and the wife takes possession of the plantation. To be clear, the plantation already owned by her husband.

The details don't add up, but that is part of the fun in this deliberately posterosus story. Paul Mahaffey, who teaches African American satire at UM, thinks it should be read in light of the African American narrative practice known as "Signifyin'." Uncle Ben is a born story-teller whose relish for exaggeration and indifference to historical fact allow him to "signify": to use humor and indirection to make fun of wealthy plantation owners while hiding the mockery from White listeners. What better way to speak truths about White folks or, perhaps, truths about the way former slaves felt about their former masters? Little wonder that another formerly enslaved storyteller, an "old servant," is seen to "chuckle to himself, as if he knows more than he is willing to tell" ("The Infirmary").

Sources: Photograph used with permission of Alabama Department of Archives and History. According to the ADAH, the scrapbook was probably assembled by faculty member Louesa Jane Keys. "The Infirmary" by Lilla Elliott, and "'Hant' Philosophy" by Orrie Stitt and Evelyn Beasley are found in the 1913 Technala (pp. 109-111; 142-145), available online in UM's Milner Archives Digital Collection. Submitted by Kathy King and Anita Stewart Sims on behalf of the Montevallo Legacy Project. Contact us at [MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com](mailto:MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com).



*"Uncle Ben" an aged ex-slave, and his home, where we heard him tell wonderful stories of "hants"*  
*How do you do Uncle Ben? Sparrred to be a livin, thankee ma'am*

"Uncle Ben" and his house on Asheville Road from a scrapbook, *"Views of Montevallo, Christmas, 1915,"* compiled by L. J. K., now held by Alabama Department of Archives and History. "Uncle Ben" claims to have seen many a hant in his day: "They is strung clean long this here Asheville road fer fo' miles."

The series we are calling The Ghosts of King House introduces readers to elderly members of the first-freed generation who, early in the 1900s, entertained local White folks with ghost stories still heard today. We know them only as Uncle Ben, Uncle Frank, and Aunt Julia.

The scrapbook page reproduced above was assembled around 1915 by one of the teachers at the college. Her handwritten annotation reads: "'Uncle Ben,' an aged ex-slave, and his home" -- on Asheville Road -- "where we heard him tell wonderful stories of 'hants.'" She adds a snippet of their exchange: "How do you do Uncle Ben?" "Sparrred to be a livin', thankee ma'am."

**SHOAL CREEK PARK- COINCIDENTAL BEGINNING**  
*Submitted by Dee Woodham, SCPF Trail Committee Chair*

Several months this column covered "How It Happened"--how and why Miss Betty Mahler donated her 167-acre family farm to the City of Montevallo for a park. What Miss Betty didn't know at that time was how the City was already desperately trying to find a way to approach her family about trails through the property.

For several years the Montevallo Trails Committee was looking for a way to provide a pedestrian connection between Orr Park and American Village. One major hurdle was providing a safe crossing from one side of Highway 119 to the other. After a little investigation, they found out that the Mahler family, two sisters and a brother with no children, were the owners of this piece of property. This property has a bridge on Highway 119, allowing pedestrian access under the bridge.

The committee struggled and brainstormed to find a way to approach this family without violating their privacy. Before the committee could come up with a concrete plan, Mayor Hollie Cost was suddenly interrupted in the middle of a meeting at Parnell Memorial library to discuss the future of the very property the Trails Committee had been worrying about. Instantly and coincidentally, the City met Miss Betty, and her upcoming generosity made Shoal Creek Park possible. Now the public can enjoy the entire 167-acre park created from that generosity, which has over 10 miles of walking and biking trails.

Go to shoalcreekparkfoundation.com to donate and learn more about the park.



**Montevallo**  
**Arbor Day**

**Sat. February 24**  
**9am - 1pm**

**Montevallo Recycling Center - 1120 Overland Rd**  
**Bare root tree seedlings will be available for adoption**  
 Sponsored by Montevallo Arbor and Beautification Board  
 as part of the Montevallo Tree City Experience



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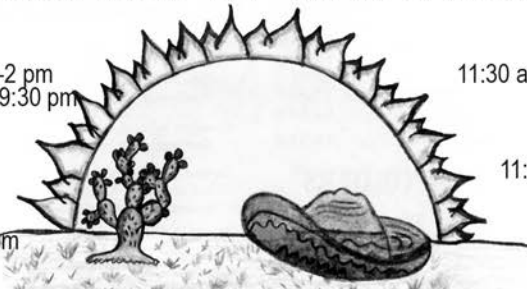
**HOURS:**

Mon.-Thurs.  
 Lunch 11 am-2 pm  
 Dinner 5 pm-9:30 pm

Friday:  
 Lunch  
 11 am-2 pm  
 Dinner  
 5 pm-10:30 pm

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## Mayor's Message...



RUSTY NIX, MAYOR

### **Hello citizens of Montevallo!**

I hope everyone made it through the freezing cold temperatures without serious problems. My uncle, George Nix, always said, "A few minutes of preparation (wrapping pipes, draining water lines, and keeping the heat on) will save you a lot of money, time, and headache in the long run". The city tried our best to be prepared but still had a few busted water lines that had to be repaired.

February is upon us and that means love is in the air. Valentine's Day is just around the corner and everything you need for that special someone can be purchased locally. Gift cards, greeting cards, balloons, candy and flowers can all be acquired in town. Shop local first!

On January 15th, I had the opportunity to greet and welcome everyone to the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March in Montevallo. There was a very large turn-out and it was a beautiful cool day. I would like to thank Councilman Kenneth Dukes and coach Bobby Pierson for organizing this event each year.

The Montevallo Chamber of Commerce held its yearly State of the City Address Luncheon on January 18th at Parnell Memorial Library. Attendance numbers were outstanding and guests were treated with a delicious meal catered by Indigo Cafe and Bar. A huge thanks to Trustmark Bank for sponsoring the event. Below is a highlight of what was discussed.

**Police Department:** A new patrol car was ordered. Officers participated in training on the use of Naloxone. As a result, each officer was provided with Narcan kits. We have two School Resource Officers (SRO) that are building relationships with school students. Participated in over 25 community events that established a strong bond with the citizens of Montevallo.

**Fire/Rescue:** 113 fire calls and 1524 rescue calls were run for a total of 1637 total calls. The department has an ISO (Insurance Services Office) of 2 which is almost unheard of for a volunteer fire department. With the increase in rescue calls, the department now employs three full time paid EMT's.

**Storm Shelters:** The city now has two ADA accessible storm shelters. One shelter is located at Stephens Park and the other is located behind the fire station. The total cost totaled \$209,160.00. Storm shelters are necessary items that you spend money on and hope you never have to use.

**Public Works:** From landscaping to hanging the many different banners on Main Street throughout the year, Kirk Hamby and his Streets and Sanitation Department crew keep the city looking neat and tidy. Annual total budget for this department is roughly \$1,650,000. The city has installed two new electric vehicle charging stations. One station is across from City Hall and the other is on Wadsworth Street.

**Parks and Recreation:** Youth sports have more than doubled in the past few years. Dailey Park received upgrades and improvements by The Mission Continues. A partnership with United Way of Central Alabama provided a multipurpose pavilion and pickleball courts at Stephens Park.

**Parnell Memorial Library:** A new Library Director, Marissa Wilson, was hired in August. The library received \$4,000 in grants for internet hotspots so our patrons can receive free Wi-Fi and hosted over 200 programs.

**Montevallo Junior City Council:** The number of members in this group was increased to 16 to accommodate high participation interest and increase youth voice in the community and assisted in Red Ribbon Week. MJCC continues to plan activities to encourage youth participation in our community.

**IMPACT:** Co-hosted a state-wide webinar on a variety of topics including presenting "Risky Convenience: The Dangers of Substances Available in Gas Stations". Created a SPOT (Substance Prevention Observation Trailer) that is an educational tool for adults to identify items "hidden in plain sight" that may serve as a warning sign that someone may be using drugs. This tool also helps to promote conversation and actions to reduce youth substance use.

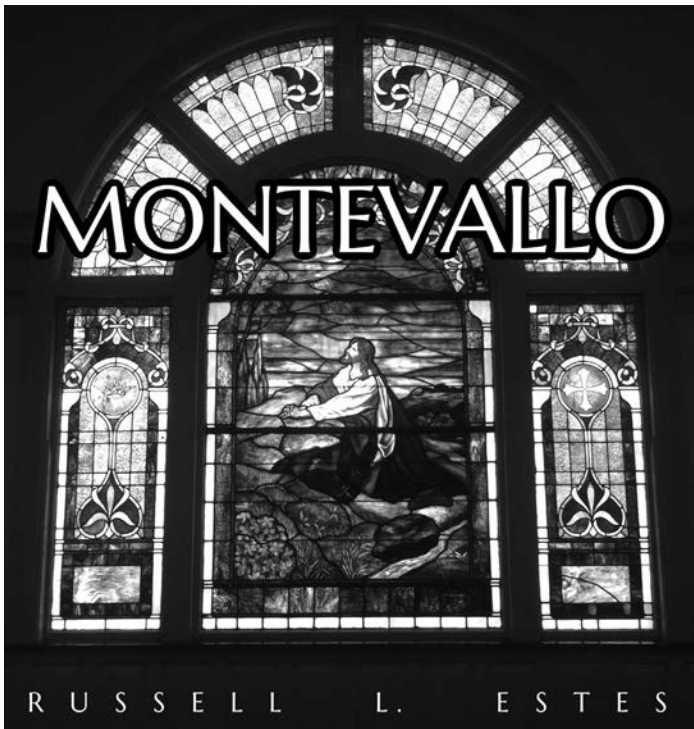
**Capital Improvements:** A new project to improve the intersection at Hwy 119 and Co Rd 22 was initiated. The project is about 60% completed with the engineering stage and is funded by a \$2.1 million grant including the match. This area is the gateway to town from the north. Other projects include new restroom facilities at Orr Park (\$154,708.00 – MDCD funds), Highway 25 sidewalk project (\$642,740.00 ALDOT + MDCD funds) storm water mitigation at Wadsworth and Valley Street (\$114,000.00 – MDCD funds) and Tennis Court repairs (\$24,000 Regional Greater Birmingham and MDCD funds).

**Montevallo Main Street:** Seven net new businesses were welcomed to the district, has 54 members and clocked 2,207 volunteer hours served by 32+ volunteers. Projects included post office landscape enhancement, placement of "Shining Star" sculpture at Bicentennial Park, grit tape placement on sidewalks, assisted with downtown Christmas decoration placement, continued the veterans banner project and hosted 15+ other events.

**Finance:** City Budget 2023-2024; Total Projected Revenues \$8,277,281.73; Total Projected Expenditures \$6,995,374.23; Net \$1,281,907.50; Transfers to City Funds \$1,240,230.00; Net Revenues \$41,677.50; The 2023-2024 budget included a 6% pay raise for our city employees. Highest raise ever!!

I am pleased to announce that a major new development is coming down the pipeline that will be a huge revenue maker for the City of Montevallo. I will keep you informed as updates are available. Also, please remember to shop local. Supporting our local businesses creates sales tax revenue that can be used for projects to enhance the community. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

# SHOP MONTEVALLO FIRST!



I have lived in Alabama for fifty-two years, and this is my first time to this town (Montevallo on January 6, 2024). I had no idea how beautiful this place was. Old historic homes, a picturesque business district, and I have not seen the first Pontiac on blocks. This place has stood its ground against the invasion of unsightly architectural design for centuries. It's almost like a Norman Rockwell painting, but with a Mexican restaurant in the middle of town.

I had been excited about coming here. I studied up on the city. I was intrigued from the start. There's a ton of history here. For example, did you know that when Montevallo was founded, it was primarily farmers and coal miners that lived here? Red-blooded, hard working, one-hundred percent Americans! So they chose an Italian name. Montevallo is a direct Italian translation meaning "mound in the valley". During the time when it was founded, the area was known as a little mountain in a valley and Montevallo is thought to have derived its name from this geographical reference. The United States acquired the land from the Creek Indians in 1814. That same year, the first settlers arrived, and built houses, barns, and a Walmart. By the early 1820s, a small settlement known as Wilson's Hill had developed on the northeast bank of Shoal Creek. A week later, two Dollar Generals and a Domino's Pizza showed up.

The Alabama Girls' Industrial School was established in 1896. When word spread of an all girls' college in town, something magical happened—the male population tripled and cologne sales skyrocketed. That school eventually became the University of Montevallo, the state's only public liberal arts university. Scholars and world leaders are built there. Upon finding this out, I almost cancelled my engagement for fear of ridicule. I would be speaking here in this town. The term "liberal arts" has nothing to do with politics, as I once thought. It's the term given to a course of study that's designed to give broad knowledge generally emphasized in literature, languages, philosophy, history, mathematics, and science.

Broad knowledge and literature are things I find offensive to my upbringing. Being this close to a liberal arts university, I was afraid my attendees would instantly be critical of my limited ability to speak in full sentences using words I learned from bootleggers and men with double first names. For example,

my great-uncle Billy Earl once told me, "gonna gitchee hind-tore slap up if ye keep bringing those possums in granny's house whilst she's a building biscuits." See — you can't say that in front of liberal arts folks. They'll run you out of the mound in the valley.

The area even has war history. During the American Civil War, U.S. Army General James H. Wilson's troops set up camp at the Hampton Inn over in Calera. They had seen on TikTok where these confederate boys were talking about how they were gonna whip them, and picked at them for their lack of appreciation for sweet tea.

Ol' Wilson's boys began hollering back at our southern boys that were hanging out over at the girl's college. It went on for days, and in 1865, a skirmish broke out so bad that pay-per-view ratings were off the charts.

Like I said... lots of history here. Even the place I've been invited to come holler at — The Montevallo First Baptist Church has over a century of historic value. A beautiful building. An architectural design rivaled by nothing. A large pipe organ sat behind where I would be speaking. Its whistle-like flue pipes stretched twenty feet or more upward, reaching toward Beulah Land as if a dinner bell for the angels when the chili was done.

The church was founded by eleven members in August, 1855. Being upset that their current church did not believe in the healing properties of fried green tomatoes, these members went forth and created a church with higher culinary standards. The first building was erected for the church in 1859. In 1877 the steeple collapsed causing the walls to fall. They blamed this on cheap lumber and liberal arts homebuilders who cared more about punctuation than pressure treated timbers and galvanized deck screws. In 1879 they put it back together. A baptistery was added in 1900. In 1910 a brick building was erected and dedication services were held on June 11, 1911. It was growing. The congregation was full of land owners, businessmen, and political figures. Important people. Smart ones. Nary a village idiot had ever stepped foot in the door.

On January 6, 2024, that all came to a screeching halt. I was invited to speak here and the village idiot streak ended.

I was met in the parking lot. I was welcomed by the lady that invited me. She was as sweet as a blackberry cobbler and hugged me so tight two ribs sustained damage.

A man broke loose and welcomed me next. "Glad to have you," he said while dislocating my shoulder via handshake. "You smell that?" He added. Instantly, I second guessed if I had put on deodorant. "That's El Agave," he enthusiastically informed me. "It's next door. Best Mexican restaurant this side of the border. You gotta try the chimichangas." "Good huh?" "Life changing!" "Great name," I say. "Means 'love', right? Well, I love Mexican food. May have to try it." "Huh?" I hadn't even made it in the door and my lack of liberal arts education was showing. I confused "El Agave" with the word "agape." I come from a lineage of men that misused words. It comes naturally. In Christianity, agape is "the highest form of love, charity" and "the love of God for man and of man for God". Agave is not that. It is a plant that is widely used in Hispanic culture as a natural sweetener. It prevents and reduces the effects of heart disease and diabetes, keeps your blood glucose under control, and makes you crave margaritas. Nowhere close to being the same as agape.

Anywho, I am here to do my one-man show for a Baptist audience. As people began to arrive, I was dishing out more hugs than a funeral could compete against. And to my surprise, I found that these are my people. Nothing like what the "liberal

---

arts fear” I had worked up. Nary a one corrected my grammar, looked at me funny, or asked me to “repeat that again.”

Before I spoke onstage, we carried on conversations about turnip greens, iron skillet, and proper fuel mixtures for weed eaters. Nobody mentioned kale salads, indefinite pronouns, or asked me to explain my stance for, or against the exchange of tax-free capital, goods, and services across international borders.

Three young ladies helped me greet folks at the door. High schoolers—two freshmen and one junior. Their smiles could land them the lead in a Colgate commercial. The junior aspires to go into psychology. She tells me she is intrigued by how the human mind works. “Mine is simple,” I tell her. “I have to give it a pep talk with dark roast every morning just to remember how to tie my shoes.” She’s on her school’s cheer squad. It’s a large school. Almost forty cheerleaders. “They’re like my sisters,” she tells me. I give her enough ‘God Is Bigger’ bands to give to them all. She can’t wait.

More people are coming than I expected. It’s almost a full house. People are still filing in. Suddenly, I’m nervous again. These people are no different than I am, but they travel in large packs. I’m introduced. I go onstage... and I can’t make any words come out of my mouth that would make any sense. I had gone over notes, memorized important facts... nothing. If I try to speak, I may cry. It wasn’t that I had stage fright. I’ve never been afraid to prove myself an idiot in front of people. That has been done over and over again since puberty. But it was just the thought that I was there. I’m a small town country boy with nary a credential that would qualify me right there. I grew up with barely the necessities to survive, but somehow, did.

All I ever wanted was to be somebody that someone was proud of. As I looked out and saw this crowd, I could only wish my mom was here. I wish I could see her in the front row. I could picture her smiling, clutching her Bible, taking pictures with her disposable camera. My dad. I wish he would have been there to say how proud he was, straighten my collar before I went on stage, and tell me not to use any words that would upset momma. He would probably tell me to keep it short. “My eyes don’t work well after dark,” he would say. It’s not that I am boasting. I have not done a thing that you couldn’t do. In fact, I would wager you could do much better than me. I’m horrible at this stuff. I stumble over words, repeat myself, and on occasion make weird digestive noises when I get nervous.

It’s just that when I asked God to use this cancer to glorify Him, this isn’t what I had in mind. I had no clue what it was, but it wasn’t this. Not even close. And when I told God I was His... and I was clay in the Potter’s hand, I didn’t know He would bring me to Montevallo First Baptist Church and I would get to holler about how big He is in my life... and how big He can be in yours. I had no clue that it meant that. I’m sure He did. And this is his way of showing me his sense of humor, but this wasn’t even on the radar. I figured I’d post some Jesus memes on Facebook and wear a cross necklace. I thought that perhaps on a good day, He’d ask me to park cars at a church fundraiser, or buy air freshener for the nursery... but not here... not speaking... not wearing uncomfortable shoes. He has got to be up there laughing so hard his belly hurts.

After I tortured the crowd with my ramblings, it was more hugs and more stories. It seemed endless. But now, it was my turn to listen. Everyone told me about their own battle and how God had shown out to them. One of the first women to hug me was a woman that had driven an hour to be there. At one time in her life, she couldn’t care less about life. So, one night, she walked into her garage, wrote a note saying she was sorry, and placed a folding chair beside her car, where she had planned on sitting until... Well, you know the rest. The rest didn’t happen. Her car wouldn’t start. Dead battery. She sat in her Honda for hours crying. Then something amazing happened. She asked God

to give her a reason to stick around. She stopped crying. She had peace. She can’t explain it. She can’t even remember a lot about it, but she knows “something” happened. She found out that night that her God was bigger. She tells me the next day, she asked her neighbor to jumpstart her car with his truck. No need. Her car fired right up... and so did her desire to praise God.

I met another woman. She was angry at God. And why wouldn’t she be. He had taken her son from her. She was spittin’ mad. And that anger stole her life. She couldn’t smile. She couldn’t find anything to make her happy. Not the Bible, not therapy... she didn’t even smile watching the Wheel of Fortune. One day, her and God got into a huge fight. “Okay, God, if you’re so big and bad, take this hurt away. Remove this anger. Give me a reason to live again!” She even double-dog dared Him. Guess what? He did. He took it all away. Now, she stands before people and testifies about how big her God is. Tonight, in Montevallo, Alabama, several heard her story as I gave her all the time she needed. She stood from the pew she sat at, and told everyone that God was bigger than her anger.

Another. She was crying when she came to me. “I can’t talk about it,” she said, “but you helped me overcome something tonight.” She hugged me, and she even kissed my cheek. “I’m glad you came,” she said. I have no idea what that lady was battling. I didn’t need to know. God already did.

Afterwards, I signed books for over an hour. I hugged more necks. I took pictures with kids, grandparents and Baptist moonshiners (ha!Ha!). I smiled so much I can hardly chew today. I was so busy that neither myself nor Kristy had time to eat at the fellowship dinner. No worries... El Agave is still open, next door. We chose to give it a shot, so we loaded the car, and pulled around front, to the restaurant. As I left the parking lot, I reflected on where God had taken me. Not just all the physical addresses, but my spiritual journey. And I had to swallow hard before my emotions exploded and ruined another shirt.

Montevallo is a wonderful town. And Montevallo First Baptist is a special place. I wish it had not taken me fifty-plus years to get here. It did something to me tonight. Something wonderful. I looked at the church as we rounded the corner, driving away. A huge banner. It had my name on it. “Montevallo Welcomes Russell Estes” it read. I almost lost it again. I don’t deserve this. Montevallo, Alabama deserves better than me. And I encourage you to go there. Visit the area. It’s amazing!

I learned a lot. I learned that no matter where we go, people are the same. We are all facing giants in our life. I learned that in God’s eyes, we are all the same. Coal miners, liberal art majors, boys staked out over at the girls’ college... in the eyes of the Creator, we are the same and He wants us to reach our full potential. And I learned that we are the only thing standing in our own way. The battle is God’s. He’s bigger than our problems. But if we refuse to give them to Him... if we can’t trust Him enough to fight our battles... then it’s no different than standing between your problem and God, and keeping Him from fighting for you. I learned that if you take time to listen, people will tell you their stories. And they are amazing stories. I learned that hugs make you feel at home. Handshakes are great, but hugs make your heart beat faster and the corners of your mouth to turn upwards. I learned that people care. They care more than the cable news will tell you about.

I learned that the folks in Montevallo care maybe more than anyone.

And I learned that the chimichangas at El Agave will change your life!

*(Author Russell L. Estes is from Brilliant, AL and currently resides in Tuscaloosa. His book titles include, Southern Roots: Lessons from a Southern Upbringing. When the Lights Go Out, and God is Bigger: Than the Mountain You are Facing.)*

**CENTRALA GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

The ladies of Centrala Garden Club in Montevallo had their first meeting of the new year on January 2. Getting back in the swing after a two-month break for the holidays might have been tedious, but the "program" for the month made it a fun evening. The theme of the meeting was, "Winter Food Tasting." Members were asked to bring their favorite winter snack recipe and a sample to share with the group. We all enjoyed homemade cookies and cupcakes, dips, soups, and even banana bread made with fresh bananas grown in April Ellison's garden! It was so much fun that we're considering making that our regular January program!

Programs for the next two months will be "What's new in Montevallo" with speakers Sarah Hogan and Julie Smitherman in February; and in March the speaker, Angela Treadaway, Regional Extension Educator from ACES, will talk about food preservation.

April is our annual plant swap, where members exchange plants they have grown in their own gardens. We will finish the year in May with our annual picnic, held at the home of one of our members.

If you're interested in joining us, we meet on the first Tuesday of the months of September through November, and January through May. If you want to learn more about gardening, share tips, and hear about what is happening in Montevallo, contact Deeleen Baker@aol.com

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<b>Falcon Art Supply</b>	<b>Soul Spot Soul Food</b>

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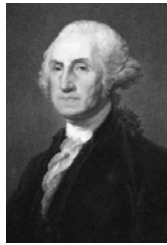
Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Incorporated a national organization established in 1943 in Detroit, Michigan with the Southern Region organized in 1956 and Alpha Pi Chapter organized in 1962 at Prentice High School. We are excited! We will host an Informational meeting on Friday, February 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. CST for membership recruitment of adults and youth to become a member of our national organization! For zoom registration information please email President Deborah Hudson at hudsondhu@yahoo.com or call 205-504-2711.

We are committed to making a positive difference in our communities and our youth by serving the good of all mankind.

We will host a National Boule in July 2024 so come and be a part of this unique experience.

**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

In a day of family fun, patriotic music and birthday cake, the American Village in Montevallo will celebrate the 293rd birthday of the Father of our Country, George Washington, on Monday, February 19th. Visitors to the American Village on President's Day will enjoy family-friendly activities with their staff of costumed historical interpreters from 10am to 4pm, and can share birthday cake with George Washington at noon.



Washington's Birthday holds special meaning for the American Village. The land on Highway 119 in Montevallo where the American Village campus is now located was purchased on Washington's Birthday, and their first school program began on Washington's Birthday.



**Montevallo Boys and Girls Club**

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Embry-Riddle	Women's Lacrosse	Feb. 3	11:00 a.m.
Mississippi College	WBB & MBB	Feb. 3	2:00 p.m./4:00 p.m.
Indianapolis	Men's Lacrosse	Feb. 4	12:00 p.m.
North Greenville	Women's Lacrosse	Feb. 9	4:00 p.m.
UVA Wise	Baseball	Feb. 10, Feb. 11	12:00 p.m./3:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse	Women's Lacrosse	Feb. 11	11:00 a.m.
Northwood	Baseball	Feb. 16, Feb. 17, Feb. 18	2:00 p.m./12:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
Tusculum	Men's Lacrosse	Feb. 18	12:00 p.m.
Georgia Southwestern (DH)	Softball	Feb. 20	3:00 p.m./5:00 p.m.
Valdosta State	WBB & MBB	Feb. 22	5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Christian Brothers	Baseball	Feb. 23, Feb. 24	2:00 p.m./ 12:00 p.m./3:00 p.m.
Mars Hill	Men's Lacrosse	Feb. 23	4:00 p.m.
West Florida	WBB & MBB	Feb. 24	2:00 p.m./4:00 p.m.
Christian Brothers	Softball	Feb. 24, Feb. 25	1:00 p.m./3:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
Georgia Southwestern	Baseball	Feb. 27	3:00 p.m.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**



**REV. DR. CHARLES E. VALENTINE**

Rev. Valentine was born to the late Elder Willie Thomas and Mrs. Annie Queen Valentine on August 19, 1952, in Marvel, AL. Eleven children were born to them, and he was the tenth child of eleven. He confessed to Christ at an early age at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. He joined Carlton Hill Baptist Church, where he served as Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent, and deacon for many years. One Sunday in July, he heard the still voice of God calling him into the ministry to go and preach the gospel.

He attended Prentice and Montevallo High School, where he graduated in 1970. He later joined the United States Air Force and married the love of his life (his honey sugar baby), his high school sweetheart, Dora Rutledge. They married while she attended Alabama A&M University. They were married for 51 years and were together for 53. To this union, they were blessed with two children, Maurice and Ketwana Valentine, and a special niece considered a daughter, Valisa Rutledge-Brown. While serving in the military and stationed in Okinawa, Japan, he was a certified Tae Kwon Do Instructor with a 2nd degree black belt.

After his Air Force career, he relocated back to Montevallo and jokingly said that his job as a policeman came knocking at his door. He never applied for the position; an officer knocked on his front door and offered him a job. Chief Needham acknowledged that a community citizen (Johnny Sutherland) recommended him as the guy he was looking for, telling him that Charles possessed the attributes of a policeman. Johnny said, "Any man who walked upon me with a knife during an altercation and was not afraid of me is a bad man!" That was the beginning of his second career; He found law enforcement very stressful and exhilarating all at the same time. Upon his hiring, after being on the job for a couple of weeks, he was on night patrol and was alerted by a clinging noise. He called for backup and found a robbery in progress. The man was apprehended and charged with burglary. An extensive news article was written about him that brought him many accolades. He was sought after by many cities. Officer Charles Valentine served for the City of Montevallo, Alabaster, and Jemison Police Department for many years. After leaving Montevallo and going to Alabaster, there was a tug of war; Mayor Sears asked him what it would take to get him back to Montevallo. The rest is history; he did return to Montevallo. He also served as Warden for Bibb County City Jail in Brent, Alabama.

He attended Birmingham Bible College, where he earned his theology bachelor's degree. He also attended North Carolina College of Theology, where he earned an associate and bachelor's degree in biblical studies under the tutelage of his son, Bishop Maurice Valentine.

As a family, we are deeply humbled by the great act of kindness implemented by the pastor of Carlton Hill. Pastor David Fuller, thank you for presenting my husband, our dad, with an honorary Doctorate Degree. We are eternally grateful. We know if our husband/father were here, he would be ecstatic.

He served life in many capacities. He was a father, husband, mentor, friend, pastor, uncle, brother, and one of God's faithful servants. On or off duty, our phone would ring non-stop, night and day. He was always there to assist his community in any way he could. When people didn't have money, food, etc., he was always there to give and to help. Rev. Valentine found working as both a police officer and pastor rewarding. By day, he had the joy of leading people to follow Jesus. By night, he was a public servant, performing the standard duties of a patrol officer.

The most fulfilling part of His ministry was being called to Pastor Carlton Hill Missionary Baptist Church and serving faithfully for 18 years. He was a conservative preacher. If the Bible didn't say it, he wouldn't preach it. His motto was, "Do what Jesus did and say what Jesus said." If you follow that simple statement, you will always be correct. Carlton Hill members saw a preacher who taught them to live in Christ. He never complained; he endured the discomfort of sickness but kept the faith and preached the Word of God. One of his most quoted scriptures was 1 Corinthians 15:58-Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

We all knew him as a man of Valor, courage, strength, and boldness.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his beautiful and faithful wife, Dora D. Valentine, and his devoted children: Ketwana Valentine of Montevallo, Al, and Bishop Maurice (Salisia) Valentine of Montevallo, Al. Siblings: Willie (Gwendolyn) Valentine, Elizabeth Perkins, Martha (Henry)Haynes, Annie Ruth (Johnny) McClain, Charlotte Valentine, and Mary Thomas, Sister in Love: Anita (E.J) Evans, Dorothy Valentine.

Brothers-in-law: Ervin Rutledge Jr., Theodis Rahman, Alfonso Rutledge, Adopted grandchild Isaiah Chapple (ZZ), and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents: Willie T and Annie Queen Valentine, and brothers: Solomon Valentine, Franklin Valentine, and sister, Queen (Theodis) Esther Young.

A Celebration of Life was held, Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Montevallo, AL with interment at Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

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 Tues., Thurs.  
 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
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 and Instagram

277 Park Drive, Montevallo, AL 35115  
 205-667-3052  
[www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org)

# February 2024

Parnell Memorial Library  
 277 Park Drive, Montevallo, AL 35115  
 (205) 667-3052  
[www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org)  
 Hours:  
 Monday-Wednesday: 10:00-5:00 PM  
 Thursday: 10:00-8:00 PM  
 Saturday: 10:00-1:00 PM  
 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Drama Class *7th-12th grade 3:30-5:00 Script Readers Group *highschoolers-adults 6:30-8:00	2 Tiny Tumbling 10:00-10:30 HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY	3
5 Homeschool Hub 10:00 Topic: BIRDS Girl's Book Club *3rd, 4th, 5th grades 3:30-4:30 Boy's Club *boys of all ages 3:30-4:30	6 Mini Music 10:00 Mini Movie 10:45 Pokémon Club 3:30 Family Fun Night 6:00 Valentine's Day Card making	7 Storytime 9:15	8 Drama Class *7th-12th grade 3:30-5:00 Script Readers Group *highschoolers-adults 6:30-8:00	9 Tiny Tumbling 10:00-10:30 Lunar New Year Craft *take home craft while supplies last	10 Library Closed
12 Homeschool Hub 10:00 Topic: BIRDS Valentine's Cookie Decorating 11:30	13 Mini Music 10:00 Mini Movie 10:45 Pokémon Club 3:30 Mardi Gras Craft *take home craft while supplies last	14 Storytime 9:15 Mini Movie 10:15	15 Drama Class *7th-12th grade 3:30-5:00 Script Readers Group *highschoolers-adults 6:30-8:00	16 Tiny Tumbling 10:00-10:30	17 Library Closed
19 Library Closed	20 Mini Music 10:00 Pokémon Club 3:30	21 Storytime 9:15 Medicare 101 3:30	22 Drama Class *7th-12th grade 3:30-5:00 Script Readers Group *highschoolers-adults 6:30-8:00	23 Tiny Tumbling 10:00-10:30	24
26 Homeschool Hub 10:00 Topic: BIRDS Movie @ 2 PM Fairytale Castle Craft *take home craft while supplies last	27 Mini Music 10:00 Pokémon Club 3:30 Pokémon Day Craft *take home craft while supplies last	28 Storytime 9:15	29 Drama Class *7th-12th grade 3:30-5:00 Script Readers Group *highschoolers-adults 6:30-8:00		

277 Park Drive Montevallo, AL 35115 | (205) 667-3052 | [www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org)  
 Children 11 years and under must be with an adult in the library at all times.

## AARP TAX PREPARATION


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 Montevallo, AL 35115

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**Time**  
 10:00AM - 2:30PM

**Contact**  
 Call (205) 667-3052 to set up an appointment.

NO COST TO ATTEND



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Come learn all of your Medicare insurance options. Transitioning into Medicare can be confusing. *We are here to help!*


**TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:**

- When do I need to get Part A and/or Part B if I am still employed?
- What is the difference between Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement?
- What is my time frame when I turn 65 to get on Medicare?
- Can I stay working and get on Medicare with a supplement?
- What happens to my spouse if I get on Medicare?
- How are my drugs covered?
- What are the penalties if I don't get Part B when eligible?
- Who is primary? My Group coverage or Medicare?
- What are the advantages of enrolling in Medicare and continuing to work after age 65?
- What are the time frames? Do I qualify for a special enrollment period?

**Paige Phillips, Presenter**  
 INDEPENDENT LOCAL MEDICARE INSURANCE ADVISOR  
 For questions call 205-434-7221

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month 3:30 p.m.**  
 Parnell Memorial Library  
 277 Park Drive  
 Montevallo, AL

*\*Please note: This is NOT a sales meeting and no specific company benefits will be discussed. This meeting is for the sole purpose of educating the consumer on Medicare and answering general questions regarding the different aspects of Medicare.*



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# Show some love

## Have a conversation with a teen about their thoughts on vaping, alcohol, the gummies and life in general.

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**APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR THE 2024 MONTEVALLO ARTSFEST IS OPEN!**



The Montevallo Arts Collaborative will hold the 17th annual Montevallo Arts Fest in Orr Park on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artist applications are open through March 25, 2024. Applications are available online at ZAPP Event Information - Montevallo Arts Fest 2024 <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=11673> Downloadable from the Arts Fest Facebook page or email [montevalloarts@gmail.com](mailto:montevalloarts@gmail.com)

**2024 LENTEN LUNCHESES**

Lenten Lunches are sponsored by Montevallo Area Ministerial Association. You are invited to bring a bag lunch and join in fellowship and prayer each Wednesday during the Season of Lent.

The lunches will be held at NOON at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street. St. Andrew's will provide drinks and dessert.

Schedule of Speakers: Ash Wednesday, February 14, Rev. Matthew Ingram at First Presbyterian Church (Cumberland)/Alabaster; Wednesday, February 21, Rev. Rebecca DeBow at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church; Wednesday, February 28, Rev. Kenneth Dukes at Holly Grove Baptist Church, Jemison; Wednesday, March 6, Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore at Montevallo Presbyterian Church; Wednesday, March 13, Rev. Daniel Stallings at University Baptist Church; Wednesday March 20, Rev. Lawton Higgs, Jr. at First United Methodist Church; Wednesday, March 28, Fr. Brad Jantz at Saint Thomas Catholic Church.

**TAX HOLIDAY**  
**Feb. 23 – 25, 2024**  
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**THE 2024 WINTER RIDE: JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 7TH**

Are you ready to embark on a thrilling two-wheeled journey under the opulent glow of the moon? Gear up for an unforgettable experience as we invite you to join our 2024 Winter Ride, embracing the crisp, cold air and the magic of the night sky. ValloCycle has been hosting glow rides since 2016, but this will be our only winter ride until next winter, so don't miss it!

Details: Meet us in front of Fallin Hall (737 Main St.) on February 7, 2024. We meet at 5:30, ride at 6:00pm – the extra half hour is for checking tire pressure, putting lights on bikes, and getting bundled up for the journey. If you need to borrow a free bike for the ride, email us at vallocycle@gmail.com.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

**1. Moonlit Paths:** Immerse yourself in the serene beauty of moonlit roads as you navigate through enchanting paths and scenic routes. The darkness adds an extra layer of mystery to the journey, making every turn a new adventure.

**2. Chill in the Air:** Embrace the cold weather as you pedal through the night. Bundle up in layers, feel the crisp breeze against your face, and relish the invigorating sensation of cycling in cooler temperatures.

**3. Fellowship/Group Camaraderie:** This night ride isn't just about the destination; it's about the camaraderie of fellow cyclists. Connect with like-minded individuals who share your love for cycling and nighttime adventures.

**4. Safety First:** Our experienced ride leaders will work to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride. We practice the "no rider left behind" mentality to ensure everyone makes it to our destination. Reflective gear, bike lights, and a well-marked route will contribute to a positive cycling experience.

**How to Join:** Participation is open to all cycling enthusiasts! Simply bring your bike, dress warmly, and meet us at the starting point. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a casual rider, this night ride is an inclusive experience for everyone.

**Post-Ride Gathering:** After the ride, join us for a post-ride gathering where you can share stories, laughter, and perhaps a warm beverage to cap off the night's adventure. Don't miss out on this extraordinary night cycling experience. Mark your calendars, gather your cycling buddies, and get ready to pedal into the moonlit magic of the night.

Join us for a night to remember on The ValloCycle Winter Ride! We welcome riders of all experience levels. ValloCycle is Alabama's oldest citywide bike share. For more information visit vallocycle.org or contact vallocycle@gmail.com



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# MILITARY MOMENT

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



This month we celebrate the USO's birthday on February 4th and National Salute to Veteran Patients during the week of February 12th-18th.

USO.org says, "The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation. Since 1941, the USO has been the nation's leading organization to serve the men and women in the U.S. military and their families throughout their time in uniform. From the moment they join, through their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities, the USO is always by their side." Our military members, whether serving in the United States or abroad, are grateful for the USO. We wish them a Happy 82nd birthday and many more to come!

I had not heard of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program until recently and wanted to share their importance with you. Volunteer.va.gov says the "National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to: pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans; increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center; as well as, encourage

citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers. The week of February 12th-18th is your opportunity to say thank you to a select group of men and women, the more than 9 million Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes. During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, Veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities, and sports stars to participate in various activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions, photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities, and Veteran recognition programs. The week also provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical center."

Perhaps if you are involved with a group of people, a church, or youth group, this would be an excellent opportunity to give back to those who have already given so much.

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INDEPENDENT AGENTS

**Joey Bruno**      **INDEPENDENT AGENTS**  
Agency Development Manager      Sierra Garrett

**205.299.7000**      ASR

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SUNDAY DOMINGO  
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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 District 1 p.m., Meets at City Hall

## EVERY 2ND TUESDAY

Historical Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

Montevallo Community Chorale  
7:00 - 8:30pm, UM Davis Hall

## EVERY WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

Rotary Meeting, noon, Elder Justice Center, 4804 Hwy 25, Montevallo

## EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

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

## EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

Montevallo Water & Sewer Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

## EVERY 3RD SATURDAY MORNING

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

Chamber Chatter is published monthly by the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 270 Montevallo, AL 35115. The Chamber Chatter is free and distributed to hundreds of locations each month. The Chamber reserves the right to restrict Chatter content. Advertising inquires may be made by emailing [montevallochamber@gmail.com](mailto:montevallochamber@gmail.com)

## Montevallo Community Grant



This not-for-profit Community Grant will open February 1, 2024.

To request an application for this grant the applicant organization will need to have a Montevallo address and a current non-profit status with an EIN #.  
Grant application closes March 1, 2024

For application Contact via email  
[montevallochamber@gmail.com](mailto:montevallochamber@gmail.com)

## Montevallo Recycling Center



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PRESIDENTS' DAY



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## LOVE IN REAL ESTATE: THE ADVANTAGES OF BUYING AND SELLING YOUR HOME DURING VALENTINE'S DAY SEASON

Submitted by Susan Lehman, Team Lehman

Valentine's Day isn't just for hearts and flowers; it could also be the perfect time to make a significant move in the real estate market. While it might not be the most conventional period to buy or sell a home, there are unique advantages to seizing the romantic season for real estate transactions.

### Emotional Appeal

Valentine's Day is synonymous with emotions, and tapping into this sentimentality can work wonders in real estate. For sellers, staging a home with a touch of romance—soft lighting, fresh flowers, and cozy decor—can create a warm and inviting atmosphere that resonates with potential buyers. Emphasizing the emotional appeal of a property during this time can trigger a more profound connection between buyers and the home, potentially leading to quicker sales and competitive offers.

### Less Competition

Spring and summer are typically peak seasons for real estate transactions. However, by opting to buy or sell during Valentine's Day, you might encounter less competition. With fewer listings on the market, sellers could attract more attention to their homes, while buyers might have a better chance of finding their dream property without facing a highly competitive bidding war.

### Motivated Buyers and Sellers

Those engaging in real estate transactions during Valentine's Day often have a heightened sense of purpose. Sellers might be motivated by a desire to move into a new home with their loved ones, while buyers may be keen to find a cozy nest to share with their partners. This shared motivation can streamline negotiations, making the process smoother for both parties involved.

### Potential Savings or Better Deals

In the spirit of love and goodwill, some sellers may be open to negotiation during Valentine's Day, offering incentives or price reductions. Buyers, on the other hand, might find more flexibility in terms of negotiations, allowing them to secure a better deal or additional perks like furniture, appliances, or closing cost assistance.

### Positive Market Sentiment

Valentine's Day often coincides with a time when people are more optimistic and open to new beginnings. This positive sentiment can spill over into the real estate market, encouraging both buyers and sellers to make decisions they might have been hesitant about during other times of the year.

### Final Thoughts

While Valentine's Day might not be the traditional peak season for real estate transactions, it presents a unique opportunity for those looking to buy or sell a home. Leveraging the emotional appeal of the season, less market competition, motivated parties, potential savings, and a positive market sentiment can all contribute to a successful and heartfelt real estate transaction.

Whether you're searching for your dream home or aiming to sell your property, embracing the spirit of love during this time might just lead you to your own real estate love story.



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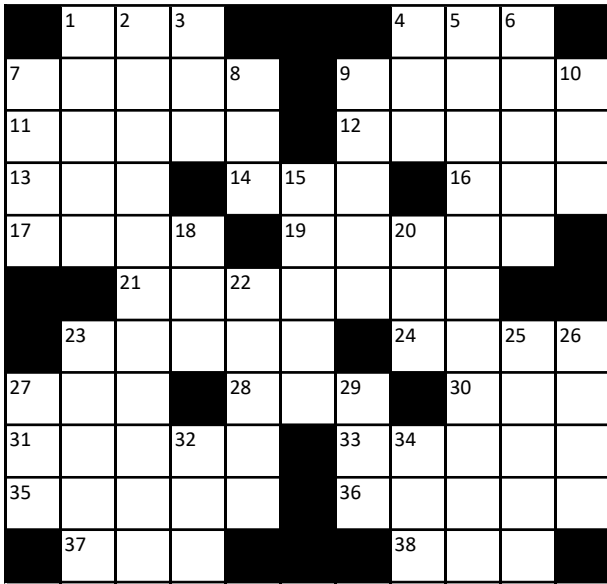
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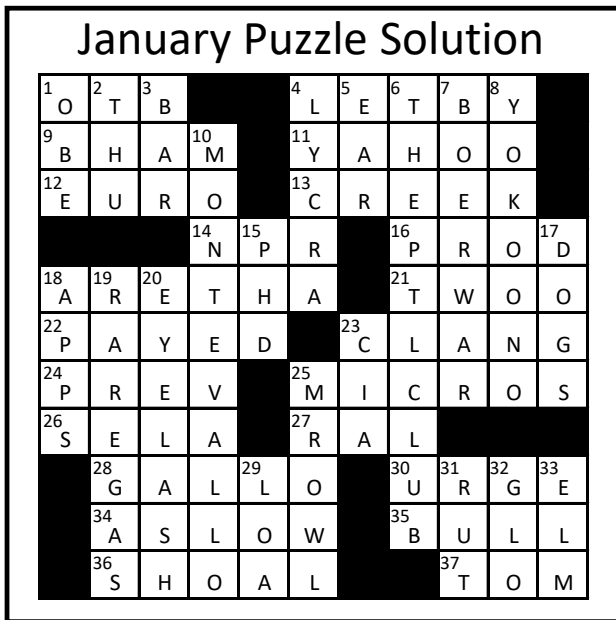
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Created by Mike Hardig  
(tmhardig@gmail.com)



## ACROSS

1. Reverence
4. Comic Philips
7. Drunk, in slang
9. Talent
11. Oscar winner Sophia
12. Electric car company
13. Where Rockne coached: Abbr.
14. Poetic contraction
16. Quick drink
17. They may clash
19. Sharpshooter Oakely
21. University of Montevallo students, familiarly
23. Host at a roast
24. Hockey great Phil, to his fans
27. \_\_\_-mo replay
28. Historical period
30. Monogram for Jesus
31. Eddie \_\_\_ (big name in leisurewear)
33. Pants style
35. Pays to play
36. Fat-sucking procedures, for short
37. That woman
38. Tractor-trailer

## DOWN

1. "Merrily We Roll \_\_\_"
2. How rumors spread
3. French season
4. Barely make
5. The state on the western border of Alabama
6. Stan's partner
7. With 25-Down, art gallery on Montevallo's Main Street
8. Early hour
9. Dictation taker
10. It disappears when you stand up
15. Talladega Superspeedway competitor
18. Cul-de-\_\_\_
20. Opposite of SSW
22. Impolite looks
23. Impetuous feelings
25. See 7-Down
26. Suffix with "psych"
27. Org. that helps mom-and-pop stores
29. Often-torn knee part, briefly
32. Extra-wide shoe size
34. Balloon filler



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~ BRUNCH ~

*Brunch selections are served in addition to the Lunch Menu on Saturdays 10 - 4 and Sundays 10 - 2*

Eggs Benedict served with Fresh Fruit	14	French Omelet and Bacon served with Fresh Fruit	13
Bacon, Eggs and Cheese Grits	10		
French Toast and Bacon served with Citrus & Maple Syrup	15	Chicken and Waffles served with Fresh Fruit	14

~ LUNCH ~

Soup du Jour  
*ask your server*  
cup 5 / bowl 8

Mixed Greens Salad

*spring mix, tomato, cucumber, goat cheese, walnuts & your choice of dressing*  
8

Caesar Salad

*romaine, croutons, shaved parmesan & caesar dressing*  
7

Bruschetta

*marinated tomatoes, shaved parmesan & herb balsamic reduction*  
9

½ & ½ Combo

*½ sandwich with soup or salad*  
11

Chicken Salad Sandwich

12

The Indigo BLT

*made with our special cured, glazed, thick cut bacon*  
13

French Dip

*made from slow roasted prime rib and served with Au Jus*  
14

The \$16 Burger

*we named it the \$16 burger for a reason*  
16

St. Louis Style Ribs ½ rack

*served with cheddar grit stack & vegetable du jour*  
26

Meatloaf & Mash

*served with garlic parm mashed potatoes & vegetable du jour*  
18

*Open Seven Days a Week*  
Monday - Friday 11 am - 9 pm  
Saturday Brunch 10 am - 4 pm  
Dinner 5 pm - 9 pm  
Sunday Brunch 10 am - 2 pm



629 MAIN STREET  
MONTEVALLO  
*For Reservations and Information*  
Please call (205) 476-8456

~ STARTERS ~

Soup du Jour  
*ask your server*  
cup 5 / bowl 8

Mixed Greens Salad  
*spring mix, tomato, cucumber, goat cheese, walnuts & choice of dressing*  
8

Caesar Salad  
*romaine, croutons, shaved parmesan & caesar dressing*  
7

Bruschetta  
*marinated tomatoes, shaved parmesan & herb balsamic seasoning*  
9

~ PLATES ~

Fettucini Alfredo  
*shrimp, chicken or vegetarian*  
*with tomatoes & fresh herbs*  
17

St. Louis Style Ribs  $\frac{1}{2}$  rack  
*served with cheddar grit stack & vegetable du jour*  
26

Meatloaf & Mash  
*served with garlic parm mashed potatoes & vegetable du jour*  
18

The \$16 Burger  
*we named it the \$16 burger for a reason*  
16

Gulf Grouper in Ponzu  
*pan seared, served with au gratin potatoes & vegetable du jour*  
26

Crab Cakes  
*served with cheddar grit stack & vegetable du jour*  
25

16 oz. Ribeye & Pom Frites  
*served with compound butter, french fried potatoes & vegetable du jour*  
32

DINNER